



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 12: Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is the second week of Advent with the theme of peace being explored in our Advent preparations. The children continue to light their Advent Wreaths in Class and reflect on how they can make themselves ready for the coming of the baby Jesus. The children have been busy working on their Christmas preparations within their bubbles and we look forward to sharing this with you on Class dojo in the coming weeks. Cafod have produced some excellent resources to help families with their Advent preparations which we recommend for your attention. Including this family Advent calendar Click on the link below for more information.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-families/Family-Advent-Calendar>

As we come out of the national lockdown and enter tier 3, I would like to again thank all of our parents and carers for your co-operation and understanding in maintaining social distancing and for the efforts that you are making to follow our dropping off and collecting procedures. All schools have been asked to continue to encourage parents and carers to follow social distancing guidelines when taking their children to and picking up their children from school to ensure their child or children only mix with those in their bubble. As you will know, infection rates have risen sharply and maintaining social distancing protocols is a key line of defence.

Year 6 Evacuee day – Year 6 had a wonderful day as they dressed up as evacuees and experienced what life was like in the blitz. Year 6 commented, “We really enjoyed our day as an evacuee. We had a fun time acting out “Carrie’s War” our class book as a drama. We practised finding a safe place during an air raid and we learnt how to play games that children use to enjoy during World War Two, like hop scotch. We also enjoyed playing Jacks. We learned how to use Morse code to send messages and we also pretended to be the home guard and practised marching.”

Year 2 Phonics - Year 2 have been working hard completing their phonics check and when these are completed we will share the results with parents.

Word of the day on Class dojo – As part of our focus of improving children’s vocabulary we are introducing a ‘word of the day’ on Class dojo. We hope that this will prove useful and help you support your child’s vocabulary development.

Wednesday Word – The Wednesday Word is currently available free online to families. This is a wonderful resource which explores the Gospel of the week as well as providing opportunities for family prayer. Please click on the link for more information. <http://www.wednesdayword.org/>

Coronavirus School information Page

Please click on the link below to find out information about services that can support families during the current crisis as well as the latest guidance with regards to Coronavirus. <https://www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk/Coronavirus>

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.





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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);
 - 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.

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 Admissions 2021 / 22

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.msrb.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>





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E-Safety

<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.

Medway Food Bank

Thank you for your generous donations of Advent calendars and groceries which were delivered to the Food Bank last week.

PTA NEWS

My thanks to the PTA for the continuing creativity and determination they show in creating fund raising initiatives to support our school during these difficult times.

PTA Christmas Mask Sale – Wednesday 9th December A fundraising sale of face masks will take place **after school on Wednesday 9th December**. To keep this COVID safe the face masks will be displayed on the school railings and people will be asked to leave donations in return in a bowl which will then be quarantined. The masks are available in both adult and child sizes, options include patterned, plain, Christmas and knitted. We hope that you will be able to support this initiative.

PTA Christmas Gifts Online sale – Please see the attached flyer advertising a small selection of Christmas gifts which parents will have the chance to order. Parents will be able to order gifts that they would like, which the PTA will then prepare. Once prepared the PTA gift bags will then be sent into school and quarantined for a period in order to ensure they are COVID safe, before being given out to take home.

Parking - This week we received a complaint from a neighbour with regards to poor parking and also of members of our school community walking over their gardens and driveways. We ask that all members of our school community are respectful of our residents and their property. We have a brand-new bike shelter and it would be wonderful if more choose to use this enjoyable method of travel instead of using the car.

Future Events

Whole School Children's Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 16th December 2020. The children and staff are all invited to wear a Christmas jumper on this day. School uniform is not required on this day. Christmas dinner will be served. Please book through ParentPay.

Last Day of Term Friday 18th December 2020 – Early Closure Time 1:40 – 2:00

The governors have agreed for the school to close at 1:40 pm – 2pm on the last day of term 2, Friday 18th December. Staggered collection times are listed below

Year R, 1 and 2 will leave at 1:40.

Year 3 and 4 – 1:50.

Year 5 and 6 - 2pm.

Usual collection / exit points apply.

Praise Celebrations for the week!

Merit Award: Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate. Hugo YR, Adam Y1, Amelia Y2, Jagoda Y3, Antonia Y4, Jacob Y5, Ayalah Y6.

House Points

Team house winner this week: Blue

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

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Headteacher

