



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 7: Friday 17th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we are already at the end of Term 1! The first term has gone by so quickly. We look forward to a very busy Term 2 after the half-term break.

SEND & Friends – Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended our coffee morning on Monday. We hope you found the information helpful.

UCM Visit

The school wish to thank the UCM (Union of Catholic Mother's) for visiting our school this week. The Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) is a national organisation within the Catholic Church in England and Wales, dedicated to supporting our parish. A central part of UCM's spiritual life is devotion to the Rosary, a traditional Catholic prayer that reflects on the life of Jesus and Mary. We are very grateful for the visit from Mrs Durkan and Mrs Back, who shared the mission and values of the Union of Catholic Mothers with us and taught year 3 and year 6 more about Mary. Their presence and prayers were a meaningful reminder of the strength and support found in faith and community. Thank you both for your time and inspiration.

Parents Evening

Thank you to all the parents who attended our parent evenings this week. This is an important opportunity to share progress updates as we work in partnership to help the children fulfil their potential.

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 today'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.

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 10:15am for perspective new parents. Please contact the school office to book onto a tour.

The Medway admissions is also open for **secondary school applications**. You can apply for your child to start secondary school if they were born between 1 September 2014 and 31st August 2015. For more information and key dates please see the following link: [Dates for applying for secondary school](#) | [Applying for a secondary school place](#) | [Medway Council](#)

Please note that applications for secondary schools closes on Friday 31st October.

If you are planning to view secondary schools during the school day, please confirm the date and time that your (Y6) child will be absent from St. William Perth and the school that you will be visiting to absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk. Please can you also inform the school of your child's meal option if they are missing registration and returning before lunch.





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Love in a Box

We are very proud to be supporting the 'Love in a Box' mustard seed appeal again this year. For more information on what they do, please see the link below:

[Love in a Box – Mustard Seed Relief Mission](#)

Future Events

Year 6 Swimming Session 6 – Tuesday 28th October

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.

Prayer Club – Friday's

During this month of October, the school, led by our Prayer Pilgrims, will continue to share the Rosary before school on a Friday. All welcome.

Forest School – Year 5 – Friday 31st October

Year 5 will be starting Forest School sessions next term starting from Friday, 31st October. Sessions will run on a Friday afternoon in Term 2.

New Year R Parent Lunch – Wednesday 29th October

Yr. R parents / carers have been invited to attend lunch with their child on Wednesday 29th October. All bookings are now closed.

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.

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.





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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:

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; 17th November, 24th November, 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 the 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, we do ask that you inform Miss Gray in the school office of your attendance as we will need to be informed of numbers.

Charity Events:

We are very proud of our children and their understanding of others needs both in our school and the wider community. As such, we would like to support various charities throughout this academic year. To help you budget for any charitable donations; may we take this opportunity to let you know of our plans so far.

Poppy Appeal – In support of the Royal British Legion. We hope to be able to offer paper poppies and assorted merchandise to offer for sale leading up to Armistice Day on the 11th November.

Children in Need – Friday 21st November further details nearer the date.

Love in a Box – We will be supporting the Love in a Box mustard seed appeal. More information will be sent home in due course.

Medway Food Bank – Chocolate Advent Calendar collection. We welcome donations following the October half-term.

PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 28th November, further details nearer the date.

Week commencing 06.10.25

Attendance Ted / Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 5 who won both our Attendance Ted & Punctuality Pup for the week.





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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.

Mid-Day Meal Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a Mid-Day Meals Supervisor. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the position, please encourage them to speak with the office for further details.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
October 2025		
Friday 17 th	End of Term 1	
Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th	Half term	
Monday 27 th	Start of term 2	
	Year R & Year 6 – Height & weight Checks	
Wednesday 29 th	New Parents Lunch (Year R)	11:20am
Friday 31 st	Closing date for Secondary School Applications	
November 2025		
Wednesday 5 th – Wednesday 12 th	Scholastic Book Fair	
Thursday 6 th	MYG Basketball Competition	
Friday 7 th	Year 6 – Remembrance Service	
Thursday 13 th	Whole School Flu Immunisation	
Friday 14 th	Road Safety Talks	
Friday 21 st	Children in Need PTA Winter Disco	
Thursday 27 th	MYG Badminton Competition	
Friday 28 th	PTA Christmas Fayre	3:30pm – 6:00pm
December 2025	Whole School Pantomime	



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Winter Uniform from Term 2 until the End of Spring Term

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Royal blue cardigan or v-necked sweatshirt with school logo. (only available from school office).

OPTIONAL Navy-blue fleece with school logo (only available from school's approved supplier). This item is to be worn over school sweatshirt or cardigan, **not** in place of school sweatshirt or cardigan.

Coats: Plain colours – preferably navy or black.

Grey Skirt / Pinafore dress (not black).

Grey tailored trousers (not black).

Plain white school shirt/blouse (collar must be suitable to be worn over a tie). Not polo top.

School tie – (only available from school office).

Plain grey or white school socks, (trainer socks are not allowed).

Grey tights.

Black sensible shoes with straps / laces **no laces for EYFS**, (no trainers or boots).

For health and safety reasons, preferably not slip on / ballerina style (no shoes with high heels).

Hats – with school logo (only available from school office), or plain blue. Branded hats or fashion items may not be worn.

Hair should be smart and suitable for school. Hair should not cover the eyes and hinder learning. Gel should not be worn. No hair dye and no indentions. If hair is shoulder length or longer, it should be tied back in plain black hair elastics or plain elastics in school colours.

Book bag with school logo. (only available from school office).

EYFS additional uniform

Wellington boots - In a named carrier bag.

Apron

Puddle suit (waterproof over-trousers) - Optional for water play.

P.E. Kit ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

- Shorts – plain navy
- T-shirt with school logo (only available from school office)
- Plimsoles (black)
- P.E. Bag with school logo (only available from school office)
- All jewellery (e.g. watches and earrings) must be removed independently - no responsibility will be taken for these.
- Hair - long hair to be tied back.
- Field activities - children may wear trainers, (EYFS and KS1 Velcro/no laces).
- In cold weather children are allowed to wear (unbranded) plain black or plain navy sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms over their P.E. kit.