



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO: 21 Friday 13th February, 2015

Dear Parents / Carers,

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of a very busy and productive Term 3 today. It was good to see you all at our parent meetings this week and to share your child's work with you. We are always looking for ways to further improve the educational provision we offer and we do welcome any feedback or suggestions related to anything we are doing in school. With this in mind we would **ask that you complete the attached Spring Parent Questionnaire** and return it to school **by Monday 2nd March, 2015.**

Panto: What a success! We would like to thank Alternate Shadows for delivering an extremely vibrant pantomime that was enjoyed by everyone. This event was very well attended and we would like to thank you all for your involvement.

Teddy Bear Sale: We would like to thank you for your donations. Regrettably, insufficient numbers were received to enable the sale to go ahead at this time. Should you have any unwanted teddies and you would like to re-home them, please send them into the school office at your convenience as this sale will go ahead at a later date in the year.

Lent: As Ash Wednesday is falling on the 18th of February this year, the period of Lent will begin during the half term holidays. Whilst it's lovely for us to start this important season of the Church's year with a whole school Mass, this year it will be a great opportunity for families to mark this day together, in their parishes. In our school Parish, at St. John Fisher Church, Rochester, Ash Wednesday Masses will be at 10am and 8pm.

We will celebrate the first week of Lent in a school Mass on Tuesday, 24th February at 10am – you are all very welcome to attend. (This will replace the advertised Mass on 10th March).

During Lent there will be fundraising activities at school so that we can respond to the needs of the wider world and in particular we will focus on raising money for Mission Together and CAFOD and the children will receive their Lenten boxes after the half term.

Blue Bag Collection: Our next PTA blue bag collection will take place on **Wednesday 4th March**. Every child has been given a blue bag to facilitate this cause. Please see the letter attached to this newsletter for further details.

Sporting Events:

Football and Netball matches SWOP v Delce and GFC Half-Time Penalty Shoot-Out. Well done to all who take part in representing SWOP. Whilst the children all played valiantly, games were won by the opposing teams. Anthony (Y5) scored a cracking goal in the football match against the Delce.

Good luck to those children taking part in the **Cross Country League**; the next fixture will be held at Kingfisher School on Tuesday 3rd March. Further fixtures will be held on Tuesday 17th and Tuesday 31st March. Prompt start at 4pm.

Anyone from years 5 and 6 who wishes to run, and can get to Kingfisher School for all 3 races, is welcome to take part - only the first four to cross the line will count as the team.





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PE Lessons: Form a valuable part of the school curriculum and unless a note is provided by a parent / carer on the day, all children will participate in their lesson. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school at all times and that all earrings are removed or that your child is able to remove them prior to their lesson. Children who are not able to remove earrings will not be able to actively participate in physical education.

We are following LA guidelines:

'The wearing of jewellery, earring and ear-studs (metal or plastic) should not be permitted on safety grounds during physical education lessons and other sporting activities such as out of hours school learning or competitive fixtures. These items represent a potential hazard not only to the wearer but also to other children. Medical advice confirms that any jewellery worn in physical education lessons is an unnecessary risk and should be avoided at all times. Serious accidents have occurred as a result of contact between pupils wearing earrings or studs and other pupils or equipment, thus damaging the ear, or where items of jewellery have caught in apparatus and torn the ear lobe.'

Please keep earrings for weekends. Thank you for your cooperation

Year 5 Swimming: The sixth of nine swimming sessions for children in Year 5 takes place on Monday 23rd February. Children are reminded to bring their swimming kit.

Club News:

African and Street Dance: Wednesday Morning 8.15 – 8.45am. This club is now open to **all** year groups and for Term 4 will be **free of charge**. **Choir:** Will resume on Friday 27th February, 2015. Please see the attached club timetable for Term 4.

Lost or Damaged Books: As you are aware all school class and library books become the personal responsibility of each child once they have been issued. Unfortunately should a class book be damaged or lost a fixed penalty charge of £5.00 per book will be issued. Should a library book be lost or damaged we will ask for the full cost of the book.

Literacy Competition: “What are you reading at the moment? Take your book wherever you go this half term break and capture the evidence on camera”.

Children have been set a challenge to read in the most extreme of places and record this with a photograph.

Photographs can be handed in up to the 2nd March; we will be announcing the winners of the competition on 5th March, World Book Day. A prize of a £5.00 Waterstones gift voucher will be awarded to the **most extreme reader** in each of the following: Year R, KS1 (years 1-2) lower KS2 (years 3-4) and upper KS2 (years 5-6).

We will also be holding a ‘Fairy Tales and Fantasy’ dressing up day on the 5th March; further details to follow.

Parking: We have had several problems with parking and correspondence from concerned residents and road users this week. I cannot stress enough how important your child’s safety is to our school community and we are very concerned that a child will soon be hurt. Children are still getting out of cars onto the road in the mornings while cars pass and weave between them.

In addition, we have concerns again about our parents blocking drives and inconsiderate parking. This brings me again to the use of a **Walking Bus** which could resolve many of our parking problems.

Walking Bus: James Sutton from Medway Council will be holding a parents information talk about introducing a walking Bus to our school. The talk will take place on **Wednesday 18th March at 2:45pm**. We desperately need parents to support this initiative and if you would like to volunteer to help in this venture please leave your details with the office staff. We hope you can attend and help develop our children's understanding of road safety.





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If the weather should become severe.

As we are now experiencing much colder wintry weather, please be assured that we will always open the school if at all possible. Should the weather become severe:

1. A notice will be placed on the school website by 7.00am. So please keep an eye on the front page of the website. This should be your first port of call.
2. We will send a Parentmail.
3. We will contact Heart FM who will list on their website, schools that they know to be closed.
4. There will be a notification on the Medway Council website under school closures.

Please do not presume that if the Maths School and Rochester Grammar are open that St. William of Perth will be open. The needs of a 5 year old child in terms of staffing and welfare are not the same as a teenage child and a higher staff ratio is required.

Family Mass: Will be held on Sunday 1st March at 9am at St. John Fisher Church and will be led by the children preparing for their First Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome. Please complete the slip below if your child is able to participate and return it to the school office by Wednesday 25th February.

Future Assemblies:

Y1: 06.03.15 (9.10am) YR: 13.03.15 (9.10am)
Y3 and Y4 will lead our Passion Play: 31.03.15 (2pm) and 01.04.15 (7pm)
Y6 will lead the Stations of the Cross: 01.04.15 (9.10am)

First Day of Term 4: We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 23rd February - enjoy you holiday.

Quote of the week: *"We aren't just nice to our friends to show Jesus we love him, we must work hard to put a smile on his face"*. Megan Year R.

Yours sincerely,
A Keywood
Mrs A Keywood
Headteacher

Family Mass

Child's Name

Class

My child would like to participate at the Family Mass on Sunday 1st March, 2015.





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Dear Parent / Carer,

We are pleased to announce that the school has organised a textile collection with Bag2School in order to raise funds for future PTA projects.

Bag2School are the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 they have now paid out over £20 million.

As well as raising vitally needed funds for our school, it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 1,081,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our **Bag2School** collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles in the bag provided – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys. Please note bedding, curtains, and household linen cannot be accepted (refer to www.bag2school.com for details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

Bag2School will be collecting from our school on **Wednesday 4th March**. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the school car park by **9am** and help us have a really good collection. (Please leave all bags on the grassed area under the tree within the car park).

Many thanks indeed for helping us with this fundraising opportunity.

Yours faithfully

SWOP PTA

