St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 9: Friday 6th November 2026

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 have been learning about remembrance this week. In support of the Royal British Legion, we continue to have paper poppies and assorted merchandise on sale leading up to Armistice Day on the 11th of November.

Year 2 & Year 5 History workshops
Year 2 and Year 5 had their history workshops this week. Our Historian Jeremy told Year 2 the story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder plot and were even shown ancient artefacts including the original Monteagle letter. Year 5 enjoyed their workshop on the Anglo-Saxons where they learnt about some local history along with viewing the ancient artefacts that were brought from the Guildhall Museum.

Year 6 Class 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 Captain Tom 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. He was very impressed with Year 6's reverence and the mature questions they asked.

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. We will continue to sell these up until Wednesday, 11th November.

Children who attend Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers are able to wear their Scout uniforms to school on Remembrance Day, Wednesday 11th November 2026.

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 23rd 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

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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 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 a Tuesday morning at either 10am or 11am for perspective new parents. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

Future Events

Book Fair – Monday 9th – Thursday 12th November
Will be held Monday 9th – Thursday 12th 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.

EYFS & KS1 Grandparents Lunch – Tuesday 10th November
We look forward to the Grandparents (or if they are not available, a surrogate Grandparent) of children in years R, 1 and 2 to be joining their child / children for lunch on Tuesday 10th November 2026. Year R adults are asked to arrive at 11.20 am, Year 1 at 11.30 am and Year 2 at 11.40 am as lunch will be served from 11.30 am (starting with Year R children).

Nativity Swap Shop – Tuesday 10th November
We are excited to be hosting our 'Swap Shop' again this year in preparation of our EYFS & Infant Nativity. If you have any costumes that you no longer require that you are happy to donate, then please send these in with your child to give to their class teacher. We will then host our Swap Shop on Tuesday 10th November, at 3.30pm. The 'Swap Shop' will be an opportunity for you to borrow a suitable costume for your child's role which can then be returned after the performances. We hope this will be something we can continue to run every year to reduce waste and recycle.

Year 6 Swimming Session 8 – Tuesday 10th 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.

Whole School Flu Immunisation – Thursday 12th November
The immunisation team will be visiting school on Thursday 12th 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

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

Children in Need – Friday 13th November
We will be holding a charity Tag Day on Friday 13th 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 (the brighter / spottier the better!). Please bring in your chocolate no later than Monday 9th November. Our Year 6s are organising a number of fund-raising events which have been promoted via ParentMail. The fayre will be cashless, payment is on ParentPay, parents can donate between £1 - £3 for your child to spend at the Fayre. On the day children will be given 'Pudsey Pounds' to spend (£1 = 2 Pudsey Pounds).

PTA Quiz Night – Friday 13th November
On Friday 13th November we will be hosting a PTA quiz night, doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Maximum ten per table - £6 per person. Adults only. If you wish to attend, please return your team application form and purchase your tickets online via the following link: PTA Events - Quiz Night

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Odd Socks Day – Friday 20th November
Monday 16th – Friday 20th November is anti-bullying week, and we will be learning about how to maintain positive relationships with our friends during our PSHE lessons. Due to our Inset Day on 16th, we will be participating in odd socks day on Friday 20th November to mark this week. Pupils will be allowed to wear odd socks into school on Friday 20th November in addition to normal school uniform to raise awareness and understanding of anti-bullying week.

Pyjama Day – Friday 27th November
Children are invited into school on Friday 27th November wearing their pyjamas for a £2.05 donation (per child) to be paid via ParentPay.

PTA Film Night – Friday 27th November
SWOP PTA will be hosting a film night to help raise funds for the school. On this day directly after school, the PTA members will be running a film night with a choice of films for children to watch. We aim to be finished by 5:00 pm. More information and bookings will be available next week.

Year 6 Carol Concert – Thursday 3rd December
Children in Year 6 will be performing at the Schools MMA Christmas Carol Festival which will take place at Rochester Cathedral on Thursday 3rd December 2026 along with other schools from the Medway area. We will be having a rehearsal with the other schools in the morning before lunch. We will be spending the day at the Cathedral, the Christmas Carol Festival itself will be held in the Cathedral starting at 2 pm and finishing by 3 pm; we have been allocated ONE ticket per child for this event in order that a parent or carer can attend. This is a ticketed event. Only parents / carers / relations / friends with a ticket can gain entry to the Cathedral from 1.30 pm. Full information will be sent via ParentMail next week.

Infant Nativity – Tuesday 8th & Wednesday 9th December 2026
Years R, 1 and 2 will perform their Infant Nativity on Tuesday 8th December at 2pm followed by an evening performance on Wednesday 9th December at 6pm. Letters have been sent home today regarding further information and seating requirements.

Whole School Pantomime – Tuesday 15th December
On Tuesday 15th December 2026, we have arranged for the whole school to watch 'Cinderella' at the Central Theatre, Chatham. We ask for your completed parental consent / lunch choice / refreshment choice on ParentPay no later than 3:30pm on Friday 27th November 2026, thank you.

Advent Junior Carol Service – Thursday 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.

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.

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.

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.mscb.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/

First Holy Communion
Please see the below information from St John Fish Church regarding First Holy Communion.

- First Holy Communion classes will begin in October for children in year 3.
- Children should make their FHC in the Church which they regularly attend and / or in the parish in which they live. St John Fisher Church covers the ME1 postcode.
- This will be a lovely opportunity for parents to look at their faith and help themselves and children form a loving relationship with Our Lord.
- Classes will begin on **Saturday 7th November at 11:30am** in the parish hall. Please see Fr Neil for an application form.

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.
Harley Y R, Rhea-Seray Y 1, Frank Y 2, Delilah Y 3, Thalia Y 4, Stanley Y 5, Olivia Y 6

Week commencing 19.10.26
Attendance Ted
Well done to Year R who won our Attendance Ted for the week.
Punctuality Pup
Well done to Year 6 who won our Punctuality Pup for the week.

INSET DAY – Monday 16th November 2026
Please be advised that we have organised an INSET day for Monday, 16th November. The school will be closed to pupils on this day to allow staff to participate in professional training and development.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis
Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

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	Diary Dates – *Subject to Change*	
November 2026		
Monday 9th – Thursday 12th	Scholastic Book Fair	3:30pm
Tuesday 10th	Grandparents Lunch (EYFS & KS1)	
Thursday 12th	Whole School Flu Immunisation MYG Basketball	
Friday 13th	Children in Need – Tag Day PTA Quiz Night	
Monday 16th	INSET Day – No children in school	
Friday 20th	Odd Socks Day	
Friday 27th	Pyjama Day PTA Xmas Film Night	
December 2026		
Thursday 3rd	Year 6 Carol Concert – Rochester Cathedral MYG Badminton	
Friday 4th	PTA Christmas Fayre	
Tuesday 8th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – afternoon performance	2pm
Wednesday 9th	EYFS & KS1 Nativity – evening performance	6pm
Thursday 10th	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day Grandparents Tea & Mince Pies	2pm
Friday 11th	Choir Christmas Concert	
Tuesday 15th	Whole School Pantomime	
Thursday 17th	Advent Junior Carol Service (KS2)	6pm

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