



### Term Dates:

1st half of Autumn Term: Mon 4th September - Thurs 19th October 2023

**\*\*Friday 20th October - CLOSED - Staff Training Day\*\***

HALF TERM: 23rd October - 29th October

2nd Half of Autumn Term: Mon 30th October - Friday 15th December 2023

Return after Christmas break: Weds 3rd January 2024

**Welcome Back** to all of our carry-over families and a big **HELLO** to our new ones. We hope you have all had a lovely Summer!

For new families, here is a little bit about us:

We are a charitable group that provide sessional and extended (up to 30 hours per week) childcare for 38 weeks of the year. We aim to make your child's time memorable and our lovely staff and resources provide a quality education and play experience.

From time to time we will hold fundraising events such as raffles etc. which help us provide extra resources for your children. We are extremely grateful for any help families can offer as this impacts positively on the children. This could happen in many ways—perhaps providing raffle prizes for events or maybe you have access to resources such as paper for instance, that you could donate.

Volunteers are most welcome, we can organise a DBS check or maybe your workplace lets you partake in 'Charity Day'. In the past, parents have used these to help us in ways such as painting / creating a shed or play equipment.

If you feel you could help us in any way then please let us know.



### Events this Half Term

**Every third Monday - PM** - We are lucky to be on the **Library Bus** list and our older children take turns to visit the bus in our car park and have some lovely stories with the Library Bus ladies.

**Thursday Afternoons** - We are visited by Becky and **Hartbeeps** - a fantastic singing, signing and sensory experience. Becky brings lots of fun props with her and the children love these sessions. There is no cost to families and is provided by Playgroup.



## Wednesday 18th October - PM - Zoolab

will be visiting with an assortment of interesting creatures! They will be incorporated into a story for the children called The Zagaro (based on the Gruffalo). Those brave enough will be able to hold or touch many of the creatures and even if they do not want to, there will be plenty to learn about.



## Date for your Diary - Second Half of Term

### Tuesday 31st October - Spooky Day

All children, Mornings and Afternoons, are invited to dress up in a 'Spooky' way (no facemasks or toy swords / scythes etc. please!). If they do not wish to dress up then that's fine too. We will be providing some 'Spooky' activities during the day and having lots of fun along the way.

## Information for Parents & Carers:

### Keyperson

Children all have a Keyperson. You should all have been introduced to your child's and had a conversation about them. If this has not happened then please see Sue A.S.A.P.

### Social Media

We use journals to document your child's journey with us but we do not want to spend too much time away from them and so also we use tools such as Facebook and Instagram to post pictures and information on. We have a list of those families who choose not to have their children featured. If at any time you change preferences, then please let us know but remember, even if your child is not shown, it will give you a flavour of special events and daily activities, as well as information posted so please take a look. It's great if you follow us and ❤️ or 👍 our posts, as this gives us an idea of who we are reaching.

### Snack / Lunches

We provide a healthy snack each morning with milk or water as an accompaniment. We ask for voluntary monetary donations to help cover the costs of this. We have a snack pot outside the front entrance that can be used for cash but we also accept donations via bank transfer using the following details. Please use the reference 'SNACK' for payments made in this way:

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

Fees and monies for t-shirts, hoodies etc. can also be paid for via bank transfer with the reference 'UNIFORM'.

We ask you to provide a healthy and not too large lunch for children that are with us all day or in the afternoons. If unsure of what this might be, we have some literature in our foyer to read. An example would be perhaps a cheese sandwich, yogurt and piece of fruit (always pre cut grapes in half, lengthways, if in lunchboxes please). There are lots of alternatives but we ask for no sweets, chocolates or fizzy drinks and would ask consideration with crisps, cake bars etc.



We do teach children about healthy foods and it is lovely to look at healthy options in lunchboxes. We have a **'No Nuts' policy** in case of severe allergies—this includes products such as Nutella. Thank you for your co-operation in this.

For those children in all day, a named water bottle is an essential. We will always top-up if needed - especially in this unseasonably hot spell.

**Rucksacks** - Most children bring a rucksack in daily. If in nappies, a good supply plus wipes and bags is great. A change of clothes also useful, not just for toileting accidents which can happen to any child but also for water play etc. as it can get quite boisterous! Please name as much as possible, we find many children (especially the younger ones) enjoy visiting their bags and occasionally emptying the contents! Labelling / naming helps us enormously.

**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.

**Autumn Sun** - We're loving the warm days and long may they continue! You are welcome to look at our sun procedures online but we ask for all children to bring a named sunhat that they will be strongly advised to wear (not always possible with our youngest children).

On these super sunny days, our expectation is for children to be brought in with a strong suncream already applied and suitable clothes. For example, strappy dresses on a very hot day are not as suitable as capped sleeves or a t-shirt, Crocs / flip-flops can cause tripping so sandals etc. are preferable.

Named suncreams can be left in children's bags and the older children may be able to apply their own top-ups. We will assist appropriately if needed. We also keep some cream here ourselves for emergencies. We do not want to stop children enjoying the outdoors so will apply to any child that looks like they could be going to burn unless we have had reasonable instruction from a parent as to why they would not want this.

We are happy to top up children's water bottles whenever they ask too.

**Illness** - It is our policy that all children should be kept off for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhea. This is to protect other children and staff alike. Children who 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.

### **And Finally...**

We want yours and your children's experience with us to be a great one. Please talk to us at the earliest opportunity if there are any issues. If it is not a suitable time, we will schedule a meeting ASAP in either the Family Room or the office.

Any financial matters regarding fees etc., Lucy is in the office all day Wednesdays and Friday mornings but you can leave an email to be answered via [williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com).

Looking forward to having an exciting year with your children.

*Sue & the Team*

