



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

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

E-Mail: office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk
absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk

Canon Close
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EN

Phone: 01634 404267
Fax: 01634 404788

NEWSLETTER NO 23: Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have had an exciting week with our SWOP pancake races taking place on Shrove Tuesday. The children really enjoyed this event and it really encouraged team spirit and working together, well done to Blue Team who won the races overall. My thanks also to the PTA for organising a Pancake sale after school as well.

Year 6 Secondary School Offers

Year 6 parents will have received their secondary school offers this week (Monday 3rd March). For further information please visit the Medway government secondary admissions page.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1061/applying_for_a_secondary_school_place/4

Lent

This week marked the beginning of Lent, a time in the church's year when we remember the time Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing himself for his ministry. During Lent we are thinking about how we can be better people. Father Neil celebrated our Ash Wednesday Mass for the school on Wednesday morning and the children have been thinking about how we can help others during Lent. More information about our Lenten appeal (Missio) has been sent via ParentMail this week and children would have received a small red Missio collection box.

World Book Day Week

It was lovely to see the children in their outfits and to be able to share this with parents in the world book day parade. All the children took part in a world book day assembly where there was a very competitive teachers vs students book quiz. The children were crowned this year's champions!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the enrichment events this week it was really enjoyable to see so many of the children attending the Julia Donaldson book night for EYFS / KS1 and also the Harry Potter book night for KS2. We also had our first ever Quidditch Day on Tuesday. This was a great team-building activity and the children greatly enjoyed the day. It was a close score but well done to Blue Team for scoring the most points. My thanks to Mrs Tong and the other staff who have organised these events. We ask that if parents have not yet made their Quidditch contribution to please do so via parent pay.

The week ended with our PTA book giveaway where each child received a free donated second-hand book. We hope this encourages them to continue reading for pleasure.

Year 5 Cathedral Trip

Year 5 visited Rochester Cathedral on Monday to see the Mars: War and Peace Artwork. The children found this visual helpful in building on their learning as part of their topic work.

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.

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.

Year 2 MMA Music Festival – Tuesday 11th March

Year 2 will be participating in the Medway Music Association's March Music Festival at the Central Theatre. Children will need to be dropped off at 9:30am and are asked to be collected from the same point at 11:15am to be returned to school.





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The children will need to wear their full school uniform and will not need to bring anything with them to the theatre except for their coats. Lunch should be provided as usual for when we return to school unless your child is having school dinners. Please ensure your reply slip has been returned indicating your child's lunch option for this day.

Year 1 – Forest School – Tuesday 11th March

Year 1 will have their final Forest School session next Tuesday. Please ensure your child comes into school dressed in their Forest school clothing.

Year 5 MMA Choral Festival – Wednesday 12th March

Year 5 will be participating in the Medway Music Association Choral Festival at The Central Theatre on Wednesday 12th March. For the rehearsal, we ask that children are collected from school at 12:30pm and taken to the meeting point. We ask that they are then collected from the same place at 3pm and returned to the same point for 6:15pm. The concert should be finished by 8pm.

For those who have purchased a ticket, doors open at 6:30pm ready for the performance start at 7pm.

Year 3 – Forest School – Thursday 13th March

Year 3 will have their Forest School session next Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child comes into school dressed in their Forest school clothing.

Science Wonderdome – Friday 14th March

On Friday 14th March, a mobile planetarium called the WonderDome will be visiting our school. Each year group will have the opportunity during the day to visit the mobile planetarium for an exciting and immersive show, delivered by an experienced and knowledgeable presenter. We ask for a contribution of £3.50 to help towards the cost of what is sure to be an unforgettable experience, payable via ParentPay no later than Friday 14th March.

Scholastic Book Fair - Monday 17th March – Thursday 20th March

Will be held Monday 17th March – Thursday 20th March. Books will be on sale from 3.30 pm in the KS1 corridor. All monies raised from book sales will be used to re-stock our class libraries. If you are unable to accompany your child to the book fair on Monday to Thursday due to their afterschool club commitments, but wish to make a purchase, you are invited to send payment to school with your child in a clearly labelled and named envelope.

Year 4 Multiplication Check Parent Meetings – Thursday 20th March

On Thursday 20th March at 5:00pm the Year 4 class teacher will be giving a parent talk about the administration of the Year 4 Multiplication test which takes place in June.

Year R Class Assembly – Friday 21st March

Year R parents are invited to attend Year R's first class assembly taking place on Friday 21st March at approximately 9:05am.

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





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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 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/>

Praise Celebrations for the week!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Green

Walking Boot: Year 6

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

Zimchikachim Y R, Alto Y 1, Thalia Y 2, Lucy Y 3, Pippa Y 4, Lillia Y 5, Francesco Y 6.

Week commencing 24.02.25

Attendance Ted / Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 6 who won both our Attendance Ted and Punctuality Pup for the week.

INSET DAY – Monday 22nd April 2025

Please be advised that we have organised our next INSET day for Monday, 22nd April. Please be advised no children will be in school on that day.

We continue to keep Pope Francis in our prayers and think about anyone in our school community who may be unwell at this time.

Yours sincerely,





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J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>		
March 2025		
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	
Friday 14 th	Science Wonderdome – Whole School	
Monday 17 th - Thursday 20 th	Scholastic Book Fair	3:30pm
Thursday 20 th	Year 3 – Forest School (Final session)	
	Year 4 Multiplication Check Information Evening	5pm
Friday 21 st	Year R Class Assembly	9:05am
Wednesday 26 th	PTA Mother's Day Sale	
	Parents Evening	
Thursday 27 th	Parents Evening	
Friday 28 th	Spring Choir Concert	6pm
April 2025		
Tuesday 1 st	Year 3 and 4 Passion Play – afternoon performance	
Wednesday 2 nd	Celebration Assembly (by invite)	2:15pm
	Year 3 and 4 Passion Play - evening performance	
Thursday 3 rd	Big Lent Walk	
Friday 4 th	Year 6 Stations of the Cross	
	End of term 4	

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>



World Book Day Quiz – Winning Student Team

