



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Mr J. Willis
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NEWSLETTER NO 2: Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy week at school with the children working very hard getting back into routines and getting use to their new curriculums. Our Year R students stayed for lunch this week and we look forward to them staying for full days next week

Admissions

The Medway admissions is now 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>

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

New Parent Tours

We intend to start parental tours for perspective new parents at the end of September.

The Medway admissions is also open for secondary school applications. You can apply for your child to start secondary school if they were born between 1 September 2013 and 31st August 2014. For more information and key dates please see the following link: [Dates for applying for secondary school](#) | [Applying for a secondary school place](#) | [Medway Council](#)

Guildhall Museum Trip

Year 4 had a lovely time visiting the Guildhall Museum as part of their topic learning about the Romans.

Safeguarding Assemblies

This week we held our Stay safe, Speak out - NSPCC safeguarding talks for the children. The talks explored how children can stay safe and what to do if they are worried. For more information please visit the NSPCC website which has a wealth of resources to support the teaching of safeguarding [NSPCC](#) | [The UK children's charity](#) | [NSPCC](#)

Future Events

Introductory Curriculum Talks for Parents in September 2024 (Years 1 – 6)

We have had a very enthusiastic response to these talks over the years and feel they are an important method of communication about expectations and arrangements at the start of the year. Letters have been sent home regarding dates and times along with a reply form confirming attendance. Please find all the dates and times in the table below.

| Tuesday 17 th September | | Wednesday 18 th September | | Thursday 19 th September | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 5pm | Year 6 | 5pm | Year 4 | 5pm | Year 3 |
| 5:30pm | Year 2 | 5:30pm | Year 5 | 5:30pm | Year 1 |

Year R – Early Reading Workshop

On Tuesday 17th September Miss Dormedy will be leading a workshop for Year R parents on how to support your child with Early reading. The session will start at 6:15 pm and last approximately 30 minutes. A letter has gone home explaining the details.

Year 6 Medway Test

Will take place within school on Tuesday 17th September and Wednesday 18th September.





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Clubs

Confirmation of club places have been sent this week via ParentMail in preparation for these to begin next week.

Year 6 Swimming Session 2 – Tuesday 17th September

Year 6 swimming continues with the second swimming session on Tuesday 17th September. These lessons will take place at the Kings pool and Year 6 will be walking with their teachers to the sessions. Please make sure children come appropriately dressed and have a coat and umbrella as we will be attending the sessions even if the weather is inclement.

Through our Eyes (Year R Stay and Play Session) – Wednesday 16th October

Our next "Through our Eyes" session will be taking place on Wednesday 16th October (9 – 10 am) and (2 – 3 pm) for Year R parents and Carers. This gives parents an opportunity to learn about the Year R curriculum and also to take part in their child's learning.

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.

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 Education (Pupil Registration) (England)(Amendment)Regulations 2013, 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 Holmberg.

Uniform: The children all look super in their school uniforms. Please remember that children must wear 'sensible' shoes for their own health and safety, not trainers, boots or heels. No open top / toe sandals for girls as these create tripping hazards. Please make sure that your child's sandals have a strap across the foot to prevent them from falling over when running on the playground.

Children may wear their summer uniform up until the end of Term 1; all children are to wear winter uniform from the first day of Term 2, Monday 30th October. Please note that sandals may not be worn with winter uniform.

A reminder that trainers or canvas shoes are not to be worn in school except for PE unless a letter explaining medical reasons is submitted and signed by parents.

Children must not wear jewellery other than watches and plain gold or silver ball stud earrings, and long hair needs to be tied back please. School hats are available from the office. Branded sunhats or fashion items may not be worn.

Please ensure all items are named as we will be checking within class next week.

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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On the whole, we have good stock of school uniform, however, we are currently awaiting stock of size 34 sweatshirts. 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/>

St Vincent de Paul Society

As part of the Christian community, we would like to share with you some information about the SVP (St Vincent de Paul). This is an organisation who help to offer the hand of friendship and support to those that may be in need. The charity is able to provide specific support to families including the possibility of assisting with school uniform, help during financial hardship or even giving friendship during difficult times. If you wish to know more about their work, below is the link and we also have leaflets in the school office. <https://svp.org.uk/request-help>

New Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs Tong

Mrs Tong, our new Deputy Headteacher, has joined our safeguarding team as a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. She will work alongside myself and Mrs Morrow in overseeing safeguarding within the school and is available to help support with any safeguarding queries that you may have.

Message on behalf of the Governors - Foundation Governor Vacancy

On behalf of the governors, we have a vacancy for a foundation governor. Foundation governors are practising Catholics who have the responsibility of assisting the Bishop, by sustaining and developing the Catholic ethos and distinctive Catholic nature of the school in which they serve. If anyone knows anyone in our school or parish community who may be interested in this role, please contact the school office who will let the governors know.

50th Anniversary

In preparations for our 50th Anniversary celebrations we would like to ask whether families have any photographs of our school through the years in order for us to create a display showing the history of our school. We will copy and return any photographs or clippings.

Friday 27th September – 50th Anniversary Mass

We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a Mass led by Bishop Hendricks the Auxiliary Bishop for Kent. This Mass will take place on Friday 27th September starting at 9:30. Weather permitting we are hoping to have an outdoor Mass on our school field to celebrate this important occasion. However, if the weather is not suitable the Mass will take place in St John Fisher Church. Parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Digital Cameras

If anyone has any digital cameras that they no longer need and are happy to donate them, our EYFS team would be very grateful to have them for use in class. Thank you.

Praise Assembly Celebrations!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Blue

Merit Award Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate in today's Praise Assembly.

Elliott Y 1, Peyton Y 2, Jayden Y 3, Gemima Y 4, Ella Y 5, Austin Y 6

Inset Day – Friday 18th October





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Please be advised that we have organised our next **INSET day** for **Friday 18th October**. 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> | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| September 2024 | | |
| Monday 16 th | Clubs restart | |
| Tuesday 17 th | Medway Test – Year 6 Year 6 Swimming session 2 – (Kings school) Year 6 Curriculum Workshop Year 2 Curriculum Workshop Year R Early Reading Workshop | 5pm 5:30pm 6:15pm |
| Wednesday 18 th | Medway Test – Year 6 Year 4 Curriculum Workshop Year 5 Curriculum Workshop | 5pm 5:30pm |
| Thursday 19 th | Year 3 Curriculum Workshop Year 1 Curriculum Workshop | 5pm |
| Tuesday 24 th | Year 6 Aylesford Priory – Beginning of the year mass Year 6 Swimming session 3 – (Kings school) | |
| Friday 27 th | 50 th Anniversary whole school Mass | |
| October 2024 | | |
| Tuesday 1 st | Year 6 Swimming session 4 – (Kings school) | |
| Friday 4 th | Kittle whole school photographs – winter uniform to be worn | |
| Tuesday 8 th | Year 6 Swimming session 5 – (Kings school) | |
| Tuesday 15 th | Year 6 Swimming session 6 – (Kings school) Harvest Mass | tbc |
| Wednesday 16 th | Year R – ‘Through our Eyes’ Parents Evening | 9-10am and 2-3pm |
| Thursday 17 th | Celebration Assembly Parents Evening End of Term 1 | 2:15pm |
| Friday 18 th | Inset Day – no children in school | |
| Monday 21 st - Friday 25 th | Half term | |
| Monday 28 th | Start of term 2 | |

