



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 17: Friday 17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Swimming Gala / MYG Competition

Well done to Tiago, Alice M, Adam, Austin, Alice P, Nicole, Joshua W and Shanri who represented our school at both the Kings School Swimming Gala as well as the Medway Youth Games competition. They worked very hard and gave their all - achieving some great results across the two competitions.

New Year R Parent Lunch

It was lovely seeing all the Year R parents join us for a school lunch this Wednesday.

Year 1 Class Assembly

St. Anthony's class led us in prayer this morning. They shared their learning on the importance of our families. It was lovely to see their art work pictures and their performance of a liturgical dance.

PTA Second Hand Toy sale

Thank you for all the generous donations we received in order to make this event possible. The children thoroughly enjoyed buying the pre-loved toys and hope they enjoy giving them a new lease of life.

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.

Admissions

The Medway admissions is now closed for primary school applications 2025 / 2026. The key dates can be found below.

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

Future Events

Yr. R - Family and Fairy Tales - Tuesday 21st January

We invite Year R parents to join us to read with their children in the school hall for our family and fairy tale sessions from 8:40 – 9:05. We have always found that this is an excellent way to encourage our youngest children to read.

Year 5 Swimming – Tuesday 21st January

Year 5 swimming sessions 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 ensure you have confirmed your attendance with class teacher.





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Prayer Club – Friday 24th 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.

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.

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/>

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: Red

Walking Boot: Year 2

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

Samuel Y R, Fleur Y 1, Niall Y 2, Douglas Y 3, Henry Y 4, Ocean Y 5, Ryan Y 6.

Week commencing 06.01.25

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 3 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

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

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!

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.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
January 2025		
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	
Friday 31 st	Christian Unity Mass (St John Fisher Church)	9:30am
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	
Friday 7 th	Year 1 – Class Assembly	9:05am
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	