



# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER NO 3: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Year R students have all completed their first week of full days in St John's class this week. I would also like to commend our Year 6 pupils on their excellent maturity as they undertook the Medway test this week. They all tried very hard and were very sensible.

### Curriculum Evening

This week also saw our curriculum introductory class meetings. We hope the parents that attended these found them useful in explaining the curriculum as well as the expectations for the year ahead.

### Year R Early Reading

This week Miss Dormedy led an Early reading workshop for Parents of Year R pupils to help them support their child with Early reading.

### Pupil Responsibilities

We enrolled our pupils into their responsibilities during our assembly this afternoon.

**School Council:** I am pleased to announce the members of our new School Council for 2024 – 2025.

Yr R	-	St. John's class: Frank & Alyssia
Yr 1	-	St. Anthony's class: Micah & Aleiyah
Yr 2	-	St. Therese' class: Rei & Reuben
Yr 3	-	St. Patrick's class: Jawson & Elsie
Yr 4	-	St. Nicholas' class: Rosie & Aaron
Yr 5	-	St. George's class: Jobey & Kiana
Yr 6	-	St. Francis' class: Rosie, Stefania, Nia Rae & Ava

**Prayer Pilgrims:** We are delighted to announce our prayer pilgrims for this year. Our Prayer Pilgrims form a chaplaincy team within school to help their classes deepen their faith. They also lead prayers and help during assemblies and Masses. Well done to:

Yr R	-	St. John's class: Anna & Theo
Yr 1	-	St. Anthony's class: Mattea & Alto
Yr 2	-	St. Therese' class: Stella & Paris
Yr 3	-	St. Patrick's class: Freddy & Gabby
Yr 4	-	St. Nicholas' class: Chris & Archie
Yr 5	-	St. George's class: Adam & William H
Yr 6	-	St. Francis' class: Kaitlyn & Finlay

**Eco Warriors:** We are also delighted to announce our Eco Warriors who will be working together to come up with ideas to help out the environment and be more eco-friendly. Well done to:

Yr R	-	St. John's class: Roberta & Finley
Yr 1	-	St. Anthony's class: Sienna & Eli
Yr 2	-	St. Therese' class: Emily & Carter
Yr 3	-	St. Patrick's class: Filip & Aaron
Yr 4	-	St. Nicholas' class: Sofia & Amelia
Yr 5	-	St. George's class: Aditi & Wilson
Yr 6	-	St. Francis' class: Will & Francesco





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## House Captains

Our Year 6 students have been campaigning to be elected as House Captains and Vice Captains for their respective team. This is a very important and prestigious position within the school which involves a number of pastoral responsibilities and being a role model to the younger children. Congratulations to the following children on their appointments

	Yellow	Blue	Green	Red
<b>Captain</b>	Tiago	Esther	Nicole	Alice P
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Jacob	Nyrah	Adam	Roman

## 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 are starting parental tours for perspective new parents on a Tuesday morning at either 9:30am or 10:30am starting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

**If you are planning to view secondary schools during the school day**, please confirm the date and time that your (Y6) child will be absent from St. William Perth and the school that you will be visiting.

## Future Events

### Year 6 Aylesford Priory Trip – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> a number of Catholic primary schools across Kent will come together and celebrate the beginning of the school year. St. Francis (Yr. 6) class has been invited to Aylesford Priory to celebrate and represent us at this annual liturgy. Please ensure your reply slip has been returned to the school office

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

We will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Mass led by Bishop Hendricks the Auxiliary Bishop for Kent. This Mass will take place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Tea Party – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September

In the afternoon we are intending to hold “street parties” in our classes or, where weather permitting, we will sit outside on our tables and experience a traditional street party. The paper box provided by the PTA can be used to bring in a selection of party food for your own child to enjoy. Please be reminded that we are a nut free school when preparing the party food.

### Circus Day – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Children will be visited by a fully trained circus performer who will spend the day with the children. After demonstrating his skills in a whole school assembly, he will work throughout the day with each class individually to teach a range of circus skills to the children. Full information has been sent via ParentMail.

### Through our Eyes (Year R Stay and Play Session) – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Our next “Through our Eyes” session will be taking place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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.





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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Tong.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> 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!!**

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](mailto: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](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child/2)





# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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/>

## Harvest Collection

This year we will be supporting Medway Food Bank through our harvest appeal. Attached to the newsletter is a list of desired items. All donations will be greatly received.

## 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.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

In preparations for our 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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.

## Inset Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October

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

