



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 15: Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

KS2 Advent Carol Concert

Key Stage Two children worked very hard to prepare and lead a reverent and uplifting Advent service performed in the Church on Wednesday evening. The children behaved excellently and sang beautifully. Thank you to all the parents who supported the children.

Choir Visits – Year 3 & Year 6

As part of our catholic social teaching, Year 6 visited Rochester Gate and Year 3 visited Valley View to sing carols to the residents of these communities. The residents really enjoyed the children's singing and it brought much Christmas cheer to all. My thanks to all who helped organised these events.

Celebration Assembly

In terms 1-5, six children from each year group receive a celebratory certificate from their class teacher in acknowledgement of their achievements, which is presented to them in front of their peers at our celebration assembly. It always brings us great joy to share your children's achievements and yesterday's Celebration Assembly was no exception. Well done to all children who received a special certificate and thank you to parents / carers for joining us to share in this celebration.

Christmas Appeal – Wisdom Hospice

During our Christmas events we have been raising money for the Wisdom Hospice appeal. The total we have raised was over £300. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Christmas appeal.

After-School Clubs

Confirmation of Term 3 clubs will be sent on return in January. Should you wish to join please enquire with Miss Gray in the school office.

Wraparound Club Bookings

Please be reminded that our new system for both Breakfast and Afterschool club is now up and running on ParentPay. Should you wish to book your child onto either club then this is to be done directly on ParentPay. For both clubs, bookings need to be made / cancelled no later than 3:30pm the day before the session takes place.

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](https://www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk/Dates-for-applying-for-primary-school) | [Applying for a primary school place](https://www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk/Applying-for-a-primary-school-place) | [Medway Council](https://www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk/Medway-Council)

Future Events



**Education
Commission**
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



Medway
COUNCIL



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

PTA Annual General Meeting – Monday 12th January

We would like to give notice of the AGM of the St William of Perth PTA to be held on Monday 12th January 2026. The evening meeting will begin at 6:00pm and will be held in the school hall. Please return the slip below as soon as possible, or by Thursday 8th January at the latest to Miss Gray at the school office or email the PTA email address at pta@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk

Year 5 Swimming – Tuesday 13th January

Year 5 swimming sessions will start on Tuesday 13th January at the Sir Joseph Williamson Maths school pool. Please ensure your child has a coat as the children will be attending even if the weather is inclement. Letters have been sent this week, please ensure your consent has been returned by Wednesday 7th January.

Prayer Club

Led by our Prayer Pilgrims, we invite you all to our Prayer Club every Friday before school at 8:45am in the school hall. This will resume on the second week of term, Friday 16th January.

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.

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, 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.

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





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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/>

Safeguarding Update - Humphrey Book Series – Betty G Birney

An issue has arisen with the Humphrey series by Betty G. Birney- the weblink inside and on the back cover now redirects to inappropriate and unsafe material that should not be accessed by children or young people.

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/>

St John Fisher Christmas Mass Times

Please find below the times of church Masses over the Christmas period.

Saturday 20th of December

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

Followed by the decoration of the Church for Christmas

Sunday 21st December - Fourth Sunday in Advent

9am/11am/6pm Masses

Wednesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6:00pm Mass of Christmas Vigil

11.30pm Christmas Carols

12:00am Midnight Mass of the Nativity of our Lord

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

The Nativity of The Lord - Masses at 9:00 & 11:00am

NO EVENING MASS

Friday 26th December – Feast of Saint Stephen

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

Saturday 27th December – Saint John the Evangelist, Feast

No Mass

Sunday 28th December - The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

Mass at 9am/11am/6pm

Monday 29th December - Feast of St Thomas Becket, Martyr

9:00am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am Mass

Tuesday 30th December - 6th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

9:00am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

9:30am Mass

Wednesday 31st December - 7th Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

6.00pm Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

6:30pm Mass

Thursday 1st January 2026 – Mary the Holy Mother of God

9:30am Adoration of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

10:00am Mass

Sunday 4th January 2026 - Second Sunday of Christmas

9am/11am/6pm Masses

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>

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.





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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.

Week commencing 08.12.25

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 5 & year 6 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 5 who won our Punctuality Pup for the week.

Week commencing 15.12.25

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 1 & Year 3 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 5 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.

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.

At this time, it is important that we think of members of our school community who have lost loved ones and may find the Christmas season difficult. We pray that God will give them strength and comfort.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, I thank you for all the cards, presents and Christmas messages that we have received. I hope you all have a Happy, Restful and Healthy Christmas and New Year!

Children will return to school for the start of term 3 on Monday 5th January 2026.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis
Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

Diary Dates – Subject to Change		
December 2025		
Friday 19 th	End of Term 2	
January 2026		
Monday 5 th	Start of Term 3 – Children return to school	
Tuesday 6 th	Epiphany Mass	9:30am
Thursday 8 th	Swimming Gala – Kings school	4:15pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday 13 th	Year 5 Swimming	
Wednesday 14 th	Jazz and Classical Music Performance	
Thursday 15 th	MYG Swimming Competition	
Wednesday 21 st	St Justus Visit – Year 5 Class Trip	
Monday 26 th	Chatham Synagogue – Year 6 Class Trip	
February 2026		
Monday 2 nd	Medway Gurdwara – Year 3 Class Trip	
Friday 13 th	End of Term 3	

