



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 8: Friday 31st October 2025



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.

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 of November. We have a remembrance display in our foyer.

New Year R Parent Lunch

It was lovely seeing all the Year R parents join us for a school lunch this Wednesday, we hope you enjoyed spending the lunch with your child.

Height & Weight Checks

This week Year R & Year 6 had their Height & Weight checks. All parents will receive a feedback letter from the nursing team.

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 Monday 10th November. For more information on what they do, please see the link below:

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

Medway Foodbank

A reminder that we are collecting for Medway Foodbank's chocolate advent calendar collection. We ask that all donations are to be received by Monday 24th November.

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.

School Fund

Thank you to the parents who have made their family contribution of £15.50. We ask that the contribution is made via ParentPay. These are much needed funds which help supplement resources within our school.





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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 parental tours on a Tuesday morning at 10:15am for perspective new parents. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

The Medway admissions for secondary school applications closes today. 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](#)

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.

Future Events

Lockdown Procedures Practice

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff, we will soon be carrying out a lockdown practice (Stay safe drill). This is a routine procedure, similar to a fire drill, designed to help everyone understand what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency situation. We will talk to the children beforehand in an age-appropriate way to ensure they feel calm and reassured. You can read more about our school's lockdown procedures [here](#).

Year 6 Swimming Session 7 – Tuesday 4th November

Year 6 swimming continues on a Tuesday. These lessons will take place at Sir Joseph Williamson Math's School's 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.

Year 2 & Year 5 History workshop – Wednesday 5th November

Throughout the year we will be having a Historian from Guildhall Museum who will be delivering History workshops to each class (Year 1 – Year 6). On Wednesday 5th November, Year 2 & Year 5 will have their workshop. Year 2's topic will focus on Guy Fawkes and Year 5's topic will focus on Anglo-Saxons. In order for these workshops to go ahead we do ask for a small contribution via ParentPay.

Book Fair – Wednesday 5th – Tuesday 11th November 2025

Will be held Wednesday 5th – Tuesday 11th 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.** This will be cashless, all payments are to be made via card.

Prayer Club – Friday's

Mrs Tong and our Prayer Pilgrims, will continue to share the Rosary before school on a Friday. All are welcome.

Year 6 Remembrance Assembly – Friday 7th November

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

Odd Socks Day – Monday 10th November

Monday 10th – Friday 14th November 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 Monday 10th November in addition to normal school uniform to raise awareness and understanding of anti-bullying week.

Whole School Flu Immunisation – Thursday 13th November

The immunisation team will be visiting school on Thursday 13th November to administer the nasal flu vaccination. We ask all parents to complete the online form below to either consent or decline; full information has been sent via ParentMail.
www.kentimmunisations.co.uk





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Road Safety Talks – Friday 14th November

On Friday 14th November various classes will be having a road safety talk.

Children in Need – Friday 21st November 2025

We will be holding a charity Tag Day on Friday 21st 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 14th November, thank you. Our School Council are organising a number of fund-raising events which will be promoted via ParentMail. The fayre will be cashless, payment will be set up via ParentPay next week to allow parents to make a payment amount of your choice for your child to spend at the Pudsey Fayre.

PTA Winter Disco – Friday 21st November

EYFS & KS1 – 3:30pm – 4:15pm, KS2 – 4:30 – 5:30pm. Full information has been sent via ParentMail. If you wish for your child to attend then please fill in the parental consent and make the payment of £3 via the below link, no later than 12pm on Thursday 20th November.

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/swop-pta>

Grandparents Tea and Mince Pies – Thursday 4th 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 4th December as the School Choir bring festive cheer to the event with well-known Christmas Carols. Full information will be sent next week.

PTA Christmas Fayre – Friday 5th December

Our PTA Christmas Fayre will be held on Friday 5th December from 3:30 until 5:30pm. In preparation of this, we will be holding a **Tag Day on Friday 28th November** where children are invited to attend school wearing their own clothes. In payment of not wearing uniform to school, we ask that every child donates a little something that can either be sold or used as part of a prize at the fayre. This could be candles / toiletries / chocolates / biscuits / sweets / a bottle of wine etc. In addition, would you please keep us in mind if you have any unwanted gifts or good quality unused items that you no longer want or bottle(s) of wine etc. that could be used as a raffle prize. Raffle prizes can be left at the school office at your convenience and Tag Day donations are to be brought to school on the 28th November, thank you. If you feel you are able to help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the PTA.

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. Children will receive a letter next week regarding further information and seating requirements.

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 5th December). For catering purposes, we ask that your completed parental consent form is returned to the school office on or before, but no later than Friday 28th November, thank you.

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 will be sent with further information in the coming weeks.

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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.





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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 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/>

Family Solutions – Parent / Carer Internet Safety talks

Taking place on a Monday on the following dates; 17th November, 24th November, 1st December, 8th December. We will have a visitor from Family Solutions offering Parents/Carers an Internet Safety talk (the DICE programme) from 9am until 11am. The DICE programme has been devised by Barnardo's following feedback from parents where they stated the felt alone, worried and powerless in relation to dealing with the modern-day risks faced by families such as grooming and digital dangers. DICE was given its name as parents have said that parenting teenagers is like the luck of a roll of the dice. The DICE programme aims to help parents develop their skills, build knowledge, and increase confidence to meet the needs of their children as they grow up in the modern world whilst using the internet. All are welcome to attend the sessions, it is a 4 week talk and is more beneficial when able to attend all the sessions, we do ask that you inform Miss Gray in the school office of your attendance as we will need to be informed of numbers.





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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.

Praise Assembly Celebrations!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Yellow

Walking boot: Year 3

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

Sreema Y R, Ada Y 1, Eleanor Y 2, Penelope Y 3, Daisy Y 4, Annie Y 5, Enyinna Y 6

Week commencing 13.10.25

Attendance Ted

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

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year R who won our 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. 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.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis

Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
October 2025		
Friday 31 st	Closing date for Secondary School Applications	
November 2025		
Wednesday 5 th – Wednesday 12 th	Scholastic Book Fair	
Thursday 6 th	MYG Basketball Competition	
Friday 7 th	Year 6 – Remembrance Assembly	
Monday 10 th	Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day	
Thursday 13 th	Whole School Flu Immunisation	
Friday 14 th	Road Safety Talks	
Friday 21 st	Children in Need – Tag Day PTA Winter Disco	3:30-4:15 4:30-5:30
Wednesday 26 th	Advent Wreath Service	
Thursday 27 th	MYG Badminton Competition	
Friday 28 th	Tag Day for Christmas Fayre	
December 2025		
Thursday 4 th	Grandparents & Mince Pies afternoon Christmas Choir Concert	6:00pm
Friday 5 th	PTA Christmas Fayre	3:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday 9 th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	2pm
Wednesday 10 th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	6pm
Thursday 11 th	Children's Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 12 th	Whole School Pantomime	
Wednesday 17 th	Advent Junior Carol Service (KS2)	
Thursday 18 th	Celebration Assembly	2:15pm
Friday 19 th	Crib Service End of Term 2	