



### Term Dates:

1st half of Spring Term: Mon 5th Jan - Fri 13th Feb 2026

HALF TERM - 14th - 22nd Feb 2026

2nd half of Spring Term: Mon 23rd Feb - Fri 27th March 2026

EASTER BREAK - 28th March - 12th April 2026

Return for Summer Term: Mon 13th April 2026

### Events for this Half Term

Every Third Monday - WSCC Book Bus visit - pm

Mondays - Hartbeeps - pm

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

Thurs 8th Jan - Zoolab Visit - pm

Welcome back to all families and a special **HELLO** to new ones this term. We hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and New Year.

We have returned to a cold snap so a reminder that our children will be offered outdoor play in all but the most severe weather so please bring your child in with a good (named) coat, gloves and hat. Mittens are not always easy to find but worth the effort as so much easier for all to get on and off. Wellies are not usually needed as our all-weather surfaces drain well so a good pair of Velcro trainers are ideal.

If your child is starting school in September this year, then you should already have submitted applications online. There are only a few more days left for this so if you haven't already done, then make it your next to-do. If you have any queries or need help, then please feel free to ask us.

I will be putting a slip at the bottom of the newsletter for the above families to fill in and return. Please let me know your first choice. I will ask again when you get given your places but it's really useful for us to have an early heads up.

Returning to the subject of clothes... Even though we have had only 1 term this academic year, we already have a massive box of unclaimed lost property. You may wonder why? We do ask for changes of clothes to be brought in, in case needed and we often find children have gone to their bags and emptied all or some of the contents around the cloakrooms. If 2 or 3 children do this, plus the usual dropping of coats, hats, gloves etc., it soon mounts up. We can only return items if they are named. Please have a good look in the blue lost property box by our front entrance and keep Sharpie-ing those names in!

### Toothbrushing

Last Newsletter I sent a form out to the children here at lunchtimes, for you to return to say if you would like to sign up for the guided toothbrushing scheme, which we hope to have up and running this term. We have had a very high uptake, which is great. If you did not return your form and would like your child to participate then it is not too late so please contact me for a info and a consent form.

### Consumables

As a setting that is signed up to offer the Free Entitlement where we can, we are allowed to charge for consumables. This covers things such as visits, wet wipes, nappy bags etc. As a charity, we like to avoid any extra costs to parents and also make sure that our profits from fees go straight back into providing the very best resources we can for the children.

To do this, we ask that parents provide wet wipes, nappy bags with their child along with nappies if they are still in them. Also, if your child is having regular 'accidents' when toilet training, then we would also ask for wipes and bags to come in with them. We are finding we are spending a lot of money each term on items where money could be better spent elsewhere so we are reminding families to please provide these as we really don't want to have to put regular payments in place. Many thanks.



## Snack

We do provide a healthy snack and drink each morning and ask for voluntary contributions towards this for the same reasons as above. There is a money pot outside the front door for cash but many parents prefer to contribute half-termly or termly by BACS. Please use the reference SNACK for payments made this way:

Sort Code: 30-95-09

Acc Number: 00626350

Acc Name: William Older Playgroup

## 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, outbreaks 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 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 diarrhoea. 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. Please let us know by email or phone if your child will not be in due to holidays, illness etc. so that we can mark that onto the register. If we have periods of time when children are not accounted for, we have been advised to contact authorities so please help us by letting us know why they're not attending.



## Children who become Reception age and go to school this September (2026)

I / We have put down \_\_\_\_\_ (name of school) as our first choice for

my / our child \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent / Carer)