



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Mr J. Willis (NPQEL)
Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 17: Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Jazz and Classical Music Performance

On Wednesday we welcomed Caroline and Harry who gave us a wonderful performance demonstrating many musical instruments and styles. The children had an amazing time, and we are incredibly grateful to both Caroline and Harry for sharing with our school their musical talents. We hope that this will inspire our students in developing a lifelong love of music as well.

MYG Swimming Competition

Well done to Midori, Jacob B, Adam, William H, Ella, Wilson, Olivia and Eva from Year 6 who represented our school at the Medway Youth Games competition. They worked very hard and gave their all - achieving some great results.

Admissions

The Medway admissions closed yesterday, **Thursday 15th January at 5pm** for primary school applications 2026 / 2027. Please see the below link for future dates:

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

Future Events

Year 5 Swimming – Tuesday 20th January

Year 5 swimming sessions will continue on a Tuesday 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.

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.

SCHOOL TRIPS

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

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

Year 5: Will visit St. Justus Church on Wednesday 28th 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.

Year of Reading – Reading is King!

Our Year of Reading is a school wide celebration designed to inspire every child to develop a lifelong love of books. Throughout the year, you will be invited to extra reading activities, special library opportunities, and the exciting chance to meet a local author. Parents are invited in on the below dates in Term 3 between 2:45pm – 3:10pm for a short reading workshop with your child, more dates will follow in Term 4.

Thursday 22nd January – Year 6

Thursday 5th February – Year 2





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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 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) - week beginning Monday 8th June 2026.





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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

Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>		
January 2026		
Tuesday 20 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 2	
Thursday 22 nd	Year 6 – Parent Reading workshop	2:45pm – 3:10pm
Monday 26 th	Chatham Synagogue – Year 6 Class Trip	
Tuesday 27 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 3	
Wednesday 28 th	St Justus – Year 5 Class Trip	
Thursday 29 th	Year R – Through our Eyes	9-10am 2-3pm
Friday 30 th	Year 6 Class Assembly – Yr 6 Parents Invited	9:05am
February 2026		
Monday 2 nd	Medway Gurdwara – Year 3 Class Trip	
Tuesday 3 rd	TTRS Tag Day – Dress up as a Rockstar Year 5 Swimming – Session 4	
Thursday 5 th	MYG Table Tennis Competition Year 2 – Parent Reading workshop	2:45pm – 3:10pm
Monday 9 th	One World Week	
Tuesday 10 th	Year 5 Swimming – Session 5	
Thursday 12 th	Celebration Assembly	2:15pm
Friday 13 th	Year 2 Class Assembly Open Afternoon – One World Week End of Term 3	9:05am 1:30pm
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	



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Reception Class – Firefighter Visit

Whilst exploring their topic of "Who Helps us?" Reception class had a visit from a firefighter this week. They learnt about fire safety and what a firefighter does. The children especially enjoyed trying on the firefighter suit and hat.



Jazz & Classical Music Performance



MYG Swimming Competition

