



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 13: Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of another wonderful week at school with activities in preparation for Christmas. It does not seem possible that we are so close to the end of term! The children have also been counting down the days using Advent calendars and by lighting the Advent candle every day during our class prayer times. We look forward to some exciting Christmas activities next week. In particular, we are looking forward to our FS/ KS1 Nativities as well as Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day next Thursday.

Next week is the second week of Advent with the theme of peace being explored in our Advent preparations. The children continue to light their Advent Wreaths in Class and reflect on how they can make themselves ready for the coming of the baby Jesus.

Knights of St Columba Visit

We were delighted to welcome Brother Titus and Brother Edmund from the Knights of St Columba to our school. They received the children's beautiful Nativity competition entries and shared their charitable work in supporting parishes, promoting Catholic education, and helping those in need. The Knights assured us of their prayers and asked that we continue praying for their mission.

Grandparents Tea and Mince Pies

Thank you for all those who were able to attend. We were delighted with the response to this event. It was so lovely for the children to be able to spend time with their Grandparents and/or relatives. A big thank you to those who were able to donate to go towards the Wisdom Hospice.

Christmas Choir Concert

It was lovely to see the Choir perform "Winter Cheer" this week. My congratulations to Mrs New on her first concert and the children for their wonderful performance.

PTA Christmas Fayre

We hope that you enjoyed our Christmas Fayre this afternoon and managed to stock up on some Christmas presents and stocking fillers. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the PTA who have worked extremely hard to organise this event and for making it so successful. It was a wonderful event with enjoyment for all with Christmas crafts, raffles and prizes. Thank you for supporting this event and for making it such a success.

Post Box

This is always an exciting part of Christmas in school but to ensure the Christmas cards reach their owner, please write the full name and year group on the front of the envelopes. E.g. John Smith, Year 3. We have many children with the same first name and it would be very sad if children did not receive their cards. Post will be sorted and delivered to classes by Year 4 children on a daily basis

After-School Clubs

Please note that this week was the last week for Term 2 clubs. This does not include our Wraparound after-school club which continues every day until 4:30pm or with the second session until 5:30pm.





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Letters for Term 3 clubs will be sent next week. Please find the after-school club timetable below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15:20-16:20 Arts & Crafts: Yr 4,5&6 15:30-16:30 Dance Club – Yr 1&2	15:20-16:20 Drama club: KS2	15:30-16:30 Choir: KS2	15:30-16:30 Football club: Yr 4, 5 & 6	15:20-16:20 MYG Club Year 4, 5 & 6

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, 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

Admissions

The Medway admissions are open for primary school applications 2026 / 2027. You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022. 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 running our final parental tour on Tuesday, 9th December, at 10:00am for perspective new parents. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

Future Events

Infant Nativity – Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th December 2025

Years R, 1 and 2 will perform their Infant Nativity on Tuesday 9th December at 2pm followed by an evening performance on Wednesday 10th December at 6pm. All children in Years R, 1 and 2 will have been sent home with their ticket allocation.

Photography and filming during our Infant and Junior Performances: We are looking forward to welcoming friends and families to our Nativity and Junior Advent Service so that we can celebrate this very special season as a whole school family.

A reminder please that photography and filming are not permitted during the performances or religious service. Photographs will be taken of the children in their costumes and shared via Class Dojo.

There are several reasons for this:

Firstly, we have children in school who may not be photographed for reasons of safeguarding.

Secondly, recording of music is contrary to the licence under which we use the music / play.

Thirdly, it can be daunting for many children and adults holding up tablets, iPad and screens can obscure the view for parents behind them.

For more information please read our school events policy

[School Event Policy 2025.pdf](#)

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Year 6 Mini Enterprise – Wednesday 10th December

Year 6 will be holding a 'Market' in the School Hall on Wednesday 10th December for the rest of the school to purchase the items they have been making as part of their Mini Enterprise Topic. There will be various handmade items for sale, ranging from 20p to £2. The Year 6 class has been split into eight companies, each making their own individual merchandise. Each company will present their products to the children. Every child is invited to bring to school a maximum of £5, in small change and preferably a labelled envelope/wallet/purse, to buy items from the Year 6 Mini Enterprise Market on Wednesday 10th. The parents of children in Year 6 are invited to visit the market from 2.30 - 3pm.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 11th December

The children's Christmas Dinner (and Christmas Jumper Day) takes place on Thursday 11th December. We want to make the occasion as festive as possible, so we would like to invite all children to come to school that day in their own clothes and their Christmas jumper.

Copper Beeches Care Home Choir Visit – Year 5 – Thursday 11th December

Year 5 have been invited to visit the Copper Beeches Care Home to perform a selection of Christmas carols to the residents on Thursday 11th December at 2pm. Children **will attend in their Christmas Jumper day clothes**, with a suitable coat / jacket ready to walk down and return to school for the normal collection time of 3:20pm. Children are also encouraged to bring a festive 'Santa hat' to wear during the visit.





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Whole School Pantomime – Friday 12th December

Thank you to those parents who have already made their payment of £22.50 per child via ParentPay (deadline to pay is today, 5th December).

Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre – Year 6 – Monday 15th December

As part of our Christmas celebrations, Year 6 have been invited to meet and share festivities with the residents of the Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre on Monday 15th December at 2pm. Children attend in full school uniform with a suitable coat / jacket ready to walk down and return to school for the normal collection time of 3:20pm. Children are also encouraged to bring a festive 'Santa hat' to wear during the visit.

Valley View Nursing Home Choir Visit – Year 3 – Wednesday 17th December

Year 3 have been invited to visit the Valley View Nursing home to perform a selection of Christmas carols to the residents on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm. Children will attend in full school uniform, with a suitable coat / jacket ready to walk down and return to school for the normal collection time of 3:20pm. Children are also encouraged to bring a festive 'Santa hat' to wear during the visit.

Advent Junior Carol Service – Wednesday 17th 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 have been sent home.

Prayer Club

There will be no further Prayer Club for the rest of Term 2, we look forward to resuming this in the new year.

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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.

Monday 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 Monday morning after 9:30. Alternatively, you may email Miss Montgomery 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.





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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 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/>

Parish link

For information about the parish of St. John Fisher including newsletters and Mass times click on the link below.

<https://stjohnfisher.me.uk/>

Statutory Assessment Dates 2026

We would like to make parents aware of the key statutory assessment dates for the 2025–26 academic year.

The **KS2 SATs** will take place during the week beginning Monday 11th May 2026.

The **Year 1 Phonics** Screening Check (and any retakes for Year 2 pupils) will be held during the week beginning Monday 8th June 2026.

The **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)** will take place within the two-week window starting Monday 1st June 2026. Please ensure your child is in school during these important assessments. Further information and guidance will be shared closer to the time.

Children's Liturgy at Sunday Mass

Fr Neil and Fr David have invited us to St John Fisher church each week on Sunday, where at the 9am Mass the children in KS1 and EYFS are invited to participate in a special Children's Liturgy with Sebastian and the team. Here they will explore the Gospel in a child friendly manner. The addition of a Children's Liturgy at Sunday Mass was asked about by many parents and it would be wonderful to have children able to access this special Mass in our Parish church.

Medway Go Christmas Holiday Club

We are delighted to share the MedwayGo Christmas Activities for 2025! MedwayGo activities are free for those living in Medway and eligible for benefit related free school meals. Click on the links below for information with regards to times and bookings. Full information has been sent via Parentmail.

Festive Family Activities & Christmas Provision - <https://eequ.org/medwaygo>

Praise Assembly Celebrations!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Blue

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

Luke Y R, Ava Belle Y 1, Ryan Y 2, Emily Y 3, Ilinca Y 4, Luke Y 5, Dexter Y 6

Week commencing 24.11.25

Attendance Ted / Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 5 who won both our Attendance Ted & Punctuality Pup for the week.

Volunteer Request

We love reading at SWOP. To help the children to become even more fluent and share even more wonderful books we are looking for volunteers who are happy to share a couple of hours of their time to come into school to hear the children read.





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This will require a DBS check and will be subject to the needs of the school. If you feel you would be able to help in this volunteering role, please contact the school office.

INSET DAY – Monday 23rd February 2026

Please be advised that we have organised our next INSET day for Monday, 23rd February. Please be advised no children will be in school on that day.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
December 2025		
Monday 8 th	DICE – Parent Internet Safety Talk	9am – 11am
Tuesday 9 th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	2pm
Wednesday 10 th	Year 6 Mini Enterprise EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	6pm
Thursday 11 th	Children's Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day Year 5 – Copper Beeches Care Home Choir Visit	
Friday 12 th	Whole School Pantomime	
Monday 15 th	Year 6 - Rochester Gate Independent Living Centre	
Wednesday 17 th	Year 3 - Valley View Nursing Home Choir Visit Advent Junior Carol Service (KS2)	6pm
Thursday 18 th	Celebration Assembly	2:15pm
Friday 19 th	Crib Service End of Term 2	
January 2026		
Monday 5 th	Start of Term 3 – Children return to school	