



# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER NO 4: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

This week we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St William of Perth. Thank you to all the guests who were able to attend the mass this morning and for making it such a memorable day. It was lovely to see lots of old members of staff and ex-pupils returning to celebrate with us. A big thank you to the parents/carers who very kindly donated cakes/goodies and to the PTA for preparing refreshments in the school hall for the parents and guests following the mass where they were able to reminisce with a collection of past photographs.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Tea Party

Despite the weather, the children were still able to enjoy their 'street party' in the school hall and celebrated with activities in their house colours this afternoon.

### Year 6 Aylesford Priory Trip

Year 6 visited Aylesford Priory on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September to take part in the beginning of year Mass. There were representatives in attendance from over 30 primary and secondary schools across Kent. To begin the Mass, Kaitlyn and Finlay (our Prayer Pilgrims) along with Roman and Vinnie, were part of the procession, carrying our newly refurbished St William of Perth banner and a piece of artwork representing 'Peace' painted by members of our school community.

The children in St Francis' class were incredibly well behaved and participated throughout the Mass. It was lovely to hear everyone singing along with the hymns, in particular, the final hymn: 10,000 Reasons. Finally, Year 6 enjoyed a picnic lunch on the grounds before returning home.

### 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 holding parental tours for perspective new parents on a Tuesday morning at either 9:30am or 10:30am. 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

#### 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. If your child wishes to receive a ticket to the show, please ensure your payment of £3 has been made via ParentPay.





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## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – School Photographs**

Our school photographers, Kittle Photography will be visiting next Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, all children are to wear their Winter uniform please.

## **MacMillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

We will be hosting a Macmillan coffee afternoon on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October from 2:15pm to help raise money for Macmillan cancer support. We would love for you all to join us for tea/coffee and cakes/biscuits. We would be very grateful if anyone is able to donate a cake or other goodies (biscuits/cookies/cupcakes) that are **NUT-FREE**, shop bought or home-made, dropped into the school office by Friday 9am. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

## **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.

## **Parents Evening – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October & Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October**

For this academic year, will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 when you will be able to meet individually with class teachers. Parents are asked to make arrangements for the care of their children on this evening. Children may not be left on school premises unattended. Letters will be sent with the eldest child / only child on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September. We ask that you forward your completed appointment slip and return it to your eldest (or only) child’s class teacher on or before but no later than next Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024, thank you. You will receive notification of your allotted meeting time via your eldest (or only) child’s book bag on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**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](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.





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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)

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/>

## **Uniform Bank – Street Angels:**

Our school is proud to be supporting the 'Street Angels' by donating lots of school uniform items. This organisation has branches in Rochester, Gillingham, Rainham and Chatham, with shops, who are dedicated to providing nearly new uniform to those in need or suffering financial hardship. It is also a sensible eco-option, helping us to reduce our carbon footprint. The 'Street Angels' provide a range of services including a school uniform bank and food banks. We wanted to bring you an awareness of all they do and so have attached a link to their website below.

<https://www.thestreet-angels.org/uniform-bank>

## **Staff Deanery Mass**

On Tuesday 24th September our staff were able to celebrate Mass with our Deanery at St John Fisher Secondary School. This beautiful service gave staff the opportunity to renew their commissioning and commitment pledges for the forthcoming academic year. We pray with our larger school family and thank Fr Ki, Fr Peter and Fr Emmanuel for this spiritual opportunity.

## **Harvest Collection – Medway Food Bank Appeal**

This year we will be supporting Medway Food Bank through our harvest appeal. Thank you for the donations that have started to come in. 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.

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

Please be reminded 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.





# St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis  
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
<b>October 2024</b>		
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 6 Swimming – (Kings school)	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Circus Day	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kittle whole school photographs – <b>winter uniform to be worn</b> Macmillan Coffee Afternoon	2:15pm
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Swimming – (Kings school)	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Swimming – (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	

