



Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Term Dates:

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

Return after Christmas break: Mon 6th January 2025

A big **WELCOME!** to those new families we have had starting with us recently.

Upcoming Events / Dates

Monday Afternoons - Cooking

Every third Monday - Afternoons - Library Bus visits

Tuesday Afternoons - Hartbeeps

Friday 15th November - Children in Need Dressing up Day

Tuesday 26th November - School Readiness Evening - 7-9pm

Thursday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 19th December - Christmas Nativity - pm

Friday 20th December - Father Christmas Visit - am & pm

Good News from OFSTED!

On Tuesday 1st October 2024, we had our OFSTED inspection and received 'GOOD' in all five areas.

Comments from OFSTED include:

- "Children arrive with excitement and enthusiasm. They confidently wave goodbye to their parents as they receive a warm welcome from friendly staff. Children who have recently started attending are given extra encouragement by Key Staff."
- "Staff are positive role models."
- "Staff ensure children have an abundance of opportunities to develop their physical skills. The well equipped and stimulating outdoor areas enable children the freedom to curiously explore in a variety of ways."

To read the full report, visit www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk and search providers for William Older Playgroup, Angmering.

Well done to our fantastic team, it is a shame its not a longer inspection to show off all the lovely things we provide.

Officially
rated 'Good'
in all areas
by Ofsted





Updates on New Outdoor Areas

As you may have noticed, our new Outdoor Areas are looking fantastic and two of them - the Train Area and the Treasure Island Area - are very close to completion. We still have some 'viewing sessions' for parents before we open these first two areas officially.

A big THANK YOU to Maggie's Daddy, who is a Signwriter and has offered to make one of our new signs for these areas.

As you can imagine, these new areas come at a large cost and, although we have been saving for some years, we still need to fundraise for all those little 'extras' that will make these play areas truly magical.

This year, we will be holding two fundraising raffles - one at the Thursday 19th December Nativity for our older children and one for the younger group, after our morning Father Christmas visit on Friday 20th December.

We love to have a Christmas feel to the raffle and have prizes that the children, as well as adults, might like. We are asking for donations for these raffles please and prizes can be brought in any time from now - we are really grateful for anything you feel you can give.

It would also be great if you and your family could buy tickets on the day so we can make as much money as possible. Thank you in advance.

As a Charity, we like to instill in the children a sense of helping those less fortunate and we will also be supporting Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 12th December. On this day it would be lovely to see your child in one if possible and we are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 per child on the day.

Thursday 19th December - 2pm

Our older children will be performing the Nativity this afternoon. If your child is in their last year with us, they are invited to join in, regardless if it's their usual afternoon. There will be another letter out nearer the time, where you can indicate if your child will be there and also reserve free tickets to the performance (please bring cash for the raffle though!).



Friday 20th December - Afternoon

Father Christmas will be visiting again this afternoon at around 2.15pm. If your child is not usually in this afternoon but in their last year and you would like to come in with them, then please fill in the slip at the end of this newsletter and return asap.



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

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.

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.

Seasonal viruses such as Hand, Foot & Mouth are highly contagious and we ask you do not bring your child in if they are suffering with these as, if staff succumb, then Playgroup may not meet ratios and will need to close.

Winter Clothes - Now the weather is getting colder and the children have more outdoor clothes, there are several things you can do which will be helpful to both them and us:

- Clearly label as many items of clothing with their names as possible
- Provide mittens instead of gloves as easier for them to get on and off.
- Avoid all-in-one suits for the above reason
- Practice putting coat on by themselves at home.
- Trainers are more comfy than wellies. Most of our surfaces drain very quickly. Also, Velcro rather than laces helps the children become independent.



School Readiness Evening Course - Tuesday 26th November 7-9pm

If your child will be going into Reception in September 2025, then this two hour evening course is aimed at you.

We offer guidance on the real expectations from school and suggest tools and techniques you can use from now until September, to make sure your child is as prepared as possible and has a smooth transition. Last year, Mr Jee, the Head at St Margaret's joined us at the beginning of the evening to echo the above sentiments. We are hoping that either he or one of the Early Years team will do the same this year.

Most of our children go on to St Margaret's but by no means all. This evening benefits families wherever they choose as the principles will be the same.

If you would like to book a space, then please fill in the slip at the end of this newsletter and return asap. There will be refreshments provided in the evening.

And Finally...

If you would like to increase your child's hours next term, then please talk to Sue to see if this is possible. If your child may qualify for free funding from January, then now is the time to go onto the government's Childcare Choices website and apply. If a code is given, then please pass it onto us asap so we can verify and offer the places.

Sue & the Team



School Readiness Evening

I / we would like _____ place(s) on the School Readiness Evening Course on Tuesday 26th November, 7 - 9pm.

Signed _____ Parents / Carers of _____



Father Christmas

My child _____

Please tick as applicable. **Morning children:**

Does not usually attend on a Friday but I will bring them on Friday 20th December at 11am and stay with them, to see Father Christmas.

Attends on a Friday morning and I will join them at 11am on Friday 20th December for Father Christmas' visit.

Afternoon children:

Does not usually attend on a Friday Afternoon but I will bring them and stay on Friday 20th December at 2.15pm for a visit from Father Christmas.

Signed (Parent / Carer) _____