



# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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**Headteacher**

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## NEWSLETTER NO 15: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### KS2 Advent Carol Concert

Key Stage Two children worked very hard to prepare and lead a reverent and uplifting Advent service performed in the Church on Wednesday evening. The children behaved excellently and sang beautifully. Thank you to all the parents who supported the children.

### Choir Visits – Year 3, Year 5 & Year 6

As part of our catholic social teaching, Year 6 visited Rochester Gate, Year 5 visited Copper Beeches and Year 3 visited Valley View to sing carols to the residents of these communities. The residents really enjoyed the children's singing and it brought much Christmas cheer to all. My thanks to all who helped organised these events.

### Christmas Appeal – Wisdom Hospice

During our Christmas events we have been raising money for the Wisdom Hospice appeal. Thank you for your generosity. We have raised a huge amount for The Wisdom Hospice this year.

### Celebration Assembly

In terms 1-5, six children from each year group receive a celebratory certificate from their class teacher in acknowledgement of their achievements, which is presented to them in front of their peers at our celebration assembly. It always brings us great joy to share your children's achievements and yesterday's Celebration Assembly was no exception. Well done to all children who received a special certificate and thank you to parents / carers for joining us to share in this celebration.

### 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)

### 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](#)





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## 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. Letters have been sent this week, please ensure your consent has been returned by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

### Yr. R - Family and Fairy Tales - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Starting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 8:40 – 9:05 we invite Year R parents to join us to read with their children in the school hall for our family and fairy tale sessions. We have always found that this is an excellent way to encourage our youngest children to read.

### 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. This will resume on the second week of term Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**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!!**





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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.mscc.org.uk/>

## **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/>

## **St John Fisher Christmas Mass Times**

Please find below the times of church Masses over the Christmas period.

### **Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve**

6:00pm Mass of Christmas Vigil

11.30pm Christmas Carols

12:00am Midnight Mass of the Nativity of our Lord

### **Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day**

The Nativity of The Lord - Masses at 9:00 & 11:00am

NO EVENING MASS

### **Thursday 26th December – Feast of Saint Stephen**

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

### **Friday 27th December – Saint John No Mass**

### **Saturday 28th December - The Holy Innocents**

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

### **Sunday 29th December - The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH Mass at 9am/11am/6pm**

### **Monday 30th December - Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.**

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

### **Tuesday 31st December - Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

6.00pm Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

6:30apm Mass

### **Wednesday 1st January 2025 – Mary the Holy Mother of God**

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

### **Sunday 5th January 2025 - Solemnity The Epiphany of the Lord 9am/11am/6pm Masses**

## **Computing Equipment Donation**

I would like to pass on our thanks to a parent who kindly donated some ICT equipment for the school. This is very much appreciated.

## **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>





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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 09.12.24**

### **Attendance Ted**

Well done to 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.

At this time, it is important that we think of members of our school community who have lost loved ones and may find the Christmas season difficult. We pray that God will give them strength and comfort.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, I thank you for all the cards, presents and Christmas messages that we have received. I hope you all have a Happy, Restful and Healthy Christmas and New Year!

**Children will return to school for the start of term 3 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

Yours sincerely,

*J. Willis*

Mr J. Willis  
Headteacher

	<b>Diary Dates – Subject to Change</b>	
<b>December 2024</b>		
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>	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am

