

Month						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Term Dates:

Mon 24th Feb - Spring Term (2) start

Fri 4th April—Break up for Easter

Mon 21st April - Bank Holiday

Tues 22nd April - Return for Summer Term (1)

Thurs 22nd May—Break up for Half-Term

Fri 23rd May - CLOSED - Staff Inset Training Day

Mon 2nd June—Return for Summer Term (2)

Friday 18th July—Break up for Summer

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24th Feb - WSCC Book Bus visit

Monday 3rd March - Visit from author and illustrator, Nick Sharratt - pm

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

Monday 17th March - WSCC Book Bus visit

Friday 21st March - Comic Relief, Red Nose Day

Tuesday 25th March - Visit from Zoolab

Thursday 27th March - Easter Parade - pm

Tuesdays - Hartbeeps - pm

We hope you all had a good half-term and everyone is looking forward to signs of Spring. We already have some frogspawn so hopefully this is the start of longer days and better weather.

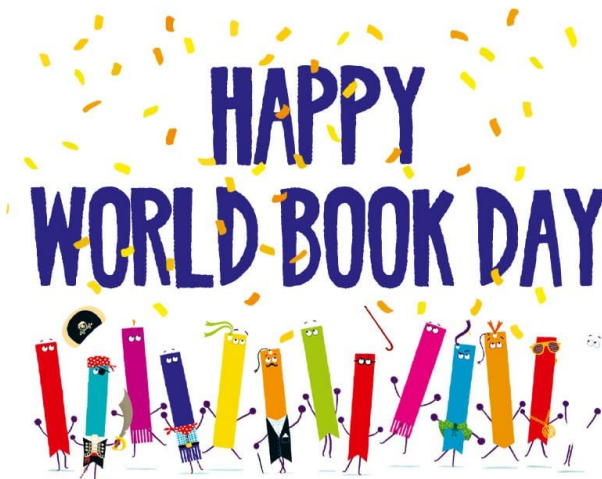
By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have had our much anticipated visit to our older children from one of our favourite authors, Nick Sharratt. We also asked him to officially open two of our new play areas—the Train Area and our Desert Island / Beach Theme Area. We have done a couple of ‘soft opening’ sessions to see how things work and the children have been very enthusiastic. If any parents (without the children) would like to look around these areas, then I will be doing short tours on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th March, weather permitting, at 8.50am and 2.40pm across both days. If you are not available for these but would like a look around, then please see me and I will arrange a suitable time to do so. We will also be posting lots of pics on our Facebook and Instagram pages. If you are not a ‘friend’ or ‘follower’ of our pages, please request to do so and have a look at what we get up to.

World Book Day

Nick Sharratt has been our main focus for this but we like to celebrate reading and books over a longer period than just one day, as it is such an important part of the life and development of a young child.

As in previous years, we have liaised with St Margaret's school and over the next couple of weeks, they will be sending groups of children from Year 6 over on a daily basis to read stories to our children. Many of these children are ex-students of ours so this is an especially lovely activity for all.

We also invite parents / grandparents / carers to come in at story time over the next couple of weeks to read to our children. Please consider this as the children really love it. We have two rooms in use at story times so plenty of opportunities. The morning story would be told just after 11.30am and the afternoon ones around 2.35pm. Please do not feel we will be looking at you or judging your storytelling - it's lovely to have some different faces reading. Morning stories should be shortish and better if 'punchy' or with interesting pics - 5 minutes is usually long enough. In the afternoon, the children can sit a little longer but the story should probably be no longer than a classic such as The Gruffalo or Room on the Broom etc. If you would like to do this, then please talk to a member of staff and we can pencil you a slot in the diary. You can read a book of your choice or one of ours.



Comic Relief (Red Nose Day) - Fri 21st March

Today, children can dress up and do 'Something Funny for Money' or wear something red.

Our Explorers or afternoon children are welcome to come in with a pre-rehearsed joke (written and in an envelope) that they have learnt by heart and can tell to the group (if written, we can then help if they forget). We will film some of these and then post on our socials for those that we have permission for. Donations may be given on the day (we suggest £1 but up to you).

Zoolab - Tues 25th March - Afternoon

This afternoon, we have Zoolab visiting. They will bring a range of mini beasts for the children to look at / touch. They deliver this through storytelling and this year's story will be Morpho the Munching Millipede! (Based on The Very Hungry Caterpillar).



Easter Parade - Thurs 3rd April - pm

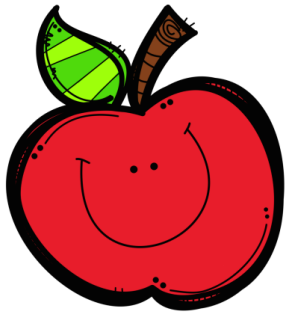
Parents of children that attend this afternoon will be getting a separate letter soon.

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.

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.

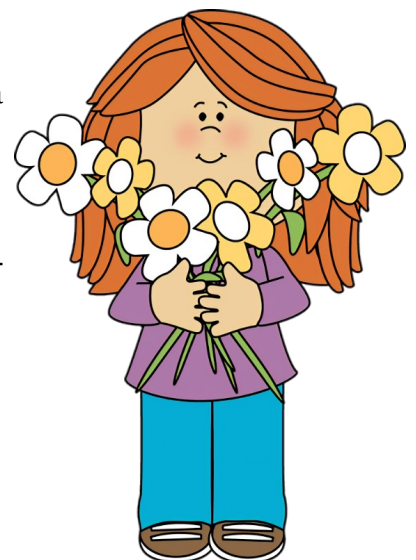
Car Park - The school car park is only for staff of St Margaret's and William Older Playgroup. There have been reported incidents of cars following in staff and those who have been permitted entry by the school via the intercom, whilst the secure gates have been open momentarily. Please park on the surrounding 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 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...

This Spring, we are looking forward to completing our third new outside area and also surfacing round our new Trim Trail once weather conditions improve and the ground dries out. We will keep you updated during these exciting times.

As ever, any concerns or info needed then please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of the staff.



Sue & the Team