



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 10: Friday 15th November 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 4 Class Assembly – Friday 15th November

St. Nicholas' class led us in prayer this morning. They explained the important work of Children in Need and the importance of kindness and compassion.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November 2024

A big thank you to our generous families and staff in our school. Our School Council organised lots of fund-raising events including a cake sale, a tag day and much more. Thank you to Miss Routledge, our School Council and members of the PTA who worked hard organising this event.

Congratulations to Calum in Year 4 who correctly guessed the weight of the Pudsey themed cake, Mahari in Year 2 for guessing how many Pudsey's on the SWOP logo, and Freya in Year 4 for guessing the number of spots on Pudsey. I am pleased to share that we raised an astounding £385.71 for Children in Need!

Anti-Bullying week

This week we learnt about anti bullying week in our Personal Social Health education lessons and in our assemblies. On Wednesday we had our odd sock day to help raise awareness and understanding of anti-bullying week.

Book Fair

Thank you for your support at our Book Fair this week. Commission raised will go towards re-stocking our class libraries.

MYG Basketball

A team of Year 5 & 6 pupils represented the school at the MYG Basketball competition. They were praised for their excellent behaviour. Well done to – Celine, Connie, Aditi, Evelyn, Ella, William A, Vinnie, Tiago, Austin and Joshua W.

Love in a Box

We are very proud to have supported the 'Love in a Box' mustard seed appeal again this year. For more information on what they do, please see the link below:

[Love in a Box – Mustard Seed Relief Mission](#)

Medway Foodbank

A reminder that we are still collecting for Medway Foodbank's chocolate advent calendar collection. We ask that all donations are to be received by Monday 25th November.

PTA Christmas Card Templates

Each child will have been sent home with a Christmas Card template for them to complete should they wish. The deadline for these to be returned to school is Friday 22nd November. If you require a template, we do have some spares in the school office.

Weather

Please make sure you send your child to school with a waterproof jacket.

Winter Uniform – Zipped Fleece Jacket

Children's (non-compulsory) navy-blue fleece zipped jacket with the school logo, which is only available from our approved supplier, can be purchased from Brigade Clothing Ltd via the following link. This item is to be worn over the school sweatshirt or cardigan, not in place of the school sweatshirt or cardigan.





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www.brigade.uk.com/content.php?page=select_school&for=parents

Walking Home

Due to changing weather conditions and darker evenings as we come into the Winter months, please note that any teachers dismissing the after-school clubs will not be releasing children on their own to walk home and will need to be collected by a parent/carer instead.

Admissions

The Medway admissions is open for primary school applications 2025 / 2026. You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021. Please be aware that applying to St. William of Perth and other Catholic schools you also need to complete a Catholic supplementary information form. This can be found on our school website on the admissions page.

<https://www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk/Admissions>

[Dates for applying for primary school](#) | [Applying for a primary school place](#) | [Medway Council](#)

New Parent Tours

We are holding parental tours for perspective new parents on a Tuesday morning at either 9:30am or 10:30am. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

Future Events

Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 will continue with their swimming sessions on a Tuesday. These lessons will take place at the Kings pool and Year 6 will be walking with their teachers to the sessions. Please make sure children come appropriately dressed and have a coat and umbrella as we will be attending the sessions even if the weather is inclement.

Prayer Club

Led by our Prayer Pilgrims, we invite you all to our Prayer Club every Friday before school at 8:45am in the school hall.

PTA Christmas Fayre – Friday 29th November

Our PTA Christmas Fayre will be held on Friday 29th November from 3:30 until 6pm. In preparation of this, we will be holding a **Tag Day on Friday 22nd November** where children are invited to attend school wearing their own clothes. In payment of not wearing uniform to school, we ask that every child donates a little something that can either be sold or used as part of a prize at the fayre. This could be candles / toiletries / chocolates / biscuits / sweets / a bottle of wine etc. In addition, would you please keep us in mind if you have any unwanted gifts or good quality unused items that you no longer want or bottle(s) of wine etc. that could be used as a raffle prize. Raffle prizes can be left at the school office at your convenience and Tag Day donations are to be brought to school on the 22nd November, thank you. If you feel you are able to help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the PTA.

Year 6 MMA Christmas Carol Festival – Wednesday 4th December

Year 6 will be walking to Rochester Cathedral to take part in the MMA Christmas Carol Festival on Wednesday 4th December along with other schools from the Medway area. Full arrangements will be sent via ParentMail next week.

Grandparents Tea and Mince Pies – Thursday 5th December

Grandparents (or if they are not available, a surrogate Grandparent) and elderly relatives are welcome to join us for tea and mince pies on Thursday 5th December as the School Choir bring festive cheer to the event with well-known Christmas Carols. Full information has been sent via ParentMail.

Infant Nativity – Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th December

Years R, 1 and 2 will perform their Infant Nativity on Tuesday 10th December at 2pm followed by an evening performance on Wednesday 11th December at 6pm. Full information has been sent via ParentMail, please ensure your reply slip is returned as soon as possible but no later than Monday 25th November.

Whole School Pantomime – Friday 13th December

Thank you to those parents who have already made their payment of £21 per child via ParentPay (deadline to pay 2nd December). For catering purposes, we ask that your completed parental consent form is returned to the school office on or before, but no later than Monday 2nd December, thank you.





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Valley View Nursing Home Choir Visit – Year 3 – Monday 16th December

Year 3 have been invited to visit the Valley View Nursing home to perform a selection of Christmas carols to the residents on Monday 16th December at 2pm. Children will attend in full school uniform, with a suitable coat / jacket ready to walk down and return to school for the normal collection time of 3:20pm. Children are also encouraged to bring a festive 'Santa hat' to wear during the visit.

Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre – Year 6 – Wednesday 18th December

As part of our Christmas celebrations, Year 6 have been invited to meet and share festivities with the residents of the Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre. Children will arrive at school as normal in full school uniform with a suitable coat / jacket ready to walk down and return to school in time for lunch. Children are also encouraged to bring a festive 'Santa hat' to wear during the visit.

Advent Junior Carol Service – Wednesday 18th December

We are in the throes of preparation for our annual Advent Carol Service. All pupils from Years 3 to 6 will take part in this very special celebration and our families are warmly invited to attend. The service begins at 6pm – letters will be sent with further information in the coming weeks.

Medication at School: If applicable, medication i.e. asthma inhalers / epipens etc., should be returned to school immediately. Please check the expiry dates on all medication; it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that any medicines in school are within the recommended 'expiry by' date.

Tuesday morning SEN appointments: Should you wish to make an appointment to discuss any SEN related issues please speak with the office and they will arrange an appointment for a Tuesday morning after 9:30. Alternatively, you may email Mrs Morrow directly on sen@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk . Phone consultations are preferable.

Healthy Eating: May we politely remind you that chocolate bars / sweets etc. are not to be included in home packed lunches please. **SWOP is a NUT FREE ZONE:** Some of our children have severe nut allergies so it is very important that pupils' packed lunches **should not contain any nuts or nut products** – thank you.

Absence: If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office by telephone or email using absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk before 9:30 am on the first morning of absence. Should your child continue to be absent from school on the third day, parents must re contact the school. When your child returns to school, if you have not already emailed their reason for absence, please also send a written note to school with your child giving the reason for your child's absence so that the absence can be authorised and the reason for the absence noted on your child's school record. Please do not put this information in the contact book.

Attendance: St. William of Perth is committed to ensuring all children achieve their full academic potential and believe that good attendance means good learning. The positive impact that regular attendance has on a child reaching their full academic potential and the benefits this brings to emotional and social well-being. The school's expectation for pupil's attendance is at least 96%. If your child is too unwell to attend school in the morning, it is encouraged that if they are able to and feel well enough, to come into school later in the day to attend for the afternoon session to reduce the learning missed. Likewise, if your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them in, please do so. The children tend to perk up during the day and if they get too unwell to be at school we will contact parents / carers to advise to collect.

Application for Leave of Absence / Exceptional Circumstances

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. Holidays should be taken during the school holiday period. During the academic year pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days. In order for our children to fully utilise their years in education, we believe it is vital that every message they receive reinforces the importance of school. Holidays in term time interrupt continuity of teaching and learning, disrupt the educational progress of individual children and create disruption to classes.

Please be aware that the statutory **DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024** and **The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2024**, state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

All requests should be made well in advance, in writing. You will then be asked to complete an Application for Leave of Absence / Exceptional Circumstances form and will be invited to discuss your request with either myself or in my absence Mrs Tong.





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PE: All children must have a P.E. kit, named in a school plimsoll bag to be left at school until the end of term. Children cannot do P.E. if wearing earrings so please make sure they are removed for their P.E. day or are able to remove them without adult assistance. SWOP P.E. tops and plimsoll bags are available to purchase from the school office.

Please ensure all PE kits are in school as PE is very important in helping us promote healthy lifestyles!!

To avoid congestion at the school office, we ask that all uniform orders are placed via email to office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk We will advise by return of email, stock availability and the cost of your order.

Phoning Home for Forgotten Items: Please remind your child that usually the office will not be phoning parents if they forget to bring items such as, swimming kit, book bags, musical instruments etc., so they need to check they have everything ready for school before they leave home!

Safeguarding:

Members of the public and professionals can use a referral and contact form to report any safeguarding concerns about a child or a young person to Medway's First Response service. Once the form has been submitted, it will be reviewed and assessed and action will be taken. Please use the following link: Report a child safeguarding concern | Concerned about a child | Medway Council You can also phone 01634 334466 or use the 24-hour emergency number 03000 419 191. You can also call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, Child Line on 0800 1111 or Medway Police on 01622 690 690.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child/2

Please find below useful links to help keep children safe.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.msrb.org.uk/>

Photography competition- Knights of Columba

The Knights of Columba are giving the children the exciting opportunity to participate in a photography competition. This year's theme is the 'Altar'. The brief is to take photographs with the appropriate Bible verse about the 'Altar' that best represents the scene in your photo. Show the beauty of your Parish or a nearby Parishes Altar with character. They have asked you to be original and different and try and capture the best image possible of your subject, so that we can appreciate it. Please submit as a Png or a Jpeg file please. If you have any queries, please Mrs Tong know. The deadline is Wednesday, December 18th.

- State your name, age and school.
- State the name of the Church and its location.
- State the date the picture was taken.
- Name of phone used or name the digital camera used.

Charity Events:

We are very proud of our children and their understanding of others needs both in our school and the wider community. As such, we would like to support various charities throughout this academic year. To help you budget for any charitable donations; may we take this opportunity to let you know of our plans so far.

Medway Food Bank – Chocolate Advent Calendar collection – all donations to be received by Monday 25th November.

PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 29th November further details nearer the date.

Praise Celebrations for the week!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Red

Walking Boot: Year 4

Merit Award - Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate today.

Paddy Y R, Ryan Y 1, Klara Y 2, Antoni Y 3, Emma Y 4, Enyinna Y 5, Adam Y 6.

Week commencing 04.11.24

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year R who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 1 & Year 4 who won the Punctuality Pup for the week.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
November 2024		
Friday 22 nd	Tag Day (PTA Christmas Fayre Donations)	
Wednesday 27 th	Advent Wreath Service	
Thursday 28 th	MYG Badminton	
Friday 29 th	PTA Christmas Fair	3:30pm
December 2024		
Wednesday 4 th	MMA Christmas Carol Festival – Year 6	
Thursday 5 th	Grandparents & Mince Pies afternoon Christmas Choir Concert	2pm 6pm
Tuesday 10 th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	2pm
Wednesday 11 th	Children's Christmas Jumper Day EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	6pm
Thursday 12 th	Children's Christmas Lunch	
Friday 13 th	Whole School Pantomime	
Monday 16 th	Year 3 - Valley View Nursing Home Choir Visit	
Tuesday 17 th	Year R & Year 6 – Height and Weight checks	
Wednesday 18 th	Year 6 - Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre Advent Junior Carol Service	6pm
Thursday 19 th	Celebration Assembly	
Friday 20 th	End of term 2	

