



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 12: Friday 28th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent when we begin preparations for the coming of our saviour Jesus. Within school we will be learning about this important season. This began with our Advent Wreath service on Wednesday where we learnt about the meaning of Advent and the symbolism of the Advent wreath. We will also think about how we can make ourselves ready and how we can help others.

We are about to enter a very busy time of year. Please look at the future events section to find information out about our Christmas events, we hope to see you all there.

MYG Badminton

A team of Year 5 & 6 pupils represented the school at the MYG Badminton competition. They were praised for their excellent behaviour. Well done to – Gemima, Rosie, Jude, Enzo, Riley, Emma & Hannah from Year 5, and Jacob B, William H & Eva from Year 6.

Medway Foodbank

Thank you for all the donations, these have now been collected and we hope those children that receive them enjoy the countdown to Christmas.

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.

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/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 parental tours on a Tuesday morning at 10:00am for perspective new parents. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

Future Events





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Year 6 Swimming Session 11 – Tuesday 2nd December

Year 6 swimming continues next Tuesday, this will be the final session this term. 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 as we will be attending the sessions even if the weather is inclement.

Prayer Club – Friday's

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

Grandparents Tea and Mince Pies – Thursday 4th December

Grandparents, a surrogate Grandparent and elderly relatives will be joining us for tea and mince pies next Thursday, 4th December as the School Choir bring festive cheer to the event with well-known Christmas Carols.

Christmas Choir Concert – Thursday 4th December

On Thursday 4th December, the Choir will have their evening Concert. The choir should be at school by 5:45 pm, dressing in Christmas colours i.e., red, gold, silver, green. If possible, they can also bring a Father Christmas hat, please ensure this is labelled. We look forward to seeing the children's performance.

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 held a Tag day today. 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, 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.

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. The menu has been sent via ParentMail. All meals for this day need to be booked via ParentPay (**regardless of your child's year group**) **no later than Wednesday 3rd December**. We will not be able to accommodate any bookings after this date. You can book on ParentPay by going to "Book meals and places" and selecting Thursday 11th December, do not hesitate to contact the school office should you have any issues with this.

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 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.

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.

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.





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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.

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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.

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:





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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; 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 they 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.

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.

Praise Assembly Celebrations!

House Points. Team house winner this week: Green

Walking boot: Year 2

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

Leonardo Y R, Amayah Y 1, Liam Y 2, Milan Y 3, Stanley Y 4, Arlo Y 5, Ocean Y 6

Week commencing 17.11.25

Attendance Ted

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

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 2 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





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
December 2025		
Monday 1 st	DICE – Parent Internet Safety Talk	9am – 11am
Tuesday 2 nd	Knights of Columba Visit	
Thursday 4 th	Grandparents & Mince Pies afternoon Christmas Choir Concert	2pm 6:00pm
Friday 5 th	PTA Christmas Fayre	3:30pm – 5:30pm
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	