



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

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 21: Thursday 13th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Knights of Columba Visit

On Monday we were delighted to be joined by Brother Trevor, from the Knights of Columba. He was able to share with us some of the fantastic work the Knights participate in and promises to be back soon with details of who has won the Christmas Nativity art work competition and details for the upcoming Easter one. He took a wonderful part in our collective worship and we enjoyed learning about the Knights. As a school we are thrilled to be involved with this and look forward to welcoming Brother Trevor again soon.

Celebration Assembly

In terms 1-5, six children from each year group receive a celebratory certificate from their class teacher in acknowledgement of their achievements, which is presented to them in front of their peers at our celebration assembly. It always brings us great joy to share your children's achievements and yesterday's Celebration Assembly was no exception. Well done to all children who received a special certificate and thank you to parents / carers for joining us to share in this celebration.

Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Victorian Day

Year 1 had a lovely trip today to Kent Life and had a day of fun activities including their interactive workshop as part of their topic on the Victorians.

Year 5 Class Trip – St Justus

Year 5 visited St. Justus church today to develop their understanding of Christian Unity. Their behaviour was excellent and they asked lots of very good questions. They were able to see the baptismal pool, some art by a local artist as well as learning about the differences between St. John Fisher church and St. Justus church. My thanks to Mr. Sid Mennie for leading the session.

Contract Dining – Food Workshops

The whole school took part in a food workshop this week making either Focaccia Bread or Pizza. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this and continued to build on their food technology skills.

World Book Day Costume Swap Shop & School Uniform Sale

We hope you found the Swap Shop helpful in finding a World Book Day costume in preparation for World Book Day on Thursday 6th March.

Year R Through our Eyes

It was wonderful to see so many Year R parents join us for this term's stay and play session. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Year R curriculum and how to support learning at home. We look forward to holding our next stay and play session before Easter.

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

School Photographs – Monday 24th February

Class photographs will be taken during the morning of Monday 24th February. We ask that all children wear full school uniform, including their cardigans/sweatshirts. Thank you.





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Yr. R - Family and Fairy Tales

We continue our family and fairy tale sessions following the half term 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 following half term 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.

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

Quidditch Day – Whole School

The day will start with an introductory assembly and then each class will take part in a Quidditch themed PE lesson, followed by an end of the day assembly.

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.

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.





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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.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/>

Giving Children the Best Start in Life Course

Are you a professional working with families in Medway?

Don't miss out on our upcoming FREE course "Giving Children the Best Start in Life"! This one-day training is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to support healthy pregnancies, child development, positive parenting, and overall family well-being.

Date & Time:

21 February 2025 | 09:30 - 16:30 (Online)

5 March 2025 | 09:30 - 16:30 (In Person)

4 April 2025 | 09:30 - 16:30 (Online)

What You'll Learn:

- Importance of giving children the best start in life
- Introduction to Family Hubs & Start for Life
- Key health messaging on infant feeding, mental health, child development, and more
- Resources and signposting information for additional support
- Effective communication techniques, including Motivational Interviewing and active listening

This course is FREE and exclusive to those who live or work in Medway. Limited spots are available, so secure your place today!

Book Now: <https://shorturl.at/9zeZ9>

Library Volunteers

We are looking for adult volunteers who would be interested in helping out in our school library spending one or two lunchtimes a week to help with; Returning books into the school system, helping children select interesting books,





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maintaining and tidying collections and hearing children read. Please contact the school office if you would like to volunteer in this role.

Week commencing 03.02.25

Attendance Ted / Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 4 who won both the Attendance Ted and Punctuality Pup for the week.

Mrs Kelly

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Kelly this term, we wish 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		
Friday 14 th	Inset Day – no children in school	
Monday 24 th	School Class Photographs	
Tuesday 25 th	Year 1 – Forest School	
Thursday 27 th	Big Build	
Friday 28 th	Big Build	



Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 – Thursday 3rd April

SWOP are excited to continue the Pope's 'Jubilee Year of Hope 2025', by participating in the CAFOD 'Big Lent Walk'. This will involve KS2 completing a sponsored walk around the local area ending at St John Fisher Church, in the church the whole school will then think about the Pope's call for us to 'Demand Change' and consider our impact on the environment. We would be delighted if parents, guardians and parishioners, would be able to join us for this event on the Thursday 3rd April, leaving the school at approximately 9:15. If you can help during this event and you wish to become involved, please can you let Miss Gray know at the office. We really would love to make this event a walk to show that our school have a voice and are called to engage with Catholic Social Justice!

EYFS and KS1 will not take part in the walk, but will join the rest of the school in the church. We have arranged some alternative 'Prayer Stations' for these classes to become involved in linked to this theme.

If you can spare some money, the QR code to the Just Giving Page for CAFOD is below. Please do not bring money into school.

<https://donate.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-william-of-perth/donation-amount>

