



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 16: Friday 10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back and a very happy New Year! I hope you have all had a peaceful and happy Christmas with your children and families but it is always so lovely to see the children returning to school after a holiday. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for all the kind gifts, cards and messages that were received in school at the end of term. The children have begun Term 3 keen and eager in their learning. Please continue to support them in all their homework and home reading. It all makes such a difference!

Please be sure to check the Diary Dates as we have lots of upcoming events this Term.

Epiphany

This morning our students participated in a whole school liturgy celebrating the feast of Epiphany. They explained how the wise men visited Jesus to celebrate the light coming into the world.

Uniform

Earrings, Hair and Uniform reminder

Our uniform and being smart is very important. We ask for your support in ensuring that the uniform policy is adhered to. Our high expectations for presentation contribute to the high standards of behaviour that our school is renowned for.

Earrings: We do discourage ear piercing during the academic year as the children are unable to participate in any PE activities until they are able to remove them independently. This is a legal requirement under Health and Safety. It is much better if they are pierced at the beginning of the summer holiday.

A reminder that any earrings worn should be **small, plain gold or silver studs** i.e., not diamantes or different shapes.

Hair: Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back from the face, not cover the eyes and hinder learning. Please remember that hair bands should be plain black or blue or in the school colours. Trim lines and other extremes of fashion are not allowed.

Uniform: Girls can wear skirts/pinafore dresses OR trousers, we are getting some children wearing trousers underneath skirts/dresses, grey tights only with these please. Leggings are not school uniform. Any trousers must be grey and not black. Please ensure top buttons are fastened. Appropriate school shoes only, **NO TRAINERS**.

Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled, including hats scarves and gloves.

Until further notice, all other items of school uniform will remain available to purchase from the school office.

Please ensure **all hats are in plain school colours or is a school hat** i.e., **not** furry animal ears, fancy muffs, ear muffs etc.... School knitted hats are available from the school office.

After School Clubs

Clubs restart next week. Places are still available, please contact the school office for more information.

Severe Weather Procedure

A reminder of our severe weather procedure can be found on our website as below, to ensure all parents / carers are aware of the procedure in the event we have adverse weather.

[Severe Weather – St William of Perth](#)

Heritage and Diversity Week:

Will take place the week beginning 3rd February. During this week all classes will learn about the diverse cultures that make up our school community. We are very proud of our diverse community and we are looking forward to celebrating the many different cultural backgrounds that make up the St. William of Perth family. We welcome any parents who would be happy to contribute to our learning during this week. In the past some parents have given talks, made food and shared traditional dress. If you would like to contribute, please speak to the office so that we can put you in contact with the class teacher.





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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>

Please be aware that the primary school applications close at **5pm on Wednesday 15th January 2025.**

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

Future Events

MYG Swimming Gala – Monday 13th January

Some Year 6 pupils have been chosen to represent the school at the forthcoming MYG Swimming Competition which takes place on Friday 17th January at Medway Park. The children will also be competing in a mini gala which will be held at the Kings School after school on Monday 13th January to practice for the competition - Good luck team SWOP!

Yr. R - Family and Fairy Tales - Tuesday 14th January

Starting on Tuesday 14th 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.

New Year R Parent Lunch – Wednesday 15th January

Yr. R parents / carers have been invited to attend lunch with their child on Wednesday 15th January. All bookings must have been made via ParentPay by Tuesday 7th January.

Prayer Club – Friday 17th January

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 next week, Friday 17th January.

Year 1 Class Assembly – Friday 17th January

Year 1 parents are invited to attend the Year 1 class assembly on Friday 17th January starting at approximately 9:05 am.

PTA Second Hand Toy sale – Friday 17th January

The PTA will be holding a toy sale next Friday. Pupils will have the opportunity to purchase second-hand toys during the afternoon, we ask children to bring in a maximum of £5 to spend on items in a clearly labelled wallet/purse/envelope. The PTA are still accepting donations of any second-hand toys. Please speak with the school office.

Year 5 Swimming – Tuesday 21st January

Year 5 swimming sessions have been postponed and will start on Tuesday 21st 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.

Year 1 Phonics Parents Information Evening – Thursday 23rd January 5:30 pm

Will be held on Thursday 23rd January at 5:30pm to provide parents of Year 1 with key information regarding the forthcoming Phonics Screening Check. Please confirm your attendance by Friday 17th January via the reply form sent home with children today.

Yr. R, 1 and 2 Grandparents Lunch – Wednesday 29th January

Yr. R, 1 and 2 Grandparents are invited to attend lunch with their children on Wednesday 29th January. Grandparents will be able to join their child / children for lunch and have a freshly prepared school dinner. Unfortunately, we are only able to accommodate one adult per family. The cost of an adult meal is £3.50 and this needs to be booked and paid via ParentPay, no later than Tuesday 21st January. It may not be possible to accommodate requests if handed in beyond this deadline.

SCHOOL TRIPS

In order to develop the children's understanding of other faiths and cultures we have arranged for the following class visits.

Year 6: Will visit the Synagogue on Monday 20th January

Year 5: Will visit St. Justus Church on Friday 24th January

Year 3: Will visit the Medway Gurdwara on Monday 3rd February. In respect of Sikh customs, children will also need to bring a woolly hat or headscarf with them (**no caps**) to wear during their visit to the Gurdwara.





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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.

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





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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/>

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/>

Praise Celebrations for the week!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Yellow

Walking Boot: Year R

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

Freddie Y R, Harrison Y 1, Amarachi Y 2, Stanley Y 3, Chris Y 4, William H Y 5, Joshua S Y 6.

Year R – Who Helps Us?

This term, children in St John's Class will be exploring the question 'Who Helps Us?'. We are looking for volunteers who would like to come into the classroom and talk to the children about what they do to help people. Some examples may include police officers, hairdressers, florists to name a few. If you would be willing to come in and talk to the children, please contact Miss Dormedy or the school office. Thank you!

Space Day Themed Menu – Contract Dining Company – Thursday 16th January

Next Thursday, Contract Dining Company will be offering a special themed menu with "Rocket" Hot dogs and "Jupiter" Cookies as well as an "Alien slime" yogurt for school lunch. Please see ParentMail for the full menu.

Punctuality

Please ensure children arrive at school before 8:55. This week we have noticed a higher number of pupils arriving after this time. We appreciate that the first week back after the Christmas holiday can be difficult getting back into routine but it is important that all children arrive on time so that they can settle and begin their learning. Every minute is vital to a child's learning and lateness accumulates and results in missing learning.

INSET DAY – Friday 14th February 2025

Please be advised that we have organised our next INSET day for Friday, 14th February. Please be advised no children will be in school on that day.

Mrs Andrews – In memoriam

This week we learnt the sad news that Mrs. Pat Andrews has passed away. Mrs. Andrews was a long serving teacher at our school. We thank God for her life and service to the school. May she rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
January 2025		
Monday 13 th	Kings School Swimming Gala (Selected Year 6 students)	
Tuesday 14 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 15 th	New Year R Parent Lunch Local Authority Admissions Deadline September Intake - Year R	5pm
Friday 17 th	Year 1 – Class Assembly MYG Swimming Competition PTA Second-hand Toy Sale	9:05am
Monday 20 th	Year 6 Class Trip – Chatham Synagogue	
Tuesday 21 st	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Thursday 23 rd	Year 1 Phonics Parent information Evening	5:30 pm
Friday 24 th	Year 6 – Class Assembly Year 5 Class Trip – St. Justus	9:05am
Tuesday 28 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 29 th	Yr. R, 1 and 2 Grandparents Lunch	
February 2025		
Monday 3 rd	Diversity Week Year 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara	
Tuesday 4 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Thursday 6 th	MYG Table Tennis Competition	
Tuesday 11 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 12 th	Celebration Assembly (By Invite)	2:15pm
Thursday 13 th	Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Year R - Through our Eyes (Parents Stay and Play session) End of Term 3	9-10am and 2-3pm
Friday 14 th	Inset Day – no children in school	