



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 13: Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very nearly at the end of term and looking forward to some exciting Christmas activities within our bubbles next week. In particular, we are looking forward to our Christmas jumper and dinner day next Wednesday. This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent when we focus on rejoicing and being thankful for the good things in our lives. In school, next week the children will be focusing on this theme as we enter our final preparations for Christmas.

I am very grateful to all of our parents and carers for your support and understanding during these times. Your confidence in our control measures to keep everyone safe is reflected in our overall attendance which is above Medway and National figures. All the guidance received continues to emphasize the importance of children attending school. Of course COVID related absences are not penalised, and I am very grateful to parents and carers for keeping your children at home and getting a test for them or anyone in the household who is displaying symptoms of COVID-19 and informing us of the result promptly.

Attendance

We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone and with a very different Christmas season approaching some of you may feel that to be able to see loved ones who are vulnerable you and your family will need to isolate. Whilst we have every sympathy and do understand this we have to abide by Government guidelines which state that the best place for children is in school. If you make the decision to not send your child in please let the school know. However, please be aware that if we are not provided with medical evidence the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. Thank you for your understanding.

Christmas Appeal – The Friends of Wisdom Hospice

Traditionally at our Christmas events, we raise money for a charity as part of our Christmas appeal. We appreciate that this year is very different and you will not be able to donate in person however, we feel that it is very important that we continue to support our local communities through fundraising, especially at this time of need. This year we will be supporting the Wisdom Hospice and have created a Just Giving page for you to make cashless donations in order to support this charity while also keeping everyone safe. As part of our Christmas appeal, every child within the school community will have their name placed in a 'hat' in order to raffle a box of chocolates that will then be presented to one child from EYFS/Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Please click on the link below for full details.

[St William of Perth Virtual Nativity](#)

EYFS/ KS1 Nativities and KS2 Carols

EYFS and KS1 have been very busy this week recording their class bubble nativity performances. KS2 in their class bubbles have also been working hard and are working on performing a Christmas carol and a narration taken from our Advent service to share with parents. We hope to be able to upload these performances onto dojo from next Wednesday 16th December.





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Mini Enterprise

This week Year 6 mini enterprise products (after their period of quarantine to ensure they were covid safe) went on sale in all the classes. Our Year 6 pupils produced digital adverts which were shown on interactive whiteboards to promote the products in a covid safe manner. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our budding entrepreneurs in Year 6. It has been a fantastic learning experience for year 6, teaching them about: budgeting, product design, advertising, teamwork, health and safety and time management. We will let you know how much money was raised after the money has been quarantined. This money will be used, we hope to organise a summer trip for Year 6 to Mote Park.

Proposed Admissions Arrangements

We are required to consult with regards to our admissions arrangements for September 2022. A parentmail mail has been sent round with the proposed admissions arrangements. The proposed admissions arrangements have also been made public on our school website in the admissions section. The consultation period will be end on January 22nd.

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.

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.

This week we received some new posters from Medway Council which contain key safety messages to help keep our school community safe. We hope that you find them useful.

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.

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.





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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.msab.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

<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 NEWS

PTA Christmas Mask Sale Thank you to Mrs Hibben and the PTA for their efforts in organising the face masks fundraising sale after school on Wednesday. There were some fantastic designs and this was a lovely idea to help keep everyone safe over the Christmas holidays. We will let you know how much money has been raised when the quarantine has finished.

PTA Christmas Gifts Online sale – A flyer advertising a small selection of Christmas gifts was parent mailed out last week. 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.

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. Cezara YR, Oscar Y1, Samayah Y2, Aliona Y3, Kertisha Y4, Kekeli Y5, Niamh Y6.

House Points

Team house winner this week: Red





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Have a lovely and safe weekend; we're in tier 3 so no mixing of households, sleep overs, meeting indoors etc. Please do stick to the rules, we all want to have a safe Christmas with our loved ones.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

Advent Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus! Come! May this Advent be a time of deep renewal in my life, dear Lord. May it be a time in which I strive with all my heart to seek out Your gentle and profound voice. Give me the grace, dear Lord, to turn away from the many noises of the world that compete for my attention and to turn only to You and to all You wish to say. Come, Lord Jesus, come into my life more deeply during this Advent season. Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen

