



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 8: Friday 1st November 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. We hope that you all had a refreshing half term and enjoyed spending time as a family. November marks the month when we remember all those who have passed away. We began this period by celebrating the feast of All Saints in a whole school Mass this morning in the church.

The children will be learning about remembrance over the coming weeks. Next Friday, Year 6 will be leading our service of remembrance. In support of the Royal British Legion, we have paper poppies and assorted merchandise on sale leading up to Armistice Day on the 11th November. We have a remembrance display in our foyer.

All Saints Mass

Thank you to Father Neil for celebrating our All-Saints Mass feast day today. November is the month of the holy souls and we remember our loved ones who have passed away.

Medway Foodbank

Your kind and very generous donations have been collected on behalf of Medway Food Bank who in turn will support the local community. It is wonderful to be part of such a generous community!

A reminder that we are still collecting for Medway Foodbank's chocolate advent calendar collection. We ask that all donations are to be received by Monday 25th November.

Love in a Box

We are very proud to be supporting the 'Love in a Box' mustard seed appeal again this year. We ask for all donations to be received no later than Friday 15th November. For more information, please see the link below:

[Love in a Box – Mustard Seed Relief Mission](#)

Weather

Autumn has definitely arrived and in the coming weeks we expect colder and wetter weather. Please make sure you send your child to school with a waterproof jacket.

Winter Uniform – Zipped Fleece Jacket

Children's (non-compulsory) navy-blue fleece zipped jacket with the school logo, which is only available from our approved supplier, can be purchased from Brigade Clothing Ltd via the following link. This item is to be worn over the school sweatshirt or cardigan, not in place of the school sweatshirt or cardigan.

www.brigade.uk.com/content.php?page=select_school&for=parents

Walking Home

Due to changing weather conditions and darker evenings as we come into the Winter months, please note that any teachers dismissing the after-school clubs will not be releasing children on their own to walk home and will need to be collected by a parent/carer instead.

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](#)





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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.

Nativity Costumes – Swap Shop

This year we would like to hold a nativity costume borrowing “shop”. As such, we are asking for donations of any nativity costumes that you may have. On Tuesday 12th November, we will hold an after school borrowing shop whereby you can come and borrow a costume from school for your child to wear in the nativity this year and return it once the performances have ended. Please hand all donations to your child’s class teacher.

Future Events

Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 will 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.

Prayer Club

Led by our Prayer Pilgrims, we invite you all to our Prayer Club every Friday before school at 8:45am in the school hall.

Yr. 6 Remembrance Assembly – Friday 8th November 2024

Next Friday at 9:05 Year 6 will be leading a Remembrance assembly. Year 6 parents are invited.

Book Fair – Monday 11th – Thursday 14th November 2024

Will be held Monday 11th November – Thursday 14th November. 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. **This may be an excellent opportunity for you to buy some Christmas presents.**

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.

Book Fair Competition

For a chance to win a book at the upcoming book fair, we are asking children to design a bookmark. Try to be creative and inspire everyone to love books and reading. Please can all entries be handed into Mrs Tong by Friday 14th November.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November 2024

We will be holding a charity Tag Day on Friday 15th November in support of Children in Need.

For a donation of a bag, box or a bar of chocolate, children are invited to dress in their own clothes on the day.

Chocolate donations can be given to their class teacher. We ask that all donations are received by Friday 8th November, thank you. Our School Council are organising a number of fund-raising events which will be promoted via ParentMail. Children are invited to bring a **maximum of £3** spending money for our Pudsey Fayre. Any monies brought in by the children will contribute to the total donation for Children in Need.

Grandparents Tea and Mince Pies – Thursday 5th December

Grandparents (or if they are not available, a surrogate Grandparent) and elderly relatives are welcome to join us for tea and mince pies on Thursday 5th December as the School Choir bring festive cheer to the event with well-known Christmas Carols. Full information will be sent next week.

Infant Nativity – Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th December 2024

Years R, 1 and 2 will perform their Infant Nativity on Tuesday 10th December at 2pm followed by an evening performance on Wednesday 11th December at 6pm. Children will receive a letter next week regarding further information and seating requirements.

Whole School Pantomime – Friday 13th December

Next week each child will be sent home with a letter regarding our Whole School Pantomime this year taking place on Friday 13th December. This will include a parental consent form to be returned along with payment details which will be live on ParentPay next week.





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Advent Junior Carol Service – Wednesday 18th December

We are in the throes of preparation for our annual Advent Carol Service. All pupils from Years 3 to 6 will take part in this very special celebration and our families are warmly invited to attend. The service begins at 6pm – letters will be sent with further information in the coming weeks.

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 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 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.

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





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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.

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.

Poppy Appeal – In support of the Royal British Legion, we are offering paper poppies and assorted merchandise to offer for sale leading up to Armistice Day on the 11th November.

Children in Need – Friday 15th November, details have been sent this week.

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. All donations need to be in by Friday 15th November.

Medway Food Bank – Chocolate Advent Calendar collection – all donations to be received by Monday 25th November.

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

PTA

The PTA are always looking for extra hands, if you are able to help in any way with any contribution, big or small, your help would be most appreciated. You can enquire at the school office who will then forward your interest on to the PTA.

Praise Celebrations for the week!

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

Ivy Y R, William Y 1, Emily Y 2, Elsie Y 3, Sofia Y 4, Jobey Y 5, Samayah Y 6.

Week commencing 14.10.24

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 6 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 4 who won the Punctuality Pup for the week.





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Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
November 2024		
Friday 8 th	Yr 6 Remembrance Assembly (Yr 6 Parents Invited)	9:05am
Monday 11 th	Anti-Bullying week	
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th	Scholastic Book Fair	3:30pm onwards
Tuesday 12 th	Swap Shop – Nativity Costumes	
Thursday 14 th	MYG Basketball	
Friday 15 th	Children in Need	
Wednesday 27 th	Advent Wreath Service	
Friday 29 th	PTA Christmas Fair	3:30pm
December 2024		
Wednesday 4 th	MMA Christmas Carol Festival – Year 6	
Thursday 5 th	Grandparents & Mince Pies afternoon Christmas Choir Concert	6pm
Tuesday 10 th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	
Wednesday 11 th	Children's Christmas Jumper Day EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	
Thursday 12 th	Children's Christmas Lunch	
Friday 13 th	Whole School Pantomime	
Tuesday 17 th	Year R & Year 6 – Height and Weight checks	
Wednesday 18 th	Advent Junior Carol Service	6pm
Thursday 19 th	Celebration Assembly	
Friday 20 th	End of term 2	

Harvest Collection – Medway Foodbank Donations.





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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.

