



# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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## **NEWSLETTER NO 14: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of an extremely busy week in school where a number of exciting events have taken place.

As we enter our final week of the term it is important to focus on rejoicing and being thankful for the good things in our lives. This is represented by the pink candle on our advent wreath symbolising Joy as we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent this coming Sunday. In school, next week the children will be focusing on this theme as we enter our final preparations for Christmas. In particular, Year 6, 5 and 3 will be seeking to bring some joy to the elderly as they visit care homes and an independent living community during the week.

### **Infant Nativity**

We celebrated the second week of Advent with a sensational Nativity (Baa Baa Bethlehem) from EYFS and Key Stage 1. It was wonderful and a joy to watch. We do love to see the children enjoying their performance so much as they are full of confidence, talent and enthusiasm! Well done to the children and staff who worked so hard to make this a very memorable celebration. Thank you also to the families who contributed to our lucky programme and end of performance collection, which will be donated to the Wisdom Hospice.

### **Year 6 Mini Enterprise**

Well done to our budding entrepreneurs for creating their products and marketing them to the wider school community. This has really developed the children's team work skills.

### **Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day**

The children all looked fantastic wearing their Christmas jumpers and thoroughly enjoyed their delicious Christmas lunches on Thursday. Well done to Nicola and Sylwia our very talented cooks, who presented a superb Christmas dinner – thank you!

### **Whole School Pantomime**

A fantastic time was had by all! The children were superbly behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A special thanks to our PTA for supplying interval refreshments to every child.

### **Post Box**

This is always an exciting part of Christmas in school but to ensure the Christmas cards reach their owner, please write the full name and year group on the front of the envelopes. E.g. John Smith, Year 3. We have many children with the same first name and it would be very sad if children did not receive their cards. Post will be sorted and delivered to classes by Year 4 children on a daily basis.

### **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](http://www.brigade.uk.com/content.php?page=select_school&for=parents)

## **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>

Please be aware that the primary school applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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

## **Future Events**

### **Year 5 Swimming**

Year 5 swimming sessions will start on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at the King's school pool. Please ensure your child has a coat as the children will be attending even if the weather is inclement.

### **After – School Clubs**

Letters for Term 3 clubs have been sent via ParentMail. If you wish for your child to attend, please ensure the reply slip has been returned to the school office as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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. Letters with all the information have been sent home with the children. Please ensure the parental reply slip has been returned.

#### **Please do take note of the following points:**

Arrival at the Church: 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.

Pre-school and KS1 children are welcome to attend with you, but only if you feel that they are able to sit respectfully and quietly for the duration of the service (45 minutes to 1 hour in length).

We ask that no food or drink are brought into the church.

### **Copper Beeches Care Home Choir Visit – Year 5 – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Year 5 have been invited to visit the Copper Beeches Care Home to perform a selection of Christmas carols to the residents on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Children will attend 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.

### **Celebration Assembly – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

Will be held next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, at 2.15pm. The parents of 6 children from each year group have been sent personal invitations to join us as we celebrate their children's achievements. Please check your ParentMail.

**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.





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**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!

## **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/>





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## Parish link

For information about the parish of St. John Fisher including newsletters and Mass times click on the link below.

<https://stjohnfisher.me.uk/>

## Medway Go Christmas Holiday Club

We are delighted to share the MedwayGo Christmas Activities for 2024! MedwayGo activities are free for those living in Medway and eligible for benefit related free school meals. Click on the links below for information with regards to times and bookings.

Festive Family Activities - Thursday 12th December – Monday 30th December

<https://eequ.org/medwaygo>

MedwayGo Christmas Provision - Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January

<https://book.plinth.org.uk/calendar/ziND8yNE5jxmBALo96vR/cover>

MedwayGo will also be running another Family Fun Day! This will take place on Saturday 21st December at Medway Park. The event will run with a SEND hour from 10am – 11am and then from 11am – 1pm everyone is welcome. The event will allow families to meet MedwayGo providers, try out their activities and enjoy a hot Christmas dinner! On the day children can join in a variety of activities from bouncy castles, arts and crafts, raffles and more! The event is free and no need to book, just turn up on the day.

## Week commencing 02.12.24

### Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 5 & Year 6 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

### Punctuality Pup

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

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis

Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
<b>December 2024</b>		
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>	Year 5 – Copper Beeches Care Home Choir Visit Celebration Assembly	2:15pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of term 2</b>	
<b>January 2025</b>		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Start of Term 3 – Children return to school</b>	

