

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Term Dates:

2nd half of Autumn Term: Mon 3rd November - Fri 19th December 2025

Return after Christmas break: Mon 5th January 2026

Dates for your Diary

Every Third Monday - WSCC Book Bus visit - pm

Mondays - Hartbeeps - pm

Fridays - Cooking with Amanda — pms (different groups each week)

Friday 14th November - Children in Need Fundraiser - All Day

Thursday 11th December - Save the Children Christmas Jumper - All Day

Thursday 18th December - 2pm - Christmas Nativity - pm children

Friday 19th December - Father Christmas visiting - am & pm

Friday 19th December - Break up

Monday 5th January 2026 - Return to Playgroup

Autumn Term is always a long one and during the first half we have welcomed quite a few new children. All seem to be settling in beautifully and we are looking forward to the second half of our run up to Christmas!

During this half term your child's keyworker will catch up with you at some point to have a look at their journals and review their progress.

Government Funding / Fees

This term, we have seen many more children accessing different streams of government funding or paying us for sessions. Hopefully, if you are a fee paying family, we have got it right but if you feel it's incorrect (or we have forgotten to invoice you!) then please let us know so we can sort out as soon as possible.

Some of you using government Free Entitlement funding are currently in the grace period. Please remember to renew your claim when prompted or you could lose something you are really entitled to.

Childcare Choices

Supporting families
with childcare costs

childcarechoices.gov.uk



HM Government

Book Bags

All children in their last year have been given a book bag which they can bring in on each day of attendance and choose a new one. We are finding that this year we are having really low numbers being brought in—especially from the boys. We have so many books for the children to choose from and they love returning the last one and looking for the next.

There is so much research to show the benefit of reading with your child each day, especially as part of a wind down for bedtime. We appreciate everyone has busy lives but please do not underestimate the power of a story being read to a child and use this resource.

Toothbrushing

The government are piloting a new scheme encouraging

Early years settings and schools in a new **Supervised**

Toothbrushing Programme:

- Each child participating in this scheme will receive twice yearly take-home packs and guidance.
- A toothbrush and paste to use here each term.
- We will be provided with racks to hold the brushes which we will individually name



The plan is for participating children to dry brush their teeth around 30 minutes after eating their packed lunches here, under our supervision.

This programme is designed to encourage healthy daily habits and reduce health inequalities in the Early Years.

Ongoing support to us will be provided by the Oral Health Promotion team.

If you would like your child to be a part of this scheme and they have lunch with us, then please fill in the attached consent form and return ASAP.

When we have collated these, we will pass onto the Oral Health team to start the ball rolling. I am hoping we can begin in January, at the start of the Spring term.

Reminders of how we encourage healthy eating at meal times are below.

Lunches

We actively promote healthy choices. So far this term we have seen some lovely lunches however, please remember your child has a small stomach and also if they are in all day, we provide a healthy mid-morning snack and drink. Some lunches are larger than we could eat (and most of us can eat a lot!).

A sensible, manageable size are welcome please, with healthy options such as fruit, vegetables, sandwiches or wraps. Please no chocolate, sugary drinks or too many salty snacks. No nuts either please (including peanut butter and Nutella).

We also ask for a large named bottle of water they can access during the day and we can top up if needed.



Snack

As mentioned above, 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.

Bumps, Knocks, Falls & Accidents

After recent whole staff training, we have been reviewing how we treat minor accidents at Playgroup. Our training showed us that in a busy and active environment such as ours, it is likely and we also know, that we will have a fair amount of minor falls / bumps into each other whilst running outdoors etc. We are also aware that the cold compress procedure is sometimes a useful placebo treatment for children in some cases. However, when fully engaged in active play, it may often be good for the children's resilience that, although the incident is acknowledged and child assessed by staff, that a 'dust yourself down and get on with it' approach can be more beneficial to the child. In light of this, we are trialling not immediately writing all incidents up in an accident book but in some cases, just noting mentally and talking to the parent / carer on the door if needed. All staff are paediatric first aid trained and of course, some injuries will need more attention and writing up. Head injuries will always be treated with the utmost care.

School places for September 2026

If your child is due to start school next September, you will be able to apply for their school place between now and 15th January 2026. Although next door to St Margaret's, we are not officially joined to them. A large proportion of our children will move onto there but we do also have children going to other Angmering, Rustington, East Preston and Arundel schools. It is worth looking around and visiting if you are unsure. Also, please feel free to talk to myself or staff about options if you are unsure about procedures. All children should be applied for even if they have SEND or you are considering home-schooling.

A reminder that if you choose not to send your child to school in September (as not a legal requirement until they're 5) they will then start in Year 1 the following September and may have missed out on friendship groups, routines and educational activities that they then may find it hard to catch up on the following year.

Reception classes are part of the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) as we are, and a natural play-based education progression from preschools.

Nasal Flu Vaccine

There has been much info lately on the early rise in flu numbers this Autumn. We know that for some children, flu can be a horrible experience with, occasionally, the possibility of becoming seriously ill.

Preschool children from 2 year old are offered a free yearly nasal spray flu vaccine through their GP surgery.

Lost Property

We have a box outside the front doors, please check this regularly as it was empty at the beginning of term and is now overflowing. It also helps to name as much as possible. Although we try and keep children and their possessions / clothes together, it's an ongoing challenge!

Toileting before Playgroup

Please encourage your child to use the toilet before leaving the house. Lately we have had increasing numbers of children wanting to come in to use toilets before we have opened the doors.

This is our time for the day's staff to get together and talk through any issues, many confidential, and we cannot do this if families and children are in the room.

Of course, in an emergency we will admit but it can easily become habitual and part of the child's routine.

Children in Need - Friday 14th November - Pyjama Day

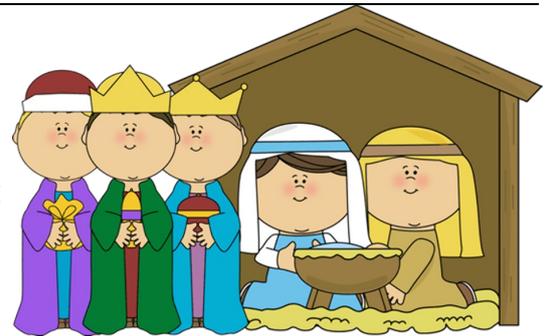
Today we will be raising money for Children in Need and are going to have a Pyjama Day. We ask for a £1 minimum donation (voluntary) on the door. Your child will still have access to the outdoors so if not in fleecy PJs then they could be worn over clothes. Reminders - all children should have pants on and if multiple layers, please make them easy to take down so they can use the toilet.

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day - Thursday 12th December

It's Christmas Jumper Day in aid of another worthy cause, Save the Children, on this day so please donate something if you can. Children can wear Christmas jumpers / sweatshirts / dresses and look as festive as possible.

Nativity Play - Thursday 18th December - After-noon children only

On this day we will be putting on our Nativity play performed by our older afternoon children. There will be a separate letter nearer the time detailing this. We welcome families to come to the performance, with a usual suggestion of 2 tickets per child.



This is a lovely event and we also use it as a fundraiser for ourselves. We are a charity and all monies raised go directly back into making William Older as wonderful for your children as we can.

We do not charge for tickets but always have a lovely raffle which we hope you will all buy tickets for on the day.

We are looking for donations for the raffle so please help if you can. We like the raffle to be as Christmassy as possible but any prizes are very welcome. These can be brought in any time from now. Many thanks in advance if you can help with this.

Father Christmas - Friday 19th December

We are very lucky today - Father Christmas is visiting us TWICE! Once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

All children will be receiving a gift from him. If your child does not usually attend on a Friday, then you may bring them in with yourselves at either 11.20am for the morning session or 2.20pm for the afternoon.

If they cannot attend then Father Christmas will still have a gift for them. Please fill in and return the slip at the end of the newsletter if a) you are going to bring them in on the day or b) they will not be in on the Friday and you will tell us the last session they will be in that week so that we can make sure they have their Christmas gift.

Social Media

We use our Facebook and Instagram pages to help keep you up to date with all the exciting activities your children are experiencing. We know it's not for everyone but if you change your preference and are happy to let your child be featured in our posts, then please let us know any time.

May we ask that as many families as possible request to

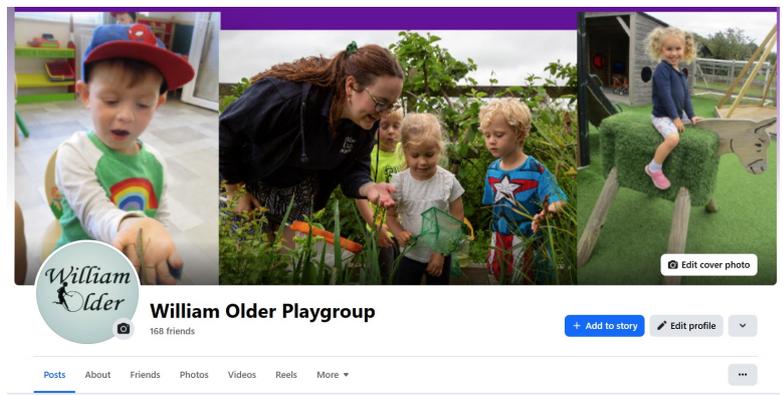
follow us, as this is our main way of getting information

out quickly, not just for posts and pics of the children having fun, for example, our recent phone line fault, out-

breaks of illness, exceptional weather causing closure etc. You can request to follow us without giving permission

for us to show your child on social media but please may we also ask that you like or love our posts so that we can

see who we are engaging with and who might be missing info.



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 inter-

com, 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 diar-

rhoea. This is to protect other children and staff alike. Children who are 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.

Clothes - As Winter arrives and the children are bringing in more coats / hats etc., please label or write name

clearly and obviously, as we end up with huge amounts of lost property every year where children have emptied

their rucksack out without telling us or dumped coats on the floor, not on their pictured pegs. Many thanks for your

help on this.

We also now have stock of our William Older Playgroup t-shirts, hoodies and jackets available to purchase.

Please see Sue or a staff member if you are interested

Last Day of Term

We break up for Christmas on Friday 19th December and return for

Spring Term on Monday 5th January 2026.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a brilliant New Year!

Sue & the Team



Father Christmas - Friday 19th December

My child _____

Please tick as applicable.

Morning children:

Does not usually attend on a Friday but I will bring them on Friday 19th December at 11.20am and stay with them ,to see Father Christmas .

Afternoon children:

Does not usually attend on a Friday Afternoon but I will bring them and stay on Friday 19th December at 2.20pm for a visit from Father Christmas.

Signed (Parent / Carer) _____



My child _____ cannot attend on Friday 19th December.

Their last session should be _____ so they can collect their gift from Father Christmas.

Signed (Parent / Carer) _____