

### Term Dates:

1st ½ of Summer Term: Tues 22nd April - Thurs 22nd May 2025

Monday 5th May - CLOSED - Bank Holiday

Fri 23rd May - CLOSED - Inset Day

2nd ½ of Summer Term: Mon 2nd June - Fri 18th July 2025

---

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th May - WSCC Book Bus visit - pm

Monday 12th May - Photographer in all day

Friday 16th May - Dinosaur Day - am & pm

Weds 20th May - May Day - pm

Tuesdays (from 29th April) - Transition Hour - pms

Mondays - Hartbeeps - pm

---

Hopefully you have all had a lovely Easter and, now we are officially in the Summer Term, we will have the weather to reflect that. Welcome to new families that are joining us this term!

### Update on Outdoor Areas

We are now fully using 2 of our new outside areas - the Train Area and the Pirate Area. It's great to see both areas working so well and the children love them, with the ice cream van being a particular favourite!

As part of our outdoor expansion and redevelopment we have also had our old playhouse removed and a new one installed which we are currently kitting out as a Unisex Hairdressers / Nail Bar / Occasional Temporary Tattoo Bar, all current themes in today's modern High Street!

We welcome any items parents / carers might like to donate to enhance this area - e.g.. Lightweight hairdryers with the lead removed, clean combs / brushes / rollers etc. / hairdressing mirror to hang / hairdressing mags (if you are in the trade) or children's comics for the waiting area, plus any other items you think may work.





Our Trim Trail Area, next to the Train Area, has just had some groundworks done and we will soon have a soft surface added on top. That area will also have a small sun shelter / seating area incorporated once the surfacing is completed.



The top area of the new outside build is still to be kitted out as the weather improves and we can get materials such as sand to the Sandpit Shed via the field. The other buildings include a Sensory Room, a Builder's Yard, Bistro and Fun House.

We have spent a great deal of our savings on these lovely areas and are looking now to keep our costs down as we complete. We would love to decorate the inside of the Bistro, Fun House and maybe Builder's Yard and Sandpit Shed (the Sensory Room is already nearly done). We are looking at asking local colleges if they have any students that might take these on as a project but we may have families here that have artistic skills and some time you could donate to us, if we provide the materials. If you think you could help us with any of the above then please speak to Sue or email us asap at [williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com)

Our final outdoor project also starts on our return back. Our old flower beds have rotted and we are having 2 removed and a new smaller one installed. The remaining area is being covered in red soft surfacing, with a Car Wash then being built on top. There is likely to be a delay in the soft surfacing going down on top of the groundworks and we ask for your cooperation in not letting your children on this area whilst we are awaiting the next stage of the project.

### **Photographer - Mon 12th May - All Day**

Today we have our Photographer in all day. If your child is not usually in on a Monday but you would like their photo taken, you may bring them in, if they are a younger child, between 9.30 - 11.15am. Please let us know if you are going to do this as it is a busy day for us. If you have an older child (going to school in September) who is not usually in, then let us know you are coming and please arrive at 2pm. We do a group 'Leavers' photo which they can then be part of, before having individual ones.

### **Dinosaur Day - Fri 16th May - All Day**

Today is full of fun and Dinosaur themed activities. If your child has any dinosaur clothes / outfits, it would be great if they could wear these or maybe, if you are artistic, you would like to paint their face as a dino! Temporary tattoos will be available but please let us know if you do not want your child to have one.



### **Transition Tuesdays**

From Tuesday 29th April, our older children will enjoy a weekly 'Transition Hour' (weather permitting), for the next 10 weeks. Over the years, we have worked with St Margaret's and find this a fantastic transition tool for all children, whether they are going to St Margaret's or not. We open our top adjoining gates around 1.30pm so that we and a Reception class have an hour's free flow play between the 2 areas and classrooms. 2 of our staff will go up there and 2 of theirs come down here. This is an excellent chance for small children to take on board the fact that Reception is an extension of our Early Years and the classrooms, toilets, teachers and the free flow play that is continued there. We find the majority of our children transition with confidence into school and this activity definitely helps.

This is a busy afternoon so if you are a DBS checked parent and would like to volunteer to help on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.30pm to finishing, then please speak to Sue.

## Hartbeeps

Due to Transition Tuesdays, Hartbeeps is moving to Monday afternoons (except on Photographer week) and Amanda's cooking is moving to a Friday afternoon.

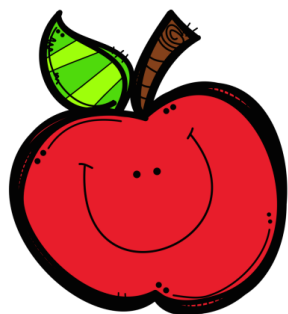
## May Day - Info to Follow

Traditionally, St Margaret's have a May Day celebration and our older children join in with the opening dance. As Mr Jee has left, we think this will still go ahead and likely be on Wednesday 20th May. Our children dress as Pirates (clothes can be re-used for Pirate Day next half-term) and dance to the Grumpy Pirate. We will send out a slip to those involved when we have official confirmation.

## 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.

## Sun Safety

Now the sun is hopefully out more often, it is lovely to enjoy all that our outdoors offers. However, we are mindful of the increasing power of the sun and have a policy to support this. From parents / carers we ask that your child arrives daily with a strong suncream already applied. A named sunhat should also be provided and we encourage all of our children to wear these. For children in all day, you may like to pop named suncream in their bags that they can reapply if needed. We will help the younger ones if asked. We also have our own suncream on premises which we would use if we needed, rather than stop a child accessing the outdoor areas. However the expectation is that cream has already been applied. Those in all day should already have a named water bottle and we will encourage children to drink regularly and also top up their bottles if emptied.



Clothes - girls - please avoid strappy sun tops / dresses as shoulders catch easily. T-shirts for all children are great as are shorts / clothes for being active in. Shoes - we ask that 'Crocs' and flip-flop type sandals are avoided as they can catch on climbing equipment or when running. Soft canvas shoes / sensible sandals are ideal.

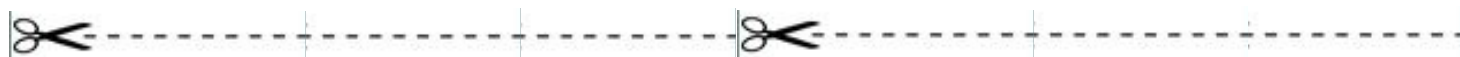
During the Summer term, we endorse the Sun Safety aspect to our children, hopefully setting up good lifetime habits.

## And finally...

For children going into Reception this September, you should have received confirmation of their schools during the Easter break. Could you please fill in the slip at the foot of this newsletter and return asap, as our Transition meetings with schools begin quite early in May.

Many thanks,

*Sue & the Team*



My child \_\_\_\_\_

Has been allocated \_\_\_\_\_ school to attend from  
September 2025.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent / Carer