



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 11: Friday 27th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and although our preparations will be different this year it is vital that we remember the importance of this season in preparing for the coming of Jesus. Within school this will be a key focus in the coming weeks.

Year 4 Virtual Assembly

Year 4 began our Advent preparations with an excellent virtual assembly about Advent. The assembly explored the meaning of the Advent wreath, the children's Advent promises and how we can make ourselves ready for the coming of Jesus. Well done Year 4.

Advent Wreaths

Although this year it has not been possible to meet together to hold our traditional Advent wreath service this week each class received their Advent wreath. Our Advent wreaths will be displayed on our class prayer altars and will form the focal point for our class prayers. Thank you to our very talented teaching assistants who made them. As a school community we are preparing for Christmas and focusing on the importance of keeping Jesus at the centre of our preparations through our RE lessons and daily prayers.

Christmas: Although preparations leading up to Christmas will be very different this year and we will be unable to hold our traditional events as a staff we are working very hard to ensure that the children enjoy this exciting time of year. Preparations are going on in the EYFS and KS1 bubbles for their class nativities. Santa's little elves have been busy working away after school and when your children return on Monday the school will be looking more festive.

New Internal Classroom Doors

This week the final batch of new classroom doors were installed in Year 5, 6 and the library as part of our drive to improve the security and safeguarding of our school site. We are really pleased with these improvements.

Flu Immunisations – Took place this week.

Safety Reminders – Given the current climate and the increasing numbers seen in Medway and Kent it is very important that we continue to maintain the highest levels of vigilance and care. Please find listed below some key reminders of how we can keep our school community safe.

A reminder to parents: dropping off and collecting children from school

It is extremely important that you follow social distancing rules when dropping off and collecting your child/children. Social distancing is vitally important to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please remember that when dropping off or picking up your child/children, you should:

- Wash your hands (20 seconds = a thorough wash) or use hand sanitiser before you arrive at school;
- Keep more than 1 metre apart from other parents and staff (ideally 2 metres);
- Only one member of your household should arrive at the school gates to collect your child/children (to help reduce the number of people at the school gate during pick-up times);





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

- Do not gather at the gates/outside school and leave as soon as you have seen your child walk through the gate. Using the one-way system by crossing over to the other side of Canon Close.
- If you need to visit the school reception area, then a face covering must be worn.

Please note that face coverings are optional to wear outside of the school; you can choose to decide to wear one at the school gates/outside school.

Ventilation

Following Government guidance to minimise the spread of the virus we have been following advice to keep rooms as well ventilated as possible. If your child is particularly susceptible to the cold then a base layer of a vest or t-shirt might be suitable as well.

Dropping items off

Recently we have had a number of items dropped off for children at the office. This poses a risk for staff as it means they have to handle and deliver items. Please can you make sure that children are fully equipped before coming to school and that items are not brought in to the office unless absolutely necessary. Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

New Addition to our School Uniform

As mentioned previously, we have added a navy fleece zip jacket to our school uniform list. This **non-compulsory** fleece is to be worn **over the top of** school jumpers/cardigans **not in place of them**. The fleece is available to purchase for £12.25, directly from our school uniform supplier Brigade, and can be viewed and ordered via the following link: http://www.brigade.uk.com/content.php?page=select_school&for=parents Please note that the fleece will include the embroidered school logo.

Until further notice, all other items of school uniform will remain available to purchase from the school office.

Christmas Cards

If children wish to share Christmas cards with their class, the cards must be brought into school between 30th November to 11th December. All cards should be placed in the year group boxes within class bubbles. They will then be quarantined and given out before the end of term. Please ask your children not to lick the envelopes instead get them to fold them.

Cashless School

It is our ambition to become a cashless school. If you need help accessing your ParentPay account or need a reminder of your activation code please contact the school office.

Primary and Secondary Admissions 2021 / 22

Applications for **secondary schools are now open and close at 5pm on Monday 30th November**. Please check the Medway Council website www.medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions or individual schools for information concerning admission criteria and open days. **If you do not submit your application by the 30th November your child may not be allocated the school of their choice.**

Applications for those children who will be 4 years of age before 31st August 2021 are now open and close on Friday 15th January at 5pm. School tours are currently suspended until further notice.

Catch up lessons

The government is providing funding to cover a one-off universal catch-up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year it aims to support pupils to catch up for lost learning during lockdown. These lessons will continue until the end of term for identified children every Monday.

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 9:30am. Alternatively, you may email Mrs Ward directly on sen@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk . Phone consultations are preferable.

Safeguarding

Please find below useful links to help keep children safe.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.mscc.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>

E-Safety





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> The site is produced by the NSPCC and provides lots of parental resources and guides for apps, games and social media sites.

PTA Donations If you have any outgrown items of school uniform that remain in good 're-saleable' condition, please feel free to leave them with the school office at your convenience. Our 'nearly new' school clothes are sold at 50p per item and are available through PTA uniform sales throughout the year and also on request from the school office.

If you have any unwanted toys / soft toys please consider donating them to the PTA for any future toy sales, again, they can be left at the school office at your convenience.

Next week

Yr. 6 Evacuee day – Friday 4th December

As Year 6 were unable to participate in their World War 2 Day at Kent Life, we would like to ask children to come dressed as an evacuee next **Friday 4th December** where they will engage in some fun activities throughout the day, enjoying life as an evacuee.

Praise Celebrations for the week!

Merit Award: Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate. Arthur YR, William H Y1, Francesco Y2, Evelyn Y3, Obi Y4, Shalom Y5, Alana – Jane Y6.

House Points

Team house winner this week: Blue

It was wonderful to welcome Year 5 back to our school family this week after their isolation. We would like to commend all the children on their excellent behaviour and hard work across all the year groups over the last couple of weeks during which everyone has faced challenges to their normal routines created by the health crisis.

Finally, we would like to offer our congratulations to, Enyinna Year 1 on the safe arrival of his baby brother Jiolenna.

We hope that you all stay safe and well. Have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

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