



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Mr J. Willis (NPQEL)
Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 16: Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back and a very happy New Year! I hope you have all had a peaceful and happy Christmas with your children and families, but it is always so lovely to see the children returning to school after a holiday.

The children have begun Term 3 keen and eager in their learning. Please continue to support them in all their homework and home reading. It all makes such a difference!

Please be sure to check the Diary Dates as we have lots of upcoming events this Term.

Epiphany

On Tuesday morning our students participated in a whole school Mass celebrating the feast of Epiphany.

MYG Swimming Gala

Some Year 6 pupils attended a Mini Gala held at the Kings school this Thursday in preparation for the forthcoming MYG Swimming Competition which takes place next Thursday, 15th January. The children did really well and we congratulate them on their efforts, well done to Jacob B, William H, Jacob H, Lillia, Ella, Wilson, Olivia and Eva from Year 6.

Severe Weather Procedure

A reminder of our severe weather procedure can be found on our website as below, to ensure all parents / carers are aware of the procedure in the event we have adverse weather.

[Severe Weather – St William of Perth](#)

After School Clubs

Clubs restart next week. Please ensure all places have been booked via ParentPay. Any children not booked will need to be collected at normal time, all bookings close at 3:30m the day before the club commences. Information has all been sent via ParentMail, any issues do let the school office know.

Admissions

The Medway admissions close on **Thursday 15th January at 5pm** 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](#)

What is the Year of Reading?

Our Year of Reading is a school wide celebration designed to inspire every child to develop a lifelong love of books. Throughout the year, we will be creating exciting opportunities for children to enjoy stories, explore new authors, and build their confidence as enthusiastic, fluent readers, World Book Day events and library visits. By encouraging regular reading at home and at school, we hope to help children discover the joy of reading for pleasure, strengthen their imagination, and deepen their understanding of the world around them. The Year of Reading aims to nurture positive reading habits, spark curiosity, and show children that books can open doors to endless adventures.

Each class will also be running a special and exciting reading challenge, with a particular focus on home reading and the regular signing of the reading contact book. These challenges are designed to motivate children, celebrate their achievements, and strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Later in the year, you will be invited to extra reading activities, special library opportunities, and the exciting chance to meet a local author. More details about these events will be shared as the year progresses.

Future Events





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 sent via ParentMail as soon as possible (paper copies are available from 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, please ensure your consent has been returned.

Jazz and Classical Music Performance – Wednesday 14th January

All pupils will be taking part in a special jazz and classical music performance, led by professional classical and jazz musicians. The musicians will deliver engaging, age-appropriate performances for each key stage, giving pupils the opportunity to experience live music and to learn more about different musical styles, instruments and performance techniques. This exciting event supports our music curriculum and aims to inspire pupils through high-quality live performance. We ask that your contribution of £1.25 is paid no later than Monday 12th January 2026.

Build-A-Burger Special Menu - Thursday 15th January

Next Thursday we will be having a special Build-A-Burger menu. Children will have the choice of beef or veggie burger, along with the extras of lettuce, tomato, onions, cheese & ketchup. For dessert children will be able to decorate their own ice cream.

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 continue next Friday, 16th January.

SCHOOL TRIPS

In order to develop the children's understanding of other faiths and cultures we have arranged for the following class visits.

Year 5: Will visit St. Justus Church TBC, unfortunately this has been postponed from the 21st January.

Year 6: Will visit the Chatham Synagogue on Monday 26th January

Year 3: Will visit the Medway Gurdwara on Monday 2nd February. In respect of Sikh customs, children will also need to bring a woolly hat or headscarf with them (**no caps**) to wear during their visit to the Gurdwara.

Through our Eyes (Year R Stay and Play Session) – Thursday 29th January

Our next "Through our Eyes" session will be taking place on Thursday 29th January (9 – 10 am) and (2 – 3 pm) for Year R parents and Carers. This gives parents an opportunity to learn about the Year R curriculum and also to take part in their child's learning.

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





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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 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/>

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.

Year R – Who Helps Us?

This term, children in St John's Class will be exploring the question 'Who Helps Us?'. We are looking for volunteers who would like to come into the classroom and talk to the children about what they do to help people. Some examples may include police officers, hairdressers, florists to name a few. If you would be willing to come in and talk to the children, please contact Miss Dormedy or the school office. Thank you!

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.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis

Headteacher





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>		
January 2026		
Tuesday 13 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 1	
Wednesday 14 th	Jazz and Classical Music Performance	
Thursday 15 th	MYG Swimming Competition	
Tuesday 20 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 2	
Monday 26 th	Chatham Synagogue – Year 6 Class Trip	
Tuesday 27 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 3	
Thursday 29 th	Year R – Through our Eyes	9-10am 2-3pm
Friday 30 th	Year 6 Class Assembly	9:05am
February 2026		
Monday 2 nd	Medway Gurdwara – Year 3 Class Trip	
Tuesday 3 rd	Year 5 Swimming – Session 4	
Thursday 5 th	MYG Table Tennis Competition	
Tuesday 10 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 5	
Friday 13 th	End of Term 3	
Monday 23 rd	INSET DAY – no children in school	
Tuesday 24 th	Start of Term 4 - Children return to school Kittle – Group Photographs Year 5 Swimming – Session 6	