



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

E-Mail: office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk
absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk

Canon Close
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EN

Phone: 01634 404267
Fax: 01634 404788

NEWSLETTER NO 3: Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the seasons have begun to change and the latter part of the week has seen some autumnal weather. Please ensure that your child has a coat, as we will be going outside as much as possible for our playtimes to ensure the children have plenty of physical exercise. Next week we introduce our new start and finish times as we feel that the children have responded really well to entering the school in a safe and efficient manner and now feel we are in a position to tweak these timings as a result. We hope that these new timings will help maximise learning time and also help parents with childcare and working commitments as the waiting times will be reduced while also continuing to keep everyone safe.

From **Monday 28th September** please note the following drop off and collection times for your Year group.

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

New Reading Scheme

We are delighted to be able to share with you that we have invested in a new reading scheme for our school. We are really excited about this new resource and think it will make a huge impact on helping children to read in our school. We hope that the children will really enjoying reading all the brand-new books. Please see Mrs O'Connor's letter for further information.

Introductory Talks for Parents

This year, as we have explained, we are unable to invite parents to physically attend introductory talks for each class due to the ongoing health crisis. However, we still feel that these talks are vitally important in communicating to parents' expectations, routines, rules and also the topics for learning. As such we have produced a number of digital resources which are available for you to view on your child's class webpage which provide information about each class and its curriculum. The resources include video introductions with the staff and PowerPoints explaining about the year group. We strongly encourage you to view these resources and if you have any specific questions please use the class dojo app and the teacher will respond as soon as possible.

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.





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School Photographs

Will take place on Monday 28th September. This year, children will be bringing home a unique ticket bearing their details and a QR code for you to scan and order prints online with Kittle Photography. All orders and payments are to be made online. If preferred, children may wear their winter uniform on this day.

Macmillan Cancer Support

Regrettably we have not been able to physically meet due to the current health crisis to hold the traditional coffee afternoon but our school continues to support this important charity. This year we have provided a cake ordering service to raise money for this charity. My thanks to volunteers from the PTA for organising this fund raising. A fantastic £390 was raised! Well done to all involved.

In addition to supporting this charity, we shall also be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, poppies etc. will be on sale to children in the week leading up to remembrance Sunday. The Helping Hands and the Medway Foodbank charities with donations for Harvest and advent calendars / chocolate selection boxes and the Mustard Seed Relief Missions 'Love in a Box' appeal.

Healthy School Lunches

Several children's home packed lunch bags contained items that we ask are not included in lunches eaten at school. We politely ask that you do not include chocolate bars and sweets within home packed lunches and remind you that SWOP is a NUT FREE school and as such, ask that you choose an alternative to chocolate spread sandwiches (including hazelnut spreads - classed as a tree nut).

Social Distancing Outside School

Can we remind parents of the importance of social distancing outside the school. Its important to continue to remember Hand, Face, Space message.

Breakfast Club

Thank you for the response to our breakfast club questionnaire. If you have not yet returned your questionnaire we would really welcome your views.

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.

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. Those families self-isolating with symptoms of coronavirus are asked to contact the school on a daily basis.

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.





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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!!

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.

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>

Social Media

This week we have had some issues with children's use of mobile phones and social media. Can we ask you to remember to monitor your child's access to online/social media sites and use of mobile phones in order to keep them safe and make sure that they are behaving in an appropriate way. If you or your child have any concerns or would like further support, do contact the school.

Praise Celebrations for the week!

Merit Award: Well done to the following children who received a merit award certificate. Midori Y 1, Ryan Y 2, Jude Y 3, Milan Y 4, Leah Y 5, Joanna Y 6.

House Points

Team house winner this week: Green.

Finally, we would like to welcome Jagoda to Year 3 and Hayden to Year 5 and also offer our congratulations to Hannah Year R and Joshua Year 2 on the safe arrival of their baby sister Ivy.

Enjoy your weekend

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

DIARY DATES		
September		
Monday 28 th	Kittle School Photographs	
October		
Tuesday 13 th	Medway Test	Year 6
Wednesday 14 th	Medway Test	Year 6
Friday 23 rd	INSET DAY CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL	
LAST DAY OF TERM 1		
November		
Monday 2 nd	Start of term 2	

