



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 4: Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

Beginning of the School Year Mass

Our new academic year began with a beautiful Welcome Mass, bringing together our school and parish community in prayer and thanksgiving. We thought especially about St Francis of Assisi during this special 800-year Catholic celebration and reflected on how we can follow his example in our daily lives. A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful readers, altar servers, choir, children and parishioners for making the celebration such a reverent, joyful and prayerful event.

Reception First Class Photograph

This week reception had their first-class photograph taken. This will be available in the Medway Messenger newspaper being published in November, we will inform parents closer to the time of the exact date.

School Council Inaugural Meeting

This week, the newly formed School Council took part in recording their thoughts on what it's like to be a child in England today. This important survey has been organised by the Children's Commissioner Rachel de Souza, recording the hopes and fears for the future of more than 650,000 children. The results will be taken to the very top of the Government, helping to make life better for children from all backgrounds and situations. We would encourage all children at SWOP to complete the survey at home with a trusted adult, or they can even do the survey by themselves if they feel confident to do so. Everything your child says on the survey will be kept private, and you don't have to answer every question if you don't want to. There are no right or wrong answers! You can complete the survey here www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/ and you can find more information here www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-future/

Admissions

The Medway admissions are open for primary school applications 2027 / 2028. You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023. 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 continue our parental tours on Monday 28th September at 10am or 11am. These will then continue on a Tuesday morning starting from Tuesday 6th October for perspective new parents. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

The Medway admissions is also open for secondary school applications. You can apply for your child to start secondary school if they were born between 1 September 2014 and 31st August 2015. 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 to absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk

Harvest Collection – Medway Food Bank Appeal

This year we will be supporting Medway Food Bank through our harvest appeal. A desired list of items has been attached along with this newsletter. All donations will be greatly received; your donations will help local families who are experiencing hardship.





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Future Events

Individual School Photographs – Monday 28th September

Our school photographers, Kittle Photography will be visiting on Monday 28th September, all children are to wear their Winter uniform please.

KCSP Welcome Mass – Tuesday 29th September

On Tuesday 29th September our Year 4, 5 & Year 6 Prayer Pilgrims will be visiting Aylesford Priory for our KCSP Welcome Mass.

Year 6 Swimming Session 3 – Tuesday 29th September

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.

Build-a-Burger Special Menu – Thursday 1st October

Contract dining will be serving a special build a burger menu on Thursday, 1st October. Children will get to choose either a beef burger or veggie burger with various fillings along with wedges. The full menu has been sent via ParentMail.

Macmillan Coffee Afternoon – Friday 2nd October at 2:15pm

We will be having our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on Friday 2nd October 2026, at 2:15pm, in our school hall to help raise money for Macmillan cancer support.

We would love for you all to join us for tea/coffee and cakes & other goodies. If anyone is able to donate any cakes/biscuits/cookies/cupcakes (**NUT-FREE**), shop bought or home-made, these would be greatly appreciated.

Please note that due to allergen requirements – all baked goods will need a clear list of all ingredients used & shop bought goods to be in their original labelled packaging.

We ask that any donations are brought in on the morning of Friday, 2nd October. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

PTA Christmas Design – Friday 2nd October (Deadline)

This week each child has been sent home with a template and instructions for our 'Draw your own Christmas Design'. Draw your picture for Christmas is something we have done at SWOP for the past couple of years, your child can draw their picture and then this can be used to be put on a pack of cards, a magnet or even a teddy. Should your child wish to take part, please ensure your completed design has been returned to the school office no later than Friday 2nd October as these are being sent the following week.

Year 4 Class Trip Kent Life Roman Day – Monday 5th October

As part of their history curriculum, Year 4 will be visiting Kent Life on Monday 5th October for their themed Roman Day. We ask for your parental consent and payment to be completed via ParentPay as soon as possible, but no later than Friday 2nd October 2026.

Year 4 & Year 6 History Workshop – Tuesday 6th October

On Tuesday 6th October, Year 4 & Year 6 will be visited by a Historian from Guildhall Museum to each have their history workshop. Year 4's topic will focus on the Romans and Year 6's topic will focus on Ancient Greece. We ask for your payment to be completed via ParentPay as soon as possible but no later than Friday 2nd October.

Harvest Mass – Thursday 8th October

We would like to invite everyone to a very special Harvest Festival service at **St John Fisher Church** on **Thursday 8th October at 9:30am**. Families, friends and parishioners are warmly welcome to join us as we give thanks for God's gifts and celebrate our school community.

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.



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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.

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/>

Praise Assembly Celebrations!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Red

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

Adeola Y 1, Ada Y 2, Sienna Y 3, Milan Y 4, Bruno Y 5, Aaron Y 6

Week commencing 14.09.26

Attendance Ted

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

Punctuality Pup

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

Staff Training Day Reminder

Please note that **Monday 2nd November** is an **INSET (Staff Training) Day**. The school will be closed to pupils on this day to allow staff to participate in professional training and development. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

INSET DAY – Monday 16th November 2026

Please be advised that we have organised an INSET day for Monday, 16th November. Please be advised no children will be in school on that day.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
September 2026		
Monday 28 th	Kittle Individual Photos - winter uniform to be worn	
Tuesday 29 th	Trust Welcome Mass – Aylesford Priory (Prayer Pilgrims)	
October 2026		
Thursday 1 st	Build-a-Burger Special Menu	
Friday 2 nd	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon	2:15pm
Monday 5 th	Yr 4 Class Trip – Kent Life Roman Day	
Tuesday 6 th	History Workshops – Yr 4 & Yr 6	
Thursday 8 th	Harvest Mass	9:30am
Friday 9 th	Year 3 Class Assembly	9:05am
Friday 16 th	Year R Height & Weight Checks	
Wednesday 21 st	EYFS Through Our Eyes Parents Evening	9-10am 2-3pm 3:50pm – 6:50pm
Thursday 22 nd	Celebration Assembly Parents Evening	2:15pm 3:50pm – 6:50pm
Friday 23 rd	End of Term 1	
Monday 26th – Friday 30th	Half term	
November 2026		
Monday 2 nd	Start of term 2	
Tuesday 3 rd	History Workshops (Year 2 & Year 5)	
Monday 9 th – Thursday 12 th	Scholastic Book Fair	3:30pm
Thursday 12 th	Whole School Flu Immunisation	
Friday 13 th	PTA Quiz Night	
Monday 16 th	INSET Day – No children in school	

School Council Inaugural Meeting

