St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 8: Friday 23rd October 2026

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.

Learning About Other Faiths
Children in St Oscar Romero Class and St Patrick Class enjoyed a fascinating visit from Mrs Catherine Cleall from The Howard School, Rainham. Mrs Cleall shared her expertise on the Jewish faith, helping the children to develop a greater understanding of Jewish traditions, festivals and celebrations. The session was both informative and interactive, with pupils having the opportunity to explore religious artefacts, ask thoughtful questions and compare similarities and differences between faiths. It was wonderful to see the children's curiosity and enthusiasm as they broadened their knowledge of the world around them. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mrs Cleall for providing such a rich and memorable learning experience.

EYFS Through our Eyes
It was wonderful to see so many Year R parents join us for our first stay and play session. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Year R curriculum and how to support learning at home. We hope to have more stay and play (Through Our Eyes) sessions throughout the year.

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Visit
During the month of October, the children in St John Bosco Class, St Anthony Class and our lunchtime prayer group were delighted to welcome Mrs Delia Back from the Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM). Mrs Back led the children in a special time of prayer dedicated to Our Lady, helping them to learn more about the importance and beauty of the Rosary. Through her gentle guidance, the children explored the meaning behind the prayers and enjoyed a peaceful opportunity for prayerful reflection together. It was a wonderful experience that helped to strengthen their faith and deepen their relationship with Mary. We are very grateful to Mrs Back for sharing her time, knowledge and faith with us.

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 2027 / 2028. You can apply for your child to start school in year R (reception) if they were born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023. 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 continue our parental tours on a Tuesday morning at either 10am or 11am 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 close on Saturday 31st October.

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. From 30th October – 2nd November you can get 15% off whole order with the code: HALLOWEEN26
www.brigade.uk.com/content.php?page=select_school&for=parents

Clubs – Week commencing Tuesday 3rd November
Bookings for Term 2 clubs are live, full information has been sent via ParentMail. Please find the after-school club timetable below:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
15:20-16:20 Baking Club: KS1 Arts & Crafts: KS2	15:20-16:20 Chess Club: Yr4,5&6 Drama club: KS2	15:30-16:30 Mrs New's Choir: KS2	15:20-16:20 Dance/Gym: Yr 1 & 2 Ascend Football club: Year 4, 5 & 6	15:20-16:20 MYG club: 4, 5 & 6

A reminder that our wraparound after-school club will continue Monday – Friday with the first session until 4:30pm, and the second session until 5:30pm.

Future Events

Year 2 & Year 5 History workshop – Tuesday 3rd November
Throughout the year we will be having a Historian from Guildhall Museum who will be delivering History workshops to each class (Year 1 – Year 6). On Tuesday 3rd November, Year 2 & Year 5 will have their workshop. Year 2's topic will focus on Guy Fawkes and Year 5's topic will focus on Anglo-Saxons. In order for these workshops to go ahead, we ask for your payment to be completed via ParentPay.

Year 6 Swimming Session 7 – Tuesday 3rd November
Year 6 swimming continues on a Tuesday after half-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 and umbrella as we will be attending the sessions even if the weather is inclement.

Forest School – Year 4 – Friday 6th November
Year 4 will be starting Forest School sessions next term starting from Friday, 6th November. Sessions will run on a Friday afternoon in Term 2.

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

Book Fair – Monday 9th – Thursday 12th November
Will be held Monday 9th – Thursday 12th November. Books will be on sale from 3.30 pm in the KS1 corridor. All monies raised from book sales will be used to re-stock our class libraries. **This may be an excellent opportunity for you to buy some Christmas presents**. This will be cashless; all payments are to be made via card.

EYFS & KS1 Grandparents Lunch – Tuesday 10th November
In celebration of all Grandparents, together with Contract Dining our school meals provider, we would like to invite a Grandparent (or if they are not available, a surrogate Grandparent) of children in years R, 1 and 2 to join their child / children for lunch on Tuesday 10th November 2026. If you wish for someone to attend, please ensure the meal choice, attendee details, dietary requirements and payment has been completed via ParentPay as soon as possible but no later than Tuesday 3rd November 2026. It will not be possible to accommodate requests if handed in beyond this deadline. Full information has been sent via ParentMail.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November
We will be holding a charity Tag Day on Friday 13th November in support of Children in Need. For a donation of a bag, box or a bar of chocolate, children are invited to dress in their own clothes on the day (the brighter / spottier the better!). Our

school council will also be running a number of fund-raising activities during the afternoon at the 'Pudsey Fayre' to raise money for Children in Need. Further information will be sent via ParentMail next week.

PTA Quiz Night – Friday 13th November

On Friday 13th November we will be hosting a PTA quiz night, doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Maximum ten per table - £6 per person. Adults only. If you wish to attend, please return your team application form and purchase your tickets online via the following link: PTA Events - Quiz Night

Odd Socks Day – Friday 20th November

Monday 16th – Friday 20th November is anti-bullying week, and we will be learning about how to maintain positive relationships with our friends during our PSHE lessons. Due to our Inset Day on 16th, we will be participating in odd socks day on Friday 20th November to mark this week. Pupils will be allowed to wear odd socks into school on Friday 20th November in addition to normal school uniform to raise awareness and understanding of anti-bullying week.

Whole School Pantomime – Tuesday 15th December

On Tuesday 15th December 2026, we have arranged for the whole school to watch 'Cinderella' at the Central Theatre, Chatham. We ask for your completed parental consent / lunch choice / refreshment choice on ParentPay no later than 3:30pm on Friday 27th November 2026, thank you.

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.

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.

St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

https://stjohnfisher.me.uk/

First Holy Communion

Please see the below information from St John Fish Church regarding First Holy Communion.

- First Holy Communion classes will begin in October for children in year 3.
- Children should make their FHC in the Church which they regularly attend and / or in the parish in which they live. St John Fisher Church covers the ME1 postcode.
- This will be a lovely opportunity for parents to look at their faith and help themselves and children form a loving relationship with Our Lord.
- Classes will begin on **Saturday 7th November at 11:30am** in the parish hall. Please see Fr Neil for an application form.

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 will be offering paper poppies and assorted merchandise to offer for sale leading up to Armistice Day on the 11th November.
Children in Need – Friday 13th November further details nearer the date.
Medway Food Bank – Chocolate Advent Calendar collection. We welcome donation after October half-term.
PTA Christmas Fair – Friday 4th December, further details nearer the date.

Week commencing 12.10.26

Attendance Ted

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

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 3 & Year 6 who won our Punctuality Pup for the week.

INSET DAYS – Monday 2nd November & Monday 16th November 2026

Please note that **Monday 2nd November** is an **INSET (Staff Training) Day**. The school will be closed to pupils on this day to allow staff to participate in professional training and development. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on **Tuesday 3rd November**.
Please also be advised that we have organised an INSET day for Monday, 16th November. No children will be in school on that day.

We would like to thank Mrs Scott for her dedication and commitment, and wish her every happiness and success in the next chapter of her journey. She will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and families alike, and we thank her for being such a valued part of the St William of Perth family over the past 20 years.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – *Subject to Change*	
October 2026		
Friday 23rd	End of Term 1	
Monday 26th – Friday 30th	**Half term**	
November 2026		
Monday 2nd	INSET Day – No children in school	
Tuesday 3rd	Start of term 2 – Children return to school History Workshops (Year 2 & Year 5)	
Friday 6th	Year 6 Class Assembly	9:05am
Monday 9th – Thursday 12th	Scholastic Book Fair	3:30pm
Tuesday 10th	Grandparents Lunch (EYFS & KS1)	

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Thursday 12th	Whole School Flu Immunisation MYG Basketball	
Friday 13th	Children in Need – Tag Day PTA Quiz Night	
Monday 16th	INSET Day – No children in school	
Friday 20th	Odd Socks Day	
Friday 27th	PTA Xmas Film Night	
December 2026		
Thursday 3rd	Year 6 Carol Concert – Rochester Cathedral MYG Badminton	
Friday 4th	PTA Christmas Fayre	
Thursday 10th	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day Grandparents Tea & Mince Pies	
Friday 11th	Choir Christmas Concert	
Tuesday 15th	Whole School Pantomime	