

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Term Dates:

1st half of Summer Term: Mon 13th April - Fri 22nd May 2026

Bank Holiday Monday - Monday 4th May - CLOSED

Return for 2nd half of Summer Term: Mon 1st June 2026

Break up for Summer: Friday 17th July 2026

Events for this Half Term

Monday 20th April - Clare Brown from Oral Health visit - pm

Monday 27th April - Book Bus visit

Thursday 7th May - The Little Sound Company visit - pm

Thursday 14th May - Photographer - ALL DAY

Friday 15th May - Dinosaur Day - ALL DAY

Monday 18th May - Darlington Court residents visit for gardening

Friday 22nd May - May Day dance at St Margaret's School - pm

Mondays - Hartbeeps - pm

Tuesdays - School Transition Hour: 1.20pm - 2.20pm

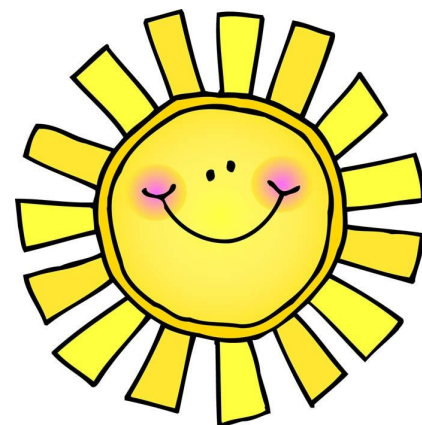
Fridays - Cooking with Amanda - pm

Friday 22nd May - Break-up for half-term

Welcome back to the Summer Term. We are hoping the sun will shine on us often! This half term, we are continuing to improve our lovely outdoor area. We are having a sitting / reading shelter built in our new Trim Trail area this week and then can fully open up this new outdoor area. We are also having internal fittings hung in the Fun House on 'Older's Street' and will also then be able to use this. Other new features will be a wooden 'skip' to enhance the Builder's Yard, Builder's scales and a new large planting trug that we can grow climbers up the side of our outdoor Sensory Room. If you are on Facebook or Insta, please look out for upcoming photos. If you are not 'friends' with us or 'following' and would like to join the groups, please email Lucy so she can add you via williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com.

Summer Sun

Our policies state that children should arrive during the Summer months with sun-cream already applied. This is extremely important as the strength of the sunrays can burn even through cloud at this time of year. We offer almost continuous free-flow indoor / outdoor play and do not want any child to be denied access to this because not adequately protected. We do keep our own suncream on site and policies state we would apply to a child we felt in danger of burning if we saw no evidence of being creamed however, this should not be a regular occurrence for any child. Clearly named sunhats should also be provided and we will do our best to ensure these are worn however, as we know with small children, this cannot be guaranteed!



Children should avoid wearing strappy tops as bony shoulders are very prone to burning. T-shirts and sundresses with short sleeves etc. are appropriate for playing in the sun. A change of clothes is good even if toilet trained as water play is often offered. Please avoid Crocs as we have many climbing, jumping and running opportunities outside and we have found Crocs stick in climbing holes, are not good for landing on if jumping from equipment and are easy to trip in.

Morning children will be offered drinks (water / milk) by us but children in all day should also have a clean, freshly filled bottle of water each day. We are happy to refill these as required. Many thanks for your cooperation - we are a setting that very much values outdoor space and play and we want all of our children to benefit from this but be sun safe at the same time.

School Transition Hour - Tuesdays - pm

We have started our School Transition hour on a Tuesday afternoon, where our children can go up to St Margaret's Reception area and use their play area and visit classrooms. During this hour, some of our staff will go up there with them. At the same time, the St Margaret's Reception children can come down and use all of our facilities with some of their staff.



We find this is a tried and tested, lovely way to show our young children that Reception at 'Big School' is just an extension of what they already do and know. They will see free flow play to the outdoors, play based classrooms, small toilets and friendly adults. This benefits all of our leavers, even if they will not attend St Margaret's, as other schools will also be following these principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Leavers 2026

As most of the parents of children going into school this September know, this year we have had a huge increase in number in this age bracket. We have seen Angmering rapidly expanding over the last year or two and understandably, this has led to more young families in the village. We are aware that we have many disappointed parents that have not obtained their first choice of school. At present we are underplaying where the children are next moving onto until families have finalised September placements. We will continue though, to support our children in positive ways that will enable them to move smoothly and confidently onto the next important phase of their little lives.

We will support families as best we can but we do not have any input as to where children are allocated as County Councils have strict admissions criteria and these decisions will come through them.

Fun Stuff!

Thursday 7th May - The Little Sound Company visit - pm

We have an exciting first time visit from 'The Little Sound Company' with live music, original songs and sensory play led by a professional musician from the West End and T.V. If popular and affordable, we plan to offer this on a regular basis.

Thursday 14th May - Photographer - ALL DAY

If you would like your child and any siblings photographed together, then please let us know. If your child is not usually in on a Thursday but you would like to bring them in on this day for a quick photo then please see us to arrange a suitable time.



Friday 15th May - Dinosaur Day - ALL DAY

One of our fave days of the year! If your child has any Dino clothes or would like to wear face paint or funky Dino hair dos, then go for it! Today will be filled with fun Dinosaur activities and events.

Monday 18th May - Darlington Court residents visit for gardening

We will have a few of the residents of local care home, Darlington Court, coming in to do some planting with the children.

Friday 22nd May - May Day dance at St Margaret's School - pm

More info will follow on this but older children who attend on a Friday afternoon will be dancing and we would like them to be dressed as Pirates (we will be having a Pirate day next half term so these costumes will be needed again).

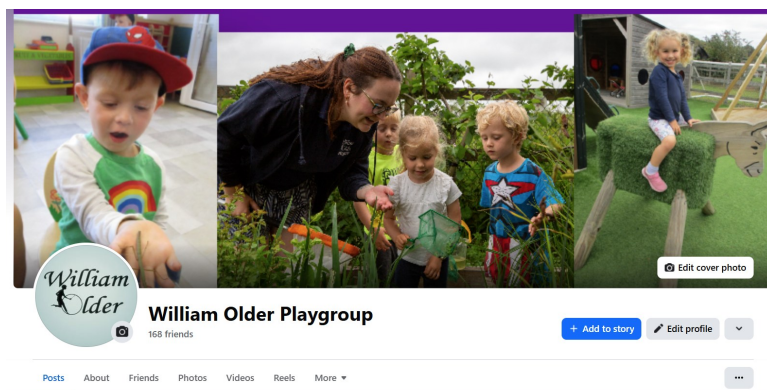
Other info

With the warmer weather approaching, we have William Older T-shirts (and hoodies) in a variety of colours for sale. Please see a staff member if you would like to purchase one.

Social Media

We use our Facebook and Instagram pages to help keep you up to date with all the exciting activities your children are experiencing. We know it's not for everyone but if you change your preference and are happy to let your child be featured in our posts, then please let us know any time.

May we ask that as many families as possible request to follow us, as this is our main way of getting information out quickly, not just for posts and pics of the children having fun, for example, our recent phone line fault, outbreaks of illness, exceptional weather causing closure etc. You can request to follow us without giving permission for us to show your child on social media but please may we also ask that you like or love our posts so that we can see who we are engaging with and who might be missing info.



Snack

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we like to keep costs for parents to an absolute minimum but buying in a healthy snack for each day comes at a cost. Thank you to those parents who regularly contribute a monetary donation either by BACS or snack pot outside the front doors. Unfortunately, many do not and we are reluctant to charge formally for consumables unless we really need to.

As seen in the press, childcare costs many families thousands of pounds per year. Although term-time only and school hours, we are excellent value and provide the children here with many extra curricular activities with no cost at all to families. Snack is the one thing we do ask for contributions towards. This can be done termly, weekly or whatever suits but helps us use our money for more resources for the children.

To contribute, use the snack pot outside the front door or by BACS using the reference SNACK to:

Sort Code: 30-95-09 Acc Number: 00626350 Acc Name: William Older Playgroup

Many Thanks

Car Park

The school car park is only for staff of St Margaret's and William Older Playgroup. There have been reported incidents of cars following in staff and those who have been permitted entry by the school via the intercom, whilst the secure gates have been open momentarily. Please park on the surrounding roads safely and with consideration to local residents. Thank you for your understanding.

Illness - It is our policy that all children should be kept off for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. This is to protect other children and staff alike. Children who are also on antibiotics or taking Calpol are also much more comfortable at home so please do keep them off when they are poorly so they can fully rest up. Please let us know by email or phone if your child will not be in due to holidays, illness etc. so that we can mark that onto the register. If we have periods of time when children are not accounted for, we have been advised to contact authorities so please help us by letting us know why they're not attending.

Funding & Invoicing

Most children here are funded but if you are paying us and have not yet been invoiced or have a query, then please speak to Sue or Lucy. For those children funded, keep an eye out each term for West Sussex prompting you to renew your code. Failure to do this will result in loss of funding.

And finally...

For those children going into school this year. Parents can become anxious that their child is 'school ready'.

School readiness is often misinterpreted as children having started to read, write and count to 100 etc. In fact, school readiness is actually a lot more about social skills and resilience (things that children regularly attending a pre-school are likely to already have achieved).

Other skills such as using a toilet independently, putting their coat on by themselves, taking off and putting on shoes are really what help them be ready for the next transition where there are likely to be

less adults to help with these things. For our Leavers, we are attaching a double sided sheet of tips to help with any anxieties and give you time to prepare for September, making it a happy and exciting time for all.



Sue & the Team