



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 9: Friday 8th November 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 6 Remembrance Assembly

Thank you to the children of St. Francis' class who led us in prayer and reflection as we approach Remembrance Sunday. The assembly was beautifully moving and reflected the depth of the children's learning. We were delighted to be able to welcome Corporal Thijs and Corporal Spiwk from the Royal Engineers Brompton Regiment who joined us for our remembrance service. The representative of the Royal Engineers met with Year 6 to discuss remembrance and also explain what life is like in the armed services. They were very impressed with Year 6's reverence and the mature questions they had been asked. They also showed our Year 6's camouflage paint which the children were able to try out on their hands.

To commemorate Remembrance Day and in support of the Poppy Appeal, we have been selling poppies and associated merchandise. Thank you to everyone who has helped to support this worthwhile charity. Once known, we will share with you the total amount raised for the Royal British Legion, through our Poppy Appeal.

Children who attend Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers are able to wear their Scout uniforms to school on Remembrance Day, Monday 11th November 2024.

Medway Foodbank

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

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

Greenacre Sports Club – Year 1 & Year 2

Please note that the Greenacre Sports Club for Yr 1 & 2 that has previously taken place on a Wednesday will now be permanently taking place on a Friday. This will begin from next Friday, 15th November.

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.

PTA Christmas Card Templates

Each child will have been sent home with a Christmas Card template for them to complete should they wish. The deadline for these to be returned to school is Friday 22nd November. If you require a template, we do have some spares in the school office.





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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.

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

Anti-Bullying week

Next week is anti-bullying week and we will be learning about how to maintain positive relationships with our friends during our PSHE lessons. In order to mark this week, we will be allowing pupils to wear odd socks into school on Wednesday 13th November in addition to normal school uniform to raise awareness and understanding of anti-bullying week.

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.

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 15th November.

PTA Meeting & AGM – Thursday 14th November

Taking place in the school hall at 5.30 pm. All are welcome – if you have time, energy, enthusiasm and a sense of humour, do come along. We need you and we know how much you enjoy and appreciate all the lovely events that the PTA has delivered in the past. This includes our Mother and Father Day shops and our Fun Day as well as numerous fundraising events. None of these are possible without parental support. New parents are especially welcome. The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA committee, to represent the association throughout the forth coming year.

Year 4 Class Assembly – Friday 15th November

Year 4 parents are invited to attend Year 4's class assembly taking place next Friday, at approximately 9:05am

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. Our School Council are organising a number of fund-raising events which have been 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.





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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 has been sent via ParentMail.

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. Full information has been sent via ParentMail, please ensure your reply slip is returned as soon as possible but no later than Monday 25th November.

Whole School Pantomime – Friday 13th December

A letter has been sent via ParentMail today with full information. For catering purposes, we ask that your completed parental consent form is returned to the school office on or before, but no later than Monday 2nd December, thank you.

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.





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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. 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.

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. 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.





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Praise Celebrations for the week!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Green

Walking Boot: Year 1

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

Ralph Y R, Pippa Y 1, Auguste Y 2, Bruno Y 3, Luke Y 4, Evelyn Y 5, Vinnie Y 6.

Week commencing 28.10.24

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 1 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 1 & 4 who both won the Punctuality Pup for the week.

We welcome Mrs Anthony to our team of Midday Meals Supervisors, and Mr Ellis as our new caretaker.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis

Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
November 2024		
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	Year 4 Class Assembly Children in Need	9:05am
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	2pm 6pm
Tuesday 10 th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	2pm
Wednesday 11 th	Children's Christmas Jumper Day EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	6pm
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	





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The month of November can be a good opportunity for families to remember and pray for their own departed loved ones. You may like to pray with your child using the following traditional prayer for those who have died, you might like to name any family and friends who have died and ask that they would rest in peace.

Prayer for Those Who Have Died
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen

Year 6 – Remembrance Day



Please see below a selection of Remembrance Poems written by Year 6 Students as part of their learning about remembrance.

*Remember the day that the poppies grew,
Remember the day the war began.
Remember why we wear them
On the 11 days of the 11th month
That's the time to wear them.*

*Remember the families who lost part of them.
They lost their families because of war.
Stop gaming.
Stop watching cartoons.
Take the time to Remember.
To remember why we do this.*

*Remember, Remember why the poppies are there.
Let the poppies go free and wild,
Remember times when the soldiers died.
By Finlay*



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*Look down, down below look
Where you're standing! There was once
a man who may have stood there who
Will look down on you.
Remember... Remember...*

*Look up, up above look there
Was once a plane soaring there
Whom the pilot will look down on you
Remember... Remember...*

*Look, look at what you're doing
A man made sacrifices for you to enjoy.
He will look down on you.
Remember... Remember...*

*They will look down and smile
Upon seeing your joy
Remember, Remember the 11th of November
On the 11th month of the 11th day marks
The day when peace was found
By Nicole*

*Always remember the 11th of November
It's when the war had ended
Always remember the 11th of November
It's when we all made peace.*

*Always remember all the soldiers
Who fought in the war so brave.
Always remember all the soldiers
Who sacrificed their lives for us*

*So when it comes to Remembrance day,
We must all remember.
By Rosie*