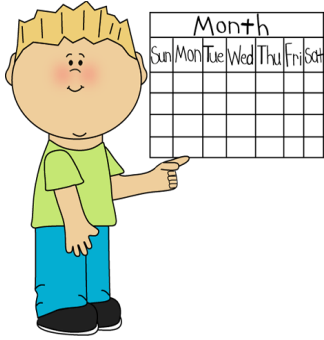


William Older

Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2021



Term Dates: Subject to change re COVID-19

Tuesday 7th Sept - Friday 22nd October 2021

Return for second half of term - Monday 1st November 2021

Break up for Christmas - Friday 17th December 2021

Spring Term starts - Tuesday 4th January 2022

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our returning families and a big “Hello!” to our new ones this year.

We have had a difficult last year or two and are working hard to get things back to normal for children and families, whilst balancing the need to keep to keep certain safety precautions against COVID in place and also be aware

that things may change from time to time, especially during the Winter months.

As a charitable Playgroup, we are governed by Trustees and I am attaching their latest policy procedures for our families—this may of course, be amended at short notice.

Where we are slightly different schools is we are asking if families have someone in their household with COVID, that lives with the child, then the child does not attend whilst the member of the household is in isolation. This is because small children naturally need close contact from both our staff and families and although the child may not be very unwell if they catch it, we do have some vulnerable staff.

We have already had instances this term where children have caught it from parents and for now, this is our Trustees’ policy. We hope we have your understanding in this.

WELCOME!



Keyworkers

All of our children have a named Keyworker whom should regularly touch base with families. Please let me know if for any reason you are unsure of who your child’s Keyworker is or they have not yet had a conversation with you.

Trustee Position

We are still on the hunt for a new Trustee. Please let us know A.S.A.P if you or someone you know may be interested.

Events this Half Term

Hartbeeps - Hartbeeps have returned on a Friday afternoon for our older children and they all enjoy Becky's fun sessions of songs, movement and signing, using lots of exciting props she has bought along.

Zoolab - We have Zoolab booked for Monday 11th October for our older children during the afternoon. Zoolab are a company who bring a variety of exotic creatures such as Giant African Land Snails, Hissing Cockroaches, Giant Centipedes etc. and incorporate them into a children's story. This year they will be very interactive and the children have a chance to touch and hold some of the creatures if they wish. If you have any concerns, please let us know.



Spooky Day - On Friday 22nd October, children may dress up in 'spooky clothes' if they wish. If not, they can dress up in other 'fancy dress' or just wear their usual clothes. We do ask that no children wear scary masks though!

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal - As a charity ourselves, we like to instill these values in our children from an early age and look to support other local charities where possible. This year, we are hoping to join in the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal. This is a lovely activity where families can fill a shoebox for Christmas for those less fortunate. We have just registered and I will be sending out a separate letter but for now, please save any shoeboxes you may have.

Offers of Help

We are grateful for any extra help we can get from our families. This can take many forms - you may have access to spare paper in your line of work for example (we go through tons) or perhaps you work for a company that lets you work 'charitable days'. If so, we are always in need of our wooden play equipment being re-treated so if you have a paintbrush and the time...

Please let us know if you feel you have something to offer that may enhance the experiences of our children.



Packed Lunches

We are seeing some lovely healthy options in our older children's packed lunches and we thank you for that. We do talk to the children about healthy choices of food and drink and the effect it has on their bodies, bones and teeth.

Some children's lunches are perhaps a little large and they are struggling to eat them. Please bear in mind, if they are here all day, they will have had a mid-morning snack. If your child is constantly bringing lunch home with them, perhaps consider reducing the size slightly and if possible, cutting out the more sugary / salty items. Other children just take time to settle to the lunchtime routine and may not want to eat at all. Staff are on hand to encourage and help the children at lunchtime but if your child is consistently unhappy to eat, the Keyworker or staff member will talk to you and we will work on some strategies to improve / resolve this.

PARENT / CARER INFORMATION

Key Workers

All of our children have a named Keyworker whom should regularly touch base with families. Please let Sue know if for any reason you are unsure of who your child's Keyworker is or you would like to speak to them at any time, the office or Family Room can always be made available for a quiet chat.

Car Parking

The car park belongs to St Margaret's School. We would advise you park on surrounding roads if you are not within walking distance. The area in front of our doors is for disabled use only and should never be used unless a prior arrangement has been made. There is also disabled parking in the unused 'Bus Stop' directly outside the front gates.

Visitor's Log

This is located in the foyer. If you are staying for any reason, please log in and then out on your departure. In the unlikely event of a fire, we then know where you are and can be accounted for.

Collection of Children

We will only let your child be collected by the named adult / adults on your collection form. Please update when required or telephone in an emergency.

Bumps and Bruises Book

This is situated in the office. Please fill it in if you bring your child with any bumps / bruises / scrapes etc. sustained outside of Playgroup hours. This lets the Playgroup staff know the injury did not occur without notice during your child's session.

Accident Book / Medication Book

If your child injures themselves in a minor way during Playgroup hours, it will be recorded (including the details of the injury, how it occurred and how it was dealt with). You will be asked to read and sign this record at the end of the session. Any medication needed should be first discussed with the Playgroup Manager and then detailed / specific instruction noted in the medication book, Medicines will be stored in a secure area away from the children.

Comforters

Next to the table where your child 'posts' their name cards, we have a toy box. Children can put comforters in there and take them out as necessary. We request that other toys or precious possessions are not brought in as they can be mislaid and other children may mistake them as Playgroup toys which can lead to distress.

Complaints

We hope all families will enjoy their time with us, feeling informed and secure with our practice. In the event of this not being the case, then please make an appointment with the Manager. The problem can be discussed in confidence and hopefully resolved. In the unlikely event of this not happening, we have a complaints procedure / log, both of which can be found in the foyer to the right hand side of the internal doors.

Snack Pot

We provide all children with a healthy mid-morning snack and also a drink of either milk or water. We ask for voluntary monetary contributions towards this and you will see a pot outside the front door for donations, which are gratefully received.

Water Bottles

If your child is in all day, please provide a named water filled bottle. They will still be offered milk or water in a cup at snack time by us but can access their water bottles throughout the day.

COVID PROCEDURES AT WILLIAM OLDER

Our primary focus is the safety of children in the setting, staff and their families.

- No child will be admitted if ill.
- Adults and children should wash hands, or use hand sanitiser, when entering the setting.
- We recognise that it is not possible for 2/3/4year olds to socially distance and parents must be aware of this when choosing to send their children to playgroup.
- We recommend that adults socially distance when dropping and collecting their children.
- We ask that masks are worn if adults are entering the building at busy times eg drop off.
- Adults and children will be expected to use tissues, dispose of them in bins and to cough/sneeze into the crook of their arm, followed by handwashing or using hand gel.
- We will spend as much time as possible outside, please wear suitable clothing eg coats, jumpers, sunhats and sun cream. Tops/dresses with sleeves, no straps please, to stay safe in the sun.
- Please ensure sun cream is applied at home before coming to playgroup.
- All ages to bring a change of clothes from home as they may get wet from water play.
- Please name everything as we do not want clothes, bags, hats, water bottles, lunchboxes going to the wrong homes.
- Please, no toys, dress up or material items from home. The only exception being a named comforter, if needed.
- Hands will be washed or hand sanitiser used before and after eating snack and/or lunch.
- To protect everyone in the setting, if somebody a staff member lives with tests positive for COVID, the staff member will take a PCR test and will only return to work when they receive a negative result and will take daily LFT for up to 10 days. They will isolate for 10 days if the test is positive.
- To protect everyone in the setting, if you (a parent), or somebody in your household, tests positive for COVID, we ask that you do not bring your child(ren) to playgroup for the 10 days that person is isolating or if your child(ren) positive.
- We will continue to review our procedures based on the COVID climate and government advice and will let you know if we change things. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page.

Drop off and Collection

- To reduce congestion with St Margaret's, you may now come inside our gate to wait when dropping or collecting your child(ren).
- Please be sensible with spacing and if it is busy, wait outside the gate.
- We will use hand sanitiser on entry to the premises. We may ask you to wear a mask if you come into the building at busy times or for meetings with your Keyworker.

Mornings

- The door will open at 8:50 for drop off.
- The door will open from 11:40 for collection, with all children to have been picked up by 11:50.

Afternoons

- The door will open at 12:00 for drop off.
- The door will open from 14:50 for collection.
- All children **MUST** be picked up by 15:00.