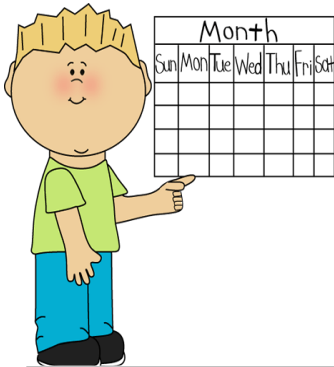


Newsletter

Autumn Term (1)

2026



Term Dates:

1st half Autumn Term: Thurs 3rd Sept - Fri 23rd Oct 2026

HALF TERM BREAK

2nd half Autumn Term: Mon 2nd Nov – Fri 18th Dec 2026

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Return for Spring Term: Tues 5th Jan 2027

Upcoming Dates:

Every 3rd Monday of the month - Book Bus Visit

Mondays - Hartbeeps - pm

Wednesdays – Earth Club with Sky - pm

Frídáys - Cooking with Amanda - pm

Wednesday 21st October – Zoolab Visit - pm

Friday 23rd October – Spooky Day – All Day

Welcome back to all our returning families and a big **HELLO** to new ones. We hope you all have had a wonderful Summer and enjoyed the sunshine. We are hoping to hold on to the good weather for as long as possible!

Book Bags

Children in their last year with us should, by now, have received a Book Bag. This is early preparation for what will happen when they go to school but also an excellent opportunity to share time together as a family each evening. The children choose their own book to take home and when read, please return it with your child and they can change it for a new one.

Hartbeeps

This year we are continuing to fund a Hartbeeps session each Monday afternoon for our older children. Hartbeeps is a lovely sensory / singing and signing group that is inclusive and loved by our children. Becky leads the session, bringing in props to accompany the songs and a much better singing voice than any of us!

West Sussex Book Bus

We are also lucky to be on the Library Bus list and are visited every third Monday afternoon. Small groups of children can visit with a staff member to hear different stories read and look at some of their books that we may not have here.

Wednesday Afternoons

Staff member, Sky, is introducing an Earth Club on Wednesday afternoons, that our older children will be able to participate in on rotation. Sky's new club is very much in line with our Climate Action Plan and policy, and she will be educating our children in a fun way about projects to recycle and reuse and ultimately help save our planet!



Friday Afternoons

Staff member, Amanda, offers simple and age-appropriate cooking activities for our children, also on rotation, so they can benefit from being in a small group.

Zoolab - Wednesday 21st October - pm

Zoolab are coming in for their annual visit to our older children, bringing with them a host of unusual live creatures that they have the opportunity to either hold, touch or look at. The animals are produced as part of a fun themed story, read by the Zoolab representative.

Spooky Day - Friday 23rd October - All Day

Today, we invite all our children (morning and afternoon) to dress up in a Spooky way (if they wish). We offer a fun range of age-appropriate activities to support this during the day. The children do not have to dress up if this is something they don't like doing. We do ask that there are no scary masks though or props that can be used as weapons.



As you can see from the above events, there is lots going on this first half term. William Older Playgroup is a charity and, as such, are not for profit. As all of you will have seen from viewing our setting inside and especially out, any 'profits' go straight back into providing the best possible facilities and experiences we can for your children. This includes providing experiences as they move up with us such as Hartbeeps and Zoolab. We strive to keep costs minimal for families wherever possible, all we do ask for is to please support us whenever you can e.g. providing raffle gifts at Easter / Christmas or purchasing tickets, providing a monetary contribution either by BACS or snack pot outside our front doors to help provide the children with a healthy snack each morning or maybe donating your time or resources.

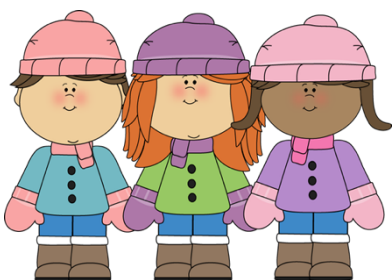
Occasionally, we may set up a new area e.g. our Nail Bar / Hairdresser playhouses and ask for resource donations. Or it maybe you have a special skill yourself you might offer or have access to resources (e.g. paper) that you think we could make use of. Also, if your child is still in nappies, making sure there are nappies, bags and wipes etc. in their bag so that we do not need to buy these.

Nappies

Whilst on the subject...if your child is in nappies and not actually at the stage when they are using 'pull-ups' themselves, the staff find the normal sticking nappies much easier and quicker to use when changing children. It may seem a small thing but if we have lots of nappies to change, that extra time can add up and impact on other activities that could be going on. Many thanks for your cooperation here.

Other Clothes

We have had a beautiful Summer but as the colder weather approaches, a few tips to help us, your child and the rapid growth of the lost property box!



- Please name as much as you can. Some children visit their bags and tip them out or change items when we're not looking and it's sometimes hard to reunite items with owners.
- Mittens are easier for children to get on than gloves.
- We have all weather surfaces that drain quickly so trainers are better for feet and activities than wellies.
- All-in-one puddle suits are very time consuming for staff and almost impossible for small children to attempt to put on independently, so macs and coats are preferable.
- Hi-top trainers are difficult to get on / off, velcro is much easier and less of a trip hazard for small children.

We do have a lost property box that we often keep outside the front doors, please look through regularly.

Toothbrushing

Last year we signed up to the government toothbrushing scheme. We had a fantastic response from parents with almost 100% take-up, and we want to continue this year. If your child is in all day or brings in a packed lunch, we will be issuing you a consent form. If your child was part of this scheme last year, we will continue with consent unless told otherwise. If you sign up, your child will receive a free toothbrush and tube of Colgate Sensitive paste.



The Oral Hygienist visits to talk about teeth and we show the children how to brush them properly for 2 minutes.

We brush the children's teeth a little while after lunch, before starting the afternoon's activities. Of course, this brushing is meant to be supporting daily toothbrushing in the morning and evening at home.

If you have been sent a form and would like to participate, then please return asap. Once we have all the consent forms back, we can start for the year.

And finally...

All children have a Keyperson and you, as a parent / carer, should be aware who yours is. The beginning of term can be tricky as some children change sessions or add / subtract from them. Others may not bond with their allocated person and gravitate to another. Sometimes, like this term, we have a member of staff leave and have to reallocate.

I am hoping by the time you receive this letter, all families will know who their child's Keyperson is or will be very soon. If in doubt, please speak to myself (Sue) or Tara, who is my Deputy.

Also, please talk to either of us if you have any other concerns or perhaps areas you are unsure of. We are always happy to talk to you and if needed, can arrange a suitable, mutually good time for a private chat if it is not a quick query.

Your Keyperson will keep in touch with you, and you should be invited on a roughly half termly / termly basis, depending on your child's attendance, to look through their Learning Journals and discuss their development and other issues arising.

Looking forward to a fun Autumn!

Sue & the Team

