



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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 6: Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Mass

Fr Neil led our Harvest festival at our church. This special Mass enjoyed Mr. Wilkins on the organ, Mrs. Stanton leading the liturgical choir, we had beautiful readers, dedicated altar servers and a fabulous Harvest display, which included the bread made by St Patrick's class.

Yr 5 / 6 MYG Hockey – Thursday 12th October

A team of Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at the MYG hockey competition on Thursday at the Holcombe Hockey Club. They were praised for their excellent behaviour and perseverance. Well done to – Jacob, Connie, Aditi, Evelyn & Ella from Year 5, and Francesco, Vinnie, Kristof, Tiago & Austin from Year 6

Year 3 Class Assembly

We then ended the week with St Patrick's class sharing an assembly and helping the whole school to understand the importance of not wasting food, donating to the foodbank, being grateful for all we have and remembering to thank God for our blessings. The class especially enjoyed dancing along to the 'Harvest Samba' and singing 'Autumn Days'. We continue to thank the school for their generosity in donating to the local food bank. Thank you!

UCM Visit

The school wish to thank the UCM (Union of Catholic Mother's) for visiting our school this week. They were able to talk about their role in our church family and share their thoughts and understanding of the Rosary. They were able to pray with us and we thank them for their support.

MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

We can now confirm we raised an amazing grand total of £142 for this amazing cause. We thank you all for your ongoing support with our events.

Admissions

The Medway admissions is 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.

Secondary School 2025 Admissions

You can apply for your child to start secondary school if they were born between 1 September 2013 and 31st August 2014. Application dates for secondary school 2024 **closes 5 pm Thursday 31st October**.

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.





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Future Events

Year 6 Swimming – Tuesday 15th October

Year 6 continue with their swimming sessions on a Tuesday. These lessons will take place at the Kings pool and Year 6 will be walking with their teachers to the sessions. Please make sure children come appropriately dressed and have a coat and umbrella as we will be attending the sessions even if the weather is inclement.

Through our Eyes (Year R Stay and Play Session) – Wednesday 16th October

Our next "Through our Eyes" session will be taking place on Wednesday 16th 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 16th October & Thursday 17th October

We look forward to our parent consultation meetings next week - **Wednesday 16th October and Thursday 17th October 2024**. Parents are asked to make arrangements for the care of their children on this evening. Children may not be left on school premises unattended. Notifications of appointment times have been sent home this week.

Celebration Assembly – Thursday 17th October

Will be held next Thursday 17th October, at 2.15pm. The parents of 6 children from each year group have been sent personal invitations to join us as we celebrate their children's achievements.

Clubs – Week commencing Monday 28th October

Letters for clubs have been sent this week. If you wish for your child to attend, please ensure the reply slip has been returned to the school office as soon as possible but no later than Wednesday 16th October. Please find the after-school club timetable below:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---|---|--|---|
| <u>15:30-16:30</u> Dance: Year 1 & 2 | <u>15:30-16:30</u> Drama club: Year 3 & 4 | <u>15:30-16:30</u> Greenacre Sport: Year 1 & 2 | <u>15:25-16:25</u> Science Club: Years 1, 2 & 3 |
| <u>15:30-16:30</u> Karate: KS2 | <u>15:30-16:30</u> MYG Competition Club: Year 5 & 6 | <u>15:30-16:30</u> Ms Greene's Choir: KS2 | <u>15:30-16:30</u> Greenacre Sport: Year 3 & 4 |
| | | | <u>15:30-16:30</u> Football club: Year 5 & 6 |

Prayer Club

During this month of October, the school, led by our Prayer Pilgrims, will continue to share the Rosary before school on a Friday. All welcome.

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





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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 30th 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!!

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/>

Online Remembrance

The Pilgrims would also like to draw your attending to the 'Cafod Book of Remembrance'. This online book is a chance to remember any loved ones who you may have lost this year, especially as we approach the month of November. Cafod will also hold a special Mass in their memory. Here is the link.

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/remembrance-giving/book-of-remembrance>

St John Fisher Church - Poppy Wreath Remembrance Mass

Fr Neil has invited children to attend the 11:00am Mass at the St John Fisher Church on Sunday 11th November to help lay individual poppies for Remembrance. If you wish to attend, please may you let the office know, so we can begin to prepare the poppies. All are welcome to attend, but please note you are responsible for your own children during this Mass. It would be best to arrive a few minutes before 11:00.





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Photography competition- Knights of Columba

The Knights of Columba are giving the children the exciting opportunity to participate in a photography competition. This year's theme is the 'Altar'. The brief is to take photographs with the appropriate Bible verse about the 'Altar' that best represents the scene in your photo. Show the beauty of your Parish or a nearby Parishes Altar with character. They have asked you to be original and different and try and capture the best image possible of your subject, so that we can appreciate it. Please submit as a Png or a Jpeg file please. If you have any queries please Mrs Tong know. The deadline is Wednesday, December 18th.

- State your name, age and school.
- State the name of the Church and its location.
- State the date the picture was taken.
- Name of phone used or name the digital camera used.

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.

Harvest Collection – Medway Food Bank Appeal

This year we are 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.

Charity Events:

We are very proud of our children and their understanding of others needs both in our school and the wider community. As such, we would like to support various charities throughout this academic year. To help you budget for any charitable donations; may we take this opportunity to let you know of our plans so far.

Harvest Collection – we are collecting tinned and dried items of food etc. for the Medway Food Bank – all donations to be received by Thursday 17th October, thank you.

Poppy Appeal – In support of the Royal British Legion. We hope to be able to offer paper poppies and assorted merchandise to offer for sale leading up to Armistice Day on the 11th November.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November further details nearer the date.

Love in a Box – We will be supporting the Love in a Box mustard seed appeal. More information has been sent home with children today.

Medway Food Bank – Chocolate Advent Calendar collection – all donations to be received by Friday 8th November.

PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 29th November further details nearer the date.

Praise Assembly Celebrations!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Green

Walking Boot: Year 4

Merit Award Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate in today's Praise Assembly.

Amariah Y R, Adebola Y 1, Penelope Y 2, Hudson Y 3, Amelia Y 4, Kiana Y 5, Jayden Y 6

Caretaker Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a caretaker to start in November to join our team. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position, please encourage them to speak with the office for further details.

Mid-Day Meal Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a part time Mid-Day Meals Supervisor (3 days Wednesday – Friday). If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position, please encourage them to speak with the office for further details.

Inset Day – Friday 18th October

Please be reminded that we have organised our next **INSET day for next Friday, 18th October**. Please be advised no children will be in school on that day.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

| | Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i> | |
|--|---|------------------|
| October 2024 | | |
| Tuesday 15 th | Year 6 Swimming – (Kings school) | |
| Wednesday 16 th | Year R – ‘Through our Eyes’ Parents Evening Medway Test Results | 9-10am and 2-3pm |
| Thursday 17 th | Celebration Assembly Parents Evening End of Term 1 | 2:15pm |
| Friday 18 th | Inset Day – no children in school | |
| Monday 21 st - Friday 25 th | Half term | |
| Monday 28 th | Start of term 2 | |
| Thursday 31 st | Closing date for Secondary School Applications | |
| November 2024 | | |
| Friday 15 th | Children in Need PTA Winter Disco | |

