



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher

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NEWSLETTER NO 2: Friday 18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been enjoying lovely weather this week and the children have loved playing on the field with their friends. The children are settling well and showing good effort in their studies. Year R continue to settle well and this week stayed for their lunch at school.

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 or individual schools for information concerning admission criteria and open days. Applications for those children who will be 4 before 31st August 2021 are now open and close on Friday 15th January at 5pm. School tours will be available after school from October for prospective parents for our new Year R class.

Summer Reading Challenge

It has been lovely to see so many reading challenges come into school from children who have been busy reading a range of texts over the summer. Please could you have all reading challenges sent to Mrs O'Connor by Friday 25th September. Mrs O'Connor will reward children and all children who completed the challenge will be put into a prize draw to win some books. We are looking forward to sharing some of your book recommendations with the rest of the school.

PTA Meeting

On Thursday our PTA held their first PTA meeting of the new academic year online. The meeting was well attended and the PTA had lots of very exciting and innovative ideas for the future. We will keep you updated. Our thanks to the PTA for their continued hard work.

Class Assemblies

As you are aware that due to the need to keep bubbles separate under the current guidance we are unable to hold assemblies at the moment. We have made some adaptations so that each week the children continue to engage in a collective worship activity within their class. Mrs Kinslow and myself also visit the classes on the Friday to give out our traditional praise assembly certificates so that these important routines and customs are continued within our school. Unfortunately we are unable to hold class assemblies where parents attend until further notice.

Rochester Pre School – Church Car Park

Please can we ask parents to be considerate of the cones that have been put out by the Rochester pre school to help social distancing during collection. We have been advised that the cones are being knocked out of place and being driven on. This is very frustrating for the staff who work hard to put these important safety measures in place and it is creating a lot of additional work for the staff. Please if you accidentally displace a cone can we ask that you replace it. Many of you would have sent children to this nursery and will appreciate how hard they work. If we can work together to support our community that would be great.

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





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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.

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.

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





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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.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>

Social Media

You may be aware of some inappropriate material being circulated on various sites. Please do be mindful of what sites your child is accessing e.g. Tick Tock, as some of the material is not suitable.

Praise Celebrations for the week!

Merit Award: Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate. Y 1 Tommy, Y 2 Vinnie, Y 3 Jeremiah, Y 4 Elisha, Y 5 Suzanna, Y 6 Joshua.

House Points

Team house winner this week: Green.

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

Enjoy your weekend

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

