



# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER NO 12: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent when we begin preparations for the coming of our saviour Jesus. Within school we will be learning about this important season. This began with our Advent Wreath service on Wednesday where we learnt about the meaning of Advent and the symbolism of the Advent wreath. We will also think about how we can make ourselves ready and how we can help others.

We are about to enter a very busy time of year. Please look at the future events section to find information out about our Christmas events. We hope to see you at our Christmas events.

### Parliament Week

This week in our PSHE lessons and in our assemblies, we have been learning about the rule of law and democracy during Parliament week. We have been learning about what Parliament is and also learning how to debate.

### MYG Badminton

A team of Year 5 & 6 pupils represented the school at the MYG Badminton competition. They were praised for their excellent behaviour. Well done to – Jacob, Celine, Aditi, Ella, Vinnie, Kristof, Austin and Nicole.

### PTA Christmas Fayre

We hope that you enjoyed our Christmas Fayre this afternoon and managed to stock up on some Christmas presents and stocking fillers. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the PTA who have worked extremely hard to organise this event and for making it so successful. It was a wonderful event with enjoyment for all with Christmas crafts, Father Christmas, raffles and prizes. Thank you for supporting this event and for making it such a success.

### After-School Clubs

Please be aware that next week will be the final week for all clubs.

### 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.

[www.brigade.uk.com/content.php?page=select\\_school&for=parents](http://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.





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## 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. The final tour for this term is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. 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. Please note next Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December will be the final session for Year 6.

### 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.

### Year 6 MMA Christmas Carol Festival – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Year 6 will be walking to Rochester Cathedral to take part in the MMA Christmas Carol Festival on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December along with other schools from the Medway area. We will be spending the day at the Cathedral; all children in Year 6 will need to be wearing full school uniform and be equipped with a coat/jacket suitable for the weather conditions on the day. We will be leaving school to walk down to the Cathedral at approximately 9.15 am; please ensure that your child arrives at school at the normal time with a packed lunch from home, (no glass bottles or fizzy drinks please). We ask that your consent and payment is made via ParentPay no later than today, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, thank you.

### Grandparents Tea and Mince Pies – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> December as the School Choir bring festive cheer to the event with well-known Christmas Carols.

### Infant Nativity – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Years R, 1 and 2 will perform their Infant Nativity on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm followed by an evening performance on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. All children in Years R, 1 and 2 will have been sent home with their ticket allocation this week.

### Christmas Dinner – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

The children's Christmas Dinner (and Christmas Jumper Day) takes place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### Whole School Pantomime – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Thank you to those parents who have already made their payment of £21 per child via ParentPay (deadline to pay 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> December, thank you.

### Valley View Nursing Home Choir Visit – Year 3 – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.





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## **Advent Junior Carol Service – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Children should be brought to the church for 5.40pm, but no earlier, dressed in our smart school uniform (shirts, ties, but no jumpers), please hold onto your child's coat. The service begins at 6pm – letters have been sent home with the children this week. Please ensure the reply form has been returned by Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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!





# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

## **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](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 let 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.

## **Praise Celebrations for the week!**

House Points. Team house winner this week: Green & Blue

Walking Boot: Year 4

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

Ava Belle Y R, Eli Y 1, Jesse Y 2, Sophie Y 3, Annie Y 4, Jacob Y 5, Alice P Y 6.

## **Week commencing 18.11.24**

### **Attendance Ted / Punctuality Pup**

Well done to Year 4 who won both our Attendance Ted and our Punctuality Pup for the week.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis  
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
<b>December 2024</b>		
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	MMA Christmas Carol Festival – Year 6	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Grandparents & Mince Pies afternoon Christmas Choir Concert	2pm 6pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	2pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	6pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day	
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Pantomime	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 - Valley View Nursing Home Choir Visit	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year R & Year 6 – Height and Weight checks	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 - Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre Advent Junior Carol Service	6pm
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration Assembly	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of term 2</b>	

