



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 7: Thursday 17th October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we are already at the end of Term 1! The first term has gone by so quickly. We look forward to a very busy Term 2 after the half-term break.

Parent Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent evenings this week. This is an important opportunity to share progress updates as we work in partnership to help the children fulfil their potential.

Celebration Assembly

In terms 1-5, six children from each year group receive a celebratory certificate from their class teacher in acknowledgement of their achievements, which is presented to them in front of their peers at our celebration assembly. It always brings us great joy to share your children's achievements and today's Celebration Assembly was no exception. Well done to all children who received a special certificate and thank you to parents / carers for joining us to share in this celebration.

Year R – Stay and Play (Through our Eyes)

It was wonderful to see so many Year R parents join us for our first stay and play session. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Year R curriculum and how to support learning at home. We hope to have more stay and play (Through our eyes) sessions throughout the year.

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.

Future Events

Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 will continue with their swimming sessions on a Tuesday following half-term. 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.





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Clubs – Week commencing Monday 28th October

Confirmation for club places have been sent this week. Please find the after-school club timetable below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
15:30-16:30 Dance: Year 1 & 2	15:30-16:30 Drama club: Year 3 & 4	15:30-16:30 Greenacre Sport: Year 1 & 2	15:25-16:25 Science Club: Years 1, 2 & 3
15:30-16:30 Karate: KS2 (Beginning 04/11/24)	15:30-16:30 MYG Competition Club: Year 5 & 6	15:30-16:30 Ms Greene's Choir: KS2	15:30-16:30 Greenacre Sport: Year 3 & 4
			15:30-16:30 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 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 28th 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.





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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 attention 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 10th 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.

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.

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. All donations will be collected on Wednesday 30th October so if you wish to donate, please do so before then, many thanks.

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.





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Harvest Collection – we are collecting tinned and dried items of food etc. for the Medway Food Bank – all donations to be received by Tuesday 29th 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 the children.

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.

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 tomorrow, **Friday 18th October** is an Inset Day. 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>	
October 2024		
Thursday 17 th	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 1 st	All Saints Feast Day Mass (St John Fisher Church)	
Thursday 7 th	MYG Basketball	
Friday 8 th	Scholastic Book Fair	
Friday 15 th	Children in Need PTA Winter Disco	
Wednesday 27 th	Advent Wreath Service	
Friday 29 th	PTA Christmas Fair	3:30pm
December 2024		
Wednesday 4 th	Grandparents & Mince Pies afternoon	
Thursday 5 th	Choir Christmas Concert	6pm





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Winter Uniform from Term 2 until the End of Spring Term

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Royal blue cardigan or v-necked sweatshirt with school logo. (only available from school office).

OPTIONAL Navy-blue fleece with school logo (only available from school's approved supplier). This item is to be worn over school sweatshirt or cardigan, **not** in place of school sweatshirt or cardigan.

Coats: Plain colours – preferably navy or black.

Grey Skirt / Pinafore dress (not black).

Grey tailored trousers (not black).

Plain white school shirt/blouse (collar must be suitable to be worn over a tie). Not polo top.

School tie – (only available from school office).

Plain grey or white school socks, (trainer socks are not allowed).

Grey tights.

Black sensible shoes with straps / laces **no laces for EYFS**, (no trainers or boots).

For health and safety reasons, preferably not slip on / ballerina style (no shoes with high heels).

Hats – with school logo (only available from school office), or plain blue. Branded hats or fashion items may not be worn.

Hair should be smart and suitable for school. Hair should not cover the eyes and hinder learning. Gel should not be worn. No hair dye and no indentions. If hair is shoulder length or longer, it should be tied back in plain black hair elastics or plain elastics in school colours.

Book bag with school logo. (only available from school office).

EYFS additional uniform

Wellington boots - In a named carrier bag.

Apron

Puddle suit (waterproof over-trousers) - Optional for water play.

P.E. Kit ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

- Shorts – plain navy
- T/shirt with school logo (only available from school office)
- Plimsoles (black)
- P.E. Bag with school logo (only available from school office)
- All jewellery (e.g. watches and earrings) must be removed independently - no responsibility will be taken for these.
- Hair - long hair to be tied back.
- Field activities - children may wear trainers, (EYFS and KS1 Velcro/no laces).
- In cold weather children are allowed to wear (unbranded) plain black or plain navy sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms over their P.E. kit.

