



# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER NO 18: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been Christian Unity week. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a good future according to God's teachings. In our RE lessons and collective worship we reflected on how we and our communities can be lights that guide others based on the example set by Jesus. We will be having our Mass for Christian Unity on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

### Year 6 Class Assembly - National Memorial Holocaust Day Assembly

Year 6 commemorated National Memorial Holocaust Day by leading the school in prayer in their class assembly. This year's theme for National Memorial Holocaust Day was 'For a Better Future'. Year 6 produced a very reflective and sensitive assembly which was shared with the school exploring why we must embrace every day and not let conflict divide us. More information about this important event can be found at the following website <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

### Year 6 Synagogue Visit

Visited the Chatham Memorial Synagogue on Monday. They learnt about the similarities and differences between a Synagogue and a church. They asked some very good questions and were commended for their respectful behaviour.

### Year 1 Phonics Parents Information Evening

Thank you to everybody who attended the phonics information evening. If you were unable to attend, the power point will be put up onto the Year 1 class page.

### Year 5 St. Justus Trip

Unfortunately, due to the adverse weather conditions today, we had to postpone the Year 5 St. Justus trip due to take place this morning. We will be looking to re-arrange this trip in the coming weeks.

### Heritage and Diversity Week:

Will take place the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### Contract Dining

Will be serving a special menu every day for Diversity week, beginning Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. All menu's have been sent via ParentMail this week.

### Home Packed Lunches

Please may we remind you that if children are having grapes in their packed lunch that these need to be chopped up as whole grapes create a large choking hazard.

### Future Events

#### Yr. R - Family and Fairy Tales

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





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## Year 5 Swimming

Year 5 swimming sessions will continue on a Tuesday 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.

## Forest School

Forest school lessons start next week for Year 4. A letter has been sent home this week with the information and dates of these sessions.

## Yr. R, 1 and 2 Grandparents Lunch – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

We are looking forward to welcoming your child's grandparent/ surrogate grandparent to lunch on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. In order for this event to run smoothly, please familiarise yourself with the following information.

Grandparents of children in Reception will enter the school via the Year R gate at 11.20am.

Grandparents of children in Year 1 will enter the school via the main front office at 11.30am.

Grandparents of children in Year 2 will enter the school via the Junior gate via the playground at 11.40am.

A member of staff will be on the gate to welcome you in. Please make sure you are aware of which year group your Grandchild is in. All gates will be signed posted. Please arrive promptly. If you are unable to climb steps, please enter via the main school office and a member of staff will be able to assist you.

Once you have enjoyed your delicious lunch, the children will go outside to play and you will be directed out via the main school office. We hope you enjoy your meal and seeing your grandchildren in school.

## 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 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

In order to develop the children's understanding of other faiths and cultures we have arranged for Year 3 to visit the Medway Gurdwara on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Big Build – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> & Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February we will be having our annual Big Build event! This is where we come together as a whole school community and have a Design and Technology competition based on a particular theme, which we are keeping as a surprise until closer to the time. We are looking for donations of cardboard boxes, tubes, egg boxes, glue, sellotape, making tape and any other junk modelling materials that could be useful. Please send them in with your child to be given to their class teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

**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





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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.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 Catholic Parish – Children's Liturgy Group – Sunday's at 9am**

Children aged 3-7 are invited every Sunday at 9am (term-time only) to the new Children's liturgy group at St John Fisher Church during the 9am mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to engage creatively with the Gospel and make friends.

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

House Points. Team house winner this week: Red

Walking Boot: Year 2 & Year 6

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

Tadhg Y R, Myah Y 1, Tommy Y 2, Quhey Y 3, Hugo Y 4, Dexter Y 5, Alice P Y 6.

## **Week commencing 13.01.25**

### **Attendance Ted**

Well done to Year 2 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

### **Punctuality Pup**

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





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## 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 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

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

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis  
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
<b>January 2025</b>		
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Yr. R, 1 and 2 Grandparents Lunch	
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Christian Unity Mass (St John Fisher Church)	9:30am
<b>February 2025</b>		
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Diversity Week Year 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	MYG Table Tennis Competition	
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 – Class Assembly	9:05am
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Celebration Assembly (By Invite)	2:15pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Year R - Through our Eyes (Parents Stay and Play session) <b>End of Term 3</b>	9-10am and 2-3pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Inset Day – no children in school</b>	