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### Term Dates:

1st half of Autumn Term: Tues 3rd September - Fri 25th October 2024

HALF TERM: 28th October - 3rd November

2nd Half of Autumn Term: Mon 4th November - Friday 20th December 2024

Return after Christmas break: Mon 6th January 2025

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A big **WELCOME!** to families old and new. We hope you all have had a fantastic Summer and are now ready for new adventures.

### Events this Half Term

**Monday Afternoons - Cooking**

**Every third Monday - Afternoons - Library Bus visits**

**Tuesday Afternoons - Hartbeeps**

**Friday 25th October - ALL DAY - Spooky Day**

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### Update on New Outdoor Areas



This Summer we have been preparing to extend our already beautiful outdoor space. For those of you that may not know, we are a Charity. The land, our building and play areas are 'owned' by another Charity - The William Older's School Charity. William Older was a wealthy farmer from the 1600s that left money and land in Trust for the 'Education

of the Children of Angmering'. We have much to thank him for and the Trustees of this legacy who recently granted us permission to use a little more of their land for our upcoming exciting projects. We will be using the area behind staff carpark adjacent to our green Astro Turf area that houses the music shelter, tent, etc. The groundworks are prepared and work will be starting very soon. We are planting some more trees on the line dividing us from the car park to create a beautiful space for the wildlife to continue to thrive.

The space is then divided into three areas: The first will contain a William Older Train Station and platform with a track and train extending from it. We will also have an outdoor train track room / shed to play in.



Area two will be Treasure Island themed, with a soft-play beach and sea, a desert island with sandcastle play tower on top and two pirate ship sandpits, with sun shades for the hot weather we hope will return one day! We are also having a large ice cream van being built that we will be able to serve real ices from on hot days.

The third area will be a road with several interactive buildings along the route. One will be an indoor large sand pit and the others will include a sensory room, a water pump and a garage, plus more!

These improvements come at a large cost and we have been saving for many years for these additions. As a Charity, we strive to give the best value as well as experiences to our children and families and there are very few groups where the Free Entitlement comes with no extra costs.

We do need to fundraise though an hope you will continue to support any raffles / extra activities that will enable us to continue to be what we think is the most exciting and stimulating experience for pre-school learners in our area.

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### Can you Help?

As a Charity, we are always open and grateful for any extra to help with costs. Please let us know if you can help in any of these ways - some parents have access to resources such as paper etc. that we could use. Some workplaces will pay staff to work for a Charity for a day and we always have play equipment etc. that needs a Creosote or repaint.

Volunteers for specific areas - Do you or a family member have a skill such as woodwork for example, that you would be willing to share with the children on a regular basis? We would register your DBS check for you etc. so please let us know if any of the above are possibilities.



### Social Media

We use both Facebook and Instagram to share pictures and info about what we're doing at Playgroup. Not all families wish to be included in this and you will have filled out your preferences when registering. These preferences can be changed at any time, just let us know. Last year, our pages became closed / private in line with GDPR updates but if you or your relatives etc. would like to follow us, then please send a request for Lucy's attention.

### Snack / Lunches

We provide all children with a healthy mid-morning snack, for example, cheese and biscuits, fresh fruit etc. We gave an allergy list so please keep us updated with changes. We ask for a voluntary monetary donation to pay for this as it is quite a weekly expense. Please do this if you can, the amount is discretionary and can be paid at any time and at intervals that suit. We have a physical 'snack pot' outside the front door for cash donations but many people prefer to donate via bank transfer which you can do 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

Many thanks.

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.

### **Keyworkers**

Your child will have been allocated a Keyperson. They will liaise with you on progress and will produce your child's Learning Journal, which will be shared at least termly. You should know and have met your Keyperson but if you have not or are unsure, then please talk to Sue, the Manager or Tara, Deputy Manager, asap.

**Book Bags** - If your child is in their last year with us and going into Reception next year then they will soon receive a red Book Bag to borrow and use for this year. When received, they can then choose a book to take home to read with their family. When read, just bring the Book Bag back in and put either in the crate by the doors or, if at Explorers, they will put a crate out to pop them in; they can then change for a new book.

We put their first names on the front and this is a useful tool for early name recognition. Please do not adorn the bag in any other ways to help them recognise it as we will then not know when they recognise their own name.

**Calendar** - Earlier this year, we saw that Angmering Parish Council were asking for photo submissions to be considered for an Angmering calendar competition. We submitted three or four with children that had photographic permission and were recently thrilled to learn that one of our entries has made it into the 2025 calendar! We think these will be advertised soon and might make a good Christmas gift.



### **2025 Calendar Competition**

**Hartbeeps** - We pay for our older children to have a weekly Hartbeeps session (singing, signing, music and movement with Becky) as we feel it enriches our curriculum and is enjoyed so much by the children. For the Autumn and Spring Term this academic year, this will happen on a Tuesday afternoon.



### **Spooky Day - Friday 25th October**

If your children enjoy dressing up (optional) then today, morning and afternoon children can do so (no scary masks though please). We will have themed activities going on to support this and it's always a fun day, as well as being the last day before half-term break.



**Cooking** - This year Amanda will be doing small group cooking activities with the children on a Monday afternoon. The group will be around six children and there will be a seasonal / topical theme to the activities.

**Book Bus** - We are also lucky enough to have secured a three weekly rotational slot on the WSCC Book Bus which visits us for the older children on Monday afternoons. The children go onto the bus for storytelling with Mandy and Anna and we also borrow topical books from them.

**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.

**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 your time at William Older Playgroup to be happy and memorable so please come to us at the earliest opportunity if you have any queries or concerns. To get in touch, you can send us an email to [williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com) or call us on 01903 771025.

On a last note, if your child is funded then don't forget to renew your code when prompted each term as you don't want to lose it!

Wishing everyone a Happy Autumn.

*Sue & the Team*

