



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School (1974 – 2024)

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NEWSLETTER NO 20: Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Heritage and Diversity Week:

The children have had a very exciting week with lots of creative and inspiring activities planned by their class teachers. I know that lots of learning has been shared on Class dojo for parents to view. Below is a short summary of the countries that each class has been studying and some of the learning they have been engaging in. A particular highlight has been Contract Dining Company's special menu's where the children had the opportunity to try food from the countries they have been studying.

Year 6 – St Francis' class have had an incredible week diving into Mexican culture! They have created some wonderful artwork based on the Day of the Dead festival including papel picado, tissue paper marigolds and have even created 3D calacas out of paper and clay. They have explored the work of Frida Khalo and have created their own recipe books for making Mexican empanadas. They have learnt about Pedro Linares, who designed alebrijes and even made their own Mexican worry dolls. Year 6 even had the chance to prepare their own Tres leches cake which they were able to take home. As well as all of this, they even took part in the Mexican Hat Dance. It has been a wonderful week and I hope all of year 6 enjoyed their learning.

Year 5 - This week Year 5 have studied Japan through various different means: by exploring the similarities and differences between the UK and Japan; creating work related to the festival of Tanabata and traditional Kokeshi dolls; examining the main religious beliefs of Japanese people; writing Haiku poetry and manga storytelling based around the motorsport of drift racing; making vegetarian Sushi; using google maps to explore and identify specific locations; finishing our computing term with vector drawings of iconic Japanese imagery; and learning the history of Nintendo, placing these cultural events into a historical timeline of the company.

Year 4 - Year 4 have been looking at Brilliant Brazil! We have had a really wonderful week celebrating carnival! The children have created their own carnival masks and we had carnival around the school to show off all of our hard work to the rest of the school. We even got to make some Brazilian cheese bread (Pão de Queijo). We have also looked at the Christ The Redeemer statue in Rio De Janeiro and then created our own. We have had a really wonderful week and the children have really enjoyed themselves and really embraced the Brazilian culture!

Year 3 - This week we have visited India as part of our celebration of diversity! We began the week by visiting a local Gurdwara and learning so much about the Sikh religion. We were made to feel so welcome and enjoyed finding out about the 5k's. On our return to school, we were very creative and sewed some very beautiful Indian elephants, we cooked and tried some Indian dips with poppadoms, found out about the wildlife, explored maps and created henna and rangoli art. Gabby told me that, "she really loved all of the henna and the art". Jawson felt, "that the food was very tasty". What an amazing week!

Year 2 – Year 2 have been learning about Jamaica this week. At the start of the week, we had an Afrobeats dance lesson which we thoroughly enjoyed! We have discovered lots of information about human and physical features of Jamaica as well as some of the fruit that can grow there because of the tropical climate. We have learnt about the Olympic champion, Usain Bolt and then challenged ourselves to see how many times we could complete a movement in 9.54 seconds. Reggae music has been the soundtrack to our week! We have listened to some popular songs from Bob Marley and used percussion instruments to play along to the beat. We created some Bob Marley art work in the style of 'pop art' and we also used different materials to create a swallow tail hummingbird, which is native to Jamaica.

Year 1 - Bonjour! This week in Year 1 we have been finding out all about France. We have been learning some basic French vocabulary and phrases such as how to say our name, the numbers and colours. We have been creating our own pieces of artwork inspired by the French artists Claude Monet and Georges Seurat using paint. We have also been creating our own exciting adventures for Traction Man and Scrubbing Brush in Paris, and have produced comic strips to illustrate those





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adventures. Finally, we have ended our week with our very own Tour de SWOP, racing on the balance bikes in our house teams.

Year R - This week St John's Class have been learning all about China and celebrating Chinese New Year. We learnt and acted out 'The Great Race' that began the very first Chinese New Year, this year it is the year of the snake! We have made traditional Chinese fans, repeating pattern snakes and Chinese flags. We have also tasted some delicious food including noodles, egg fried rice, prawn crackers and fortune cookies. We have even created some Chinese music and danced a Chinese lion dance. We have also been answering the register by saying 'Nǐ hǎo'

MYG – Table Tennis Competition

Well done to Chikanyima, Jamieson, Connie, William H, Aditi and Ella from Year 5 who represented the school. The children were commended for their positive attitudes and sportsperson ship.

Year 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara

This week our Year 3 students walked to the Gurdwara and learnt about Sikhism. They learnt about the importance of the five Ks. The children asked lots of fascinating questions and were very well behaved. Afterwards they were treated to squash and biscuits. I would like to pass on my gratitude to the Gurdwara for allowing us to visit and for their wonderful hospitality.

Year 2 Class Assembly – Friday 7th February

St. Therese's class led us in prayer this morning. The focus of their assembly was the importance of diversity in our world. They acted out the story of the good Samaritan and explored the meaning of this important parable. We also really enjoyed their singing of Bob Marley's song "Three Little Birds – Don't worry about a thing" from their diversity week learning about Jamaica.

KD Greaves – Author Visit

SWOP were delighted to be involved with KD Greaves' latest book. She embarked on the expertise of year 1, 5 and 6, to create some 'What if' situations'. We eagerly await news on whether some of our ideas will be listed in her latest publications or featured on her website. We will keep you posted about this exciting opportunity!

World Book Day

In preparation for World Book Day on Thursday 6th March, we have organised a number of enrichment activities designed to encourage a love of reading. Please see the future events section for this information.

Future Events

Term 4 Clubs

Letters for Term 4 clubs have been sent via ParentMail and paper copies are available from the school office upon request. If your child is interested in attending a club, please ensure the relevant reply slip is returned to the school office by the latest date of Wednesday 12th February. Unfortunately, there will be no Dance Club for Years 1 & 2 for Term 4. Please see our after-school club timetable below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15:30-16:30 Karate: KS2	15:30-16:30 Drama club: Year 3 & 4	15:30-16:30 Ms Greene's Choir: KS2	15:30-16:30 Greenacre Sport: Year 3 & 4	15:30-16:30 Greenacre Sport: Year 1 & 2
	15:30-16:30 MYG Competition Club: Year 5 & 6		15:30-16:30 Football club: Year 5 & 6	15:25-16:25 Science Club: Years 1 - 6

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.

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.



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Celebration Assembly – Wednesday 12th February

Selected pupils will receive their Celebration Assembly certificates next Wednesday afternoon. Invitations have been sent to parents of those children due to receive a certificate. Please check your ParentMails. The assembly will start at 2:15pm and should last approximately 45 minutes.

Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Victorian Day – Thursday 13th February

As part of their history curriculum, we have arranged for Year 1 to visit Kent Life on Thursday 13th February. The day will consist of various interactive workshops and demonstrations about rural Victorian life. All children should arrive promptly at school dressed in their full school uniform wearing trainers (not plimsolls please). Please also remember that suitable outerwear will be needed taking into consideration the weather on the day.

Year 5 Class Trip – St Justus – Thursday 13th February

This trip has now been re-arranged for Thursday 13th February. We will leave school in the morning and walk to and from St. Justus Church, returning in time for lunch as normal. The children are to arrive promptly at school dressed in full school uniform together with a warm / waterproof coat.

World Book Day Costume Swap Shop & School Uniform Sale - Thursday 13th February

The PTA will be hosting a "Swap Shop" in preparation of World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. This will be an opportunity for you to borrow a suitable costume for your child to then be returned following World Book Day. We hope this will be something we can continue to run every year to reduce waste and recycle.

Alongside this, the PTA will also be doing a second-hand school uniform sale.

If you have any costumes/school uniform that you no longer require and would be happy to donate then please send these in with your child.

Big Build 3 (Get moving!) – Thursday 27th & Friday 28th February

On Thursday 27th and Friday 28th 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. The theme for Big Build 3 will be "Transport" – the children will be looking at movement and designing and making a variety of vehicles. We are looking for donations of cardboard boxes, tubes, egg boxes, glue, Cellotape, 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.

Tuesday 4th March

Harry Potter Book Night- KS2

An evening of magical mystery, quizzes and games. Letters to register your child's interest have been sent via ParentMail.

Thursday 6th March

Families and Fairytales EYFS and KS1

Parents of children in St. Anthony's (Y1) and St. Therese's (Y2) classes will be invited to join their children and EYFS for Families and Fairytales in the school hall between 8.40-8.55am.

Julia Donaldson Book Night – EYFS and KS1

Storytime, games and quizzes in our school library. Letters to register your child's interest have been sent via ParentMail.

Dressing up

Your child is invited to dress up as their favourite author or character from a book on Thursday 6th March. Please do not feel that a shop bought costume is required, often the most effective costumes have been cobbled together! After registration on this morning, you are invited to join us for a dressing up parade on the playground before the children have assembly.

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.





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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

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/>

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.





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Praise Celebrations for the week!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Blue

Walking Boot: Year R

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

Frank Y R, Benjamin Y 1, Harris Y 2, Ivy Y 3, Chloe Y 4, Tommy Y 5, Roman Y 6.

Week commencing 27.01.25

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 4 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 1 who won the Punctuality Pup for the week.

Staffing Update

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Kelly who will be retiring at the end of this term. We thank her for her long-standing service to the school. She will be remembered fondly by all her colleagues and also by the children she has supported and nurtured during her 18 years at the school. I am sure you will join me wishing her every happiness in her retirement.

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

	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
February 2025		
Tuesday 11 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School) Year 4 – Forest School (Final session)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 12 th	Celebration Assembly (By Invite)	2:15pm
Thursday 13 th	Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Year 5 Class Trip – St Justus Church Year R - Through our Eyes (Parents Stay and Play session) PTA Second-hand Sale – World Book Day costumes End of Term 3	9-10am and 2-3pm
Friday 14 th	Inset Day – no children in school	
Tuesday 25 th	School Class Photographs	

Food Technology

This week we were delighted to be able to undertake a number of cooking lessons as part of our diversity week learning. The children prepared a number of food items in class and their supporting adults used our new cooking space to cook and prepare the recipes. It is wonderful to be able to utilise this new resource as part of our Design and Technology curriculum. The children had an amazing time preparing their recipes and we look forward to next week for more food technology lessons during the contract dining company's cooking workshops to develop our children's baking skills. Information of these workshops have been sent this week including any allergen information. If for any medical reason, your child should not take part in their class workshop we ask that you contact the school office immediately to discuss



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