



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 1: Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It has been wonderful to complete our first full week with all year groups since last March. The children have been very sensible in adapting to our new procedures and routines that we have put in place to help keep everyone safe. I would also like to thank all the parents for their support in following the new procedures, in particular the arrangements for drop off and collection times. We appreciate that this takes time to get use to and also understand the disruption this may have made to normal routines. It is important that the children continue to be dropped off and collected promptly at the appropriate times and that parents quickly leave the school site in order to minimise gatherings. A reminder of the times is listed below.

Week Beginning: 14th September

Year Group	Drop off time	Collection Time
Year R	08:40 (Year R Gate)	13:00 (Year R Gate)
Year 1	08:50 (Main Entrance)	15:10 (Main Entrance)
Year 2	08:50 (Year 5 and 6 Gate)	15:10 (Year 5 and 6 Gate)
Year 3	09:00 (Main Entrance)	15:20 (Main Entrance)
Year 4	09:00 (Year 5 and 6 Gate)	15:20 (Year 5 and 6 Gate)
Year 5	09:15 (Main Entrance)	15:35 (Main Entrance)
Year 6	09:15 (Year 5 and 6 Gate)	15:35 (Year 5 and 6 Gate)

Siblings Drop Off

Having reflected on our practice this week we would like to make a small tweak to our drop off arrangements which we hope will further improve safety around Canon Close. We would invite siblings to enter the school at the time of the youngest sibling within their family. This will mean that parents with siblings will not have to wait with their children in the Close and reduce the need for gathering. This would mean that if a family had a child in Year 1 and a child in year 5. The Year 5 pupil would be able to enter school at the Year 1 drop off time of 08:50 as opposed to waiting for the Year 5 drop off time of 09:15. Please note that this only applies to morning drop off times and not to afternoon collection which remain the same for all pupils.

Meeting Request for teachers

Please be aware due to the current climate we need to put measures in place to ensure the safety of all members of our school community when communicating with parents. This has affected our traditional communication channels with parents. We recognise that communication is vital in order to help children fulfil their potential. Should parents need to contact members of staff we ask firstly that where possible this takes place through a phone consultation rather than a face to face meeting in order to prevent potential transmission. Should it be deemed necessary for a face to face meeting then the following procedures must be adhered to in order to help keep everyone safe: only one parent to attend, face masks to be worn, hands to be hand sanitised upon entry and the meeting will take place in a room where social distancing can be observed. As we have explained the class dojo app is also a very good means of communication. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school community safe.





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Homework: Please read the letter that was sent home today (by Parentmail) about some of the changes we have made to homework in order to keep our school community safe.

School Improvements

We have had a very busy summer working to improve our school site. As you would have seen by now there are a number of changes. You will have noticed that we have had new fences installed which will improve the security and safeguarding of our school site. This work is ongoing and as a result our new bike shelter is not yet complete. We will advise when the bike shelter is ready for use and also the arrangements and expectations of its use.

In addition, we have had our playground resurfaced to help improve the quality of the children's playtimes as well as offering greater sporting opportunities. In the forthcoming weeks our playground will have new line markings which we hope will improve the provision of sporting activities within the school.

Our year 5 and 6 classrooms and learning support areas have had new LED lighting installed as well. This has significantly improved the visibility of these areas while also helping the environment by reducing our energy output. My thanks to all the hard work of the contractors in helping realise these improvements.

Forest School: Year 1 is taking part in Forest School this term. A letter has been sent home explaining the arrangements and the measures we have put in place due to the current health climate. Please remind children to bring their Forest School clothing on their allotted day each week.

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.

Tuesday 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 Tuesday morning after 9:30. Alternatively, you may email Mrs Ward 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 9:30am 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 Kinslow.

Uniform: The children all look super in their school uniforms. Please remember that children must wear 'sensible' shoes for their own health and safety, not trainers, boots or heels. No open top / toe sandals for girls as these create tripping hazards. Please make sure that your child's sandals have a strap across the foot to prevent them from falling over when running on the playground.

Children may wear their summer uniform up until the end of Term 1; all children are to wear winter uniform from the first day of Term 2, Monday 2nd November. Please note that sandals may not be worn with winter uniform.

A reminder that trainers or canvas shoes are not to be worn in school except for PE unless a letter explaining medical reasons is submitted and signed by parents.

Children must not wear jewellery other than watches and plain gold or silver ball stud earrings, and long hair needs to be tied back please. School hats are available from the office. Branded sunhats or fashion items may not be worn.





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Please ensure all items are named as we will be checking within class next week.

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 at a cost of £5.50 and £4.50 respectively.

Please ensure all PE kits are in school as PE is very important in helping us promote healthy lifestyles!!

Phoning Home for Forgotten Items: Please remind your child that usually the office will not be phoning parents if they forget to bring swimming kit, book bags, musical instruments etc., so they need to check they have everything ready for school before they leave home!

Outstanding Monies: We would be most grateful that, whenever possible, payment for school uniform, trips, school fund etc. is made by cheque rather than cash. Cheques are to be drawn to St. William of Perth RCP School, thank you.

After School Clubs: We believe after school clubs play an important part in school life and remain committed to their provision. Due to the current health climate and the government guidance with regards to bubbles being kept separate we are currently unable to provide any after school clubs this term. We will review and reassess based on the current guidance as we move through the term and advise accordingly for term 2.

Safeguarding: 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/>

To view or download a copy of a parent guide from NSPCC about 'PANTS' and how to keep your child safe from abuse click the link below: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/pants/pants-2018/pants-parents-guide-online.pdf>

Health Update

Understandably in the current climate there are a lot of questions with regards to illness. Please find listed below a useful flowchart which provides information to support parents.





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Introductory Talks for Parents in September 2020: We have had a very enthusiastic response to these talks over the last few years. However due to the current health situation we will be unable to hold physical meetings but still want to be able to provide you with this important information. What we propose is that our teachers will produce resources digitally to upload on their class websites and dojos to provide you with information about the Year group's curriculum, classroom routines etc. We will advise you of when these resources will become available in future newsletters.

St John's Class

We have come to the end of our first week of the new school year and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new pupils and their families. We warmly welcome the following children in St. John's Class (R):

Kai Chris Arthur Luke Gemima Rosie	Dom Willow Jude Nela Chloe Enzo	Calum Riley Pippa Sofia Lennon Archie	Amelia Hugo Nyah Cezara Olivia Naomi	Jude Emma Aaron Hannah Henry Annie
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Praise Celebrations for the week!

Merit Award: Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate. Y 1 Connie, Y 2 Rosie, Y 3 Lexi, Y 4 Queen, Y 5 Saniya, Y 6 Liam.

We also would like to keep in our prayers any families of our school community who have suffered bereavement during the summer holiday. May God comfort them at this difficult time.

INSET DAY Friday 23rd October 2020 - CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL

Enjoy your weekend

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

