



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

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 22: Friday 28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of term 4. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable half term.

The Big Build

The school has been a hive of industry this week. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their design technology learning on Thursday and Friday. Thank you for all the donations of building materials, the "Big Build" would not have been possible without them! The children have had an exciting couple of days constructing different types of transport from scratch, such as LeShuttle – Eurostar, London buses, submarine, Humvee, tanks, hot air balloons, jumbo jets and many more. The children really enjoyed this event and it really encouraged team spirit and working together particularly between different year groups. Thank you also to all the parents who volunteered to help and donated junk modelling. My thanks to Miss Routledge and Miss Dormedy for organising this event. The children also really enjoyed their build a burger lunch on Thursday organised by the Contract Dining Company. It was lovely to share with the parents the finished designs. Voting has taken place and we will announce the winning design on Monday.

EYFS 'Who Helps Us?'

As part of our learning, exploring the question 'Who helps us?' St John's Class have been lucky enough to have had a visit from 2 police officers; PCSO Holly & PCSO Imma. They spoke to the children about staying safe in the community and how they can become an officer. They even showed the children their response car with the blue flashing lights on! The children asked lots of questions, we thank the officers for coming and know they have inspired a few budding police officers.

World Book Day

In preparation for SWOP's World Book Day on Friday 7th March, we have organised a number of enrichment activities designed to encourage a love of reading. Please see the future events section, information has also been sent via ParentMail.

Ash Wednesday Mass – Wednesday 5th March

As we approach the Season of Lent. We would like to share some of these prayer ideas and resources with you (see link below). It maybe something that you can share with your family, helping them to prepare spiritually for Easter. We would also like to invite you to attend Mass on Ash Wednesday at 9:30 on the 5th March in St John Fisher Church.

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/lent-family-prayer-ideas>

Walking Home

Due to brighter evening, we will be re-allowing children with walking permission to walk home after our after-school clubs.

Future Events

Year 5 Cathedral Trip - Monday 3rd March

We are so excited to share that we have arranged for Year 5 to see the Mars: War and Peace Artwork at Rochester Cathedral on Monday 3rd March. Children are to come into school in their full school uniform. We ask that you provide your child with a waterproof coat / outerwear as appropriate for the weather conditions on the day.

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.

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Sale – Tuesday 4th March

The PTA will be holding a Pancake Sale in the school hall on Tuesday afternoon from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.





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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. Children are to come into school in their P.E kit.

Harry Potter Book Night- KS2

An evening of magical mystery, quizzes and games. Tickets confirming places have been sent home with the children this week.

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. Tickets confirming places have been sent home with the children this week.

Friday 7th March

Dressing up

Your child is invited to dress up as their favourite author or character from a book on Friday 7th 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.

Children vs Teachers Book Day Quiz

Teachers take on the children in our annual book day quiz.

PTA Book Giveaway

The PTA will be giving away second-hand books in the afternoon on Friday 7th March. Children are invited in to take a book home to broaden their reading.

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.





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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/>

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

PTA – Parent's Lottery

Hi everyone! We have a new and exciting announcement that we think is going to be a brilliant way for us to fundraise for our school. The Parents Lottery is a great and easy way for parents to fundraise for SWOP PTA. All money raised through the Parents Lottery will go directly to fund activities, resources and equipment for our children at SWOP. Here's how it works: Parents, carers, family members and friends can buy a ticket like any other lottery, but 60% of the cost of each lottery ticket comes directly to our PTA and there are weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000 to be won. We understand that everyone is busy, and that's why The Parents Lottery makes it so easy to make a real difference. Tickets can be purchased online, just search for St. William of Perth RC School and click Buy Tickets, then follow the easy steps to purchase your tickets and be entered into the draw. Every ticket sold, helps us to provide enriching and varied educational experiences that all of our children deserve.

Full details of the Parents Lottery can be found here - <https://www.theparentslottery.org/>

Week commencing 10.02.25

Attendance Ted

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

Punctuality Pup

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

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
March 2025		
Monday 3 rd	Year 5 Cathedral Class Trip	
Tuesday 4 th	Whole School Quidditch Day (Children to come in school in P.E kit)	
	Year 1 – Forest School	
	Harry Potter Book Night (Yr 3,4,5&6)	4:30pm – 5:45pm
	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Sale	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 5 th	Ash Wednesday Mass - St John Fisher Church	9:30am
Thursday 6 th	Year R, 1 & 2 – Family & Fairy Tales	8:40am - 9:05am
	Year 3 – Forest School	
	Julia Donaldson Book Night (Yr R,1&2)	3:20pm – 4:30pm
Friday 7 th	World Book Day celebrations – Non School uniform day	
	PTA Book Giveaway	
Tuesday 11 th	Year 2 MMA Music Festival	
	Year 1 – Forest School	
Wednesday 12 th	Year 5 MMA Choral Festival Rehearsal	
	Year 5 MMA Choral Festival Evening Performance	7pm – 8pm
Thursday 13 th	Year 3 – Forest School	
Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st	Scholastic Book Fair	
Thursday 20 th	Year 3 – Forest School	
Wednesday 26 th	PTA Mother's Day Sale	
	Parents Evening	
Thursday 27 th	Parents Evening	
April 2025		
Tuesday 1 st	Year 3 and 4 Passion Play – afternoon performance	
Wednesday 2 nd	Year 3 and 4 Passion Play - evening performance	

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>

