



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 7: Thursday 22nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have now come to the end of the first full term. I would like to thank you all for your support and help in following all the new routines. I hope that you all have a very relaxing half term and enjoy spending time with your children.

Black History Month

Our children have really enjoyed learning about Black History month in recent weeks and have produced some excellent work. Classes will be sharing some examples of their learning on their class dojo page so please have a look at their work. Some information about their learning is listed below.

St. John's class began the week by learning about Martin Luther King. We drew pictures of our dreams and made dream catchers. We read a book about Aretha Franklin and have made a stage to sing and dance to her music. We read a book about Muhammed Ali and practised skipping! We also read a book about Pelé and made our own footballs out of socks and paper like he did when he was a young boy and used them to play football.

St. Anthony's class read about the life of Maya Angelou and that, despite the struggles she faced, she never gave up with her own hopes and dreams. We talked about the unfair society she grew up in and how we should not judge others in this way. We then discussed one of her famous quotes, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel". We created some art work and writing to reflect on how our friends make us feel.

This week, St. Therese's class have been focussing on Mary Seacole. The children have all written and decorated a thank you card for Mary Seacole, thanking her for her inspirational work as a nurse during the Crimean War. They then designed a medal for her, and each child decided which quality they were awarding the medal for, some examples are courage, determination and kindness. Finally, the children each produced a portrait of Mary Seacole, and used watercolours to paint their portrait.

In St. Patrick's class we have been learning about Harriet Tubman, a pioneer who fought for civil rights. Harriet was at the forefront of equal rights in the 1800's. She set up her own care home to support people who were in need and she was also a spy for the Union in America during their civil war. She was a pioneer that is still considered to be one of the main figureheads in ensuring all people were treated equally in America, regardless of race, religion or appearance.

St. Nicholas' class have enjoyed learning about the inspirational Maya Angelou by creating posters about who she is and her achievements, writing poetry inspired by her poem 'Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud' and making colourful self-portraits to celebrate their own identities and aspirations for their future.

In St. George's, we have spent time learning about the Empire Windrush and 'The Windrush Generation'. To begin with, it was important to spend time researching these topics, learning what and who they were as well as why they are significant including discussion on why 'The Windrush Generation' have been in the news in more recent times. We used news reports and photographs from the 1940's to generate discussion as to what life was like for those who arrived from the Caribbean, including the difficulties they faced which ranged from dealing with the change in climate to the more serious issue of racial discrimination. We also used the poetry of John Agard to help us imagine what it would have been like to be aboard the ship, making the voyage to settle in another country. Our work culminated in creating a poster reminding ourselves that we are all 'Created in the image and likeness of God', regardless of our differences and that, as such, each person should be treated with the same dignity and respect that we ourselves would wish to be treated.

St. Francis' class have been learning about Martin Luther King. The children have been composing fact files and biographies about his life. They have also been composing their own 'I have a dream' compositions inspired by Doctor King's famous speech.

Bike / Scooter Compound

We are delighted that our bike / Scooter compound has now been completed and is available for use. A letter was sent via ParentMail explaining the terms and conditions of use. We hope that this will encourage children to develop healthier lifestyles by cycling or scootering to school. This hopefully will also mean less transport by car to school thus helping the congestion in the close.





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Cashless School

It is our ambition to become a cashless school. We feel that in order to keep our school community safe during the current health crisis we intend to reduce the need to handle money or cheques. We also believe that many parents will find it easier to make digital payments as opposed to more traditional transactions as our ParentPay app means that payments can be made anywhere, at any time using a digital device. As a result, we are encouraging parents to make payments via the ParentPay App. Many of you already use this and are familiar with its use through ordering school lunches. We intend to extend the use of ParentPay to include other school events across all year groups. We hope that all parents will choose to use this method to pay for school events in the future. At the moment we are inviting parents in Year 6 to pay for the school trip to Kent Life. In addition, we have also created a pathway to allow parents to pay their school fund contribution through the app. If you need help accessing your ParentPay account or need a reminder of your activation code please contact the school office.

Parents Evenings Information

All parents have now received their child / children's parent evening report. Just a reminder that should you wish to have a telephone consultation please contact the office so that a mutually convenient time can be arranged. This will be available until Friday 6th November.

School Winter Uniform is to be worn from Monday 2nd November.

In addition to our current uniform, we will shortly be introducing a navy-blue zipped fleece jacket as an additional item of school uniform which can be worn over (not in place of) the school sweatshirt / cardigan. Full details of this non-compulsory item of uniform will be provided in Term 2.

Hot Meals Restarting

This week saw the restart of our hot meals service. The children have really enjoyed having hot meals again. My thanks to all the staff of Contract Dining Company and the mid-day meals supervisors for their efforts in realising this. Should you want your child to have a hot meal please be aware, all meals are to be paid for via the contactless ParentPay app system at a cost of £2.05 each for KS2 children. No charge for children in KS1 and those children entitled to free school meals. Please also note that all meals are to be paid for on or before the day that they are eaten. The school office can provide you with your child's activation codes should they have been misplaced. The current menu has been sent home via ParentMail last week, a copy is also available from the school foyer for your information.

ClassDojo

We would like to use Classdojo as an opportunity for you to gain an insight into your child's learning experience at St. William of Perth and share in some of our valued traditions. Every child has been given a paper copy of a letter to bring home to you today (also sent via ParentMail as an attachment to this newsletter). We ask that you confirm or decline permission as requested, returning your reply slip to the class teacher via your child / children week commencing 2nd November. We thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Infant Nativity

A letter has been sent home today with all children in years R, 1 and 2. Parents / Carers are asked to send their reply to school on the first day of term 2 please.

Class Trip – Year 6

If not already done so, parents are reminded to sign and return their parental permission slip for the children's forthcoming WW II day on Friday 27th November.

Home School Agreements

Thank you to those of you who have signed and returned your Home School Agreements. If you have not already done so, we ask that you ensure your child hands their agreement to their class teacher on the first day of Term 2.

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.

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/>





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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.

Annual Nasal Flu Spray Immunisation

This year the Immunisation team is offering **ALL** children of St. William of Perth the nasal flu spray on Wednesday 25th November. Full details have been sent home to every family via ParentMail. Please complete the online consent form marking whether you consent or decline consent at <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/forms/immms-consent-form/> To access the consent form you will need to enter our school URN: 118775.

The online consent form will close at midnight on the 20th November.

Charity News

Mustard Seed Relief Missions - Love in a Box. Filled Christmas wrapped boxes are to be returned to school by Friday 6th November. Further information on the charities work can be found at www.msrm.org

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - We have had an excellent response to this charity appeal and thank you for your support. Paper poppies will continue to be sold in school week commencing 2nd November.

PTA Bag2School Don't forget your bags on **Tuesday 3rd November**. Please place your securely tied bag within the cycle/scooter compound at the side of the school car park **by 9am on the 3rd November**. Where possible, we ask that children do not ride their bikes or scooters to school on this day.

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.

PTA 'Twelve Days of Christmas' raffle every child has been given an envelope today which contains 3 strips of raffle tickets. Should you wish to take part in the Christmas raffle, please follow the instructions on the explanatory note found within the envelope, returning your payment and raffle tickets to the school office by Friday 20th November. Donations suitable for the raffle i.e. chocolate, wine, spirits, sweets, gift sets, toiletries, toys etc., would be gratefully received and can be left in the school office at your convenience. We thank you for your continued support.

PTA Cake Sale will be held on Thursday 5th November at 2.30pm from the cycle/scooter compound at the side of the school car park. All monies raised will be donated to the PTA.

Children in Need Friday 13th November – **TAG DAY**. For a donation of £1.00 per child, we would like to invite the children to wear their own clothes to school on Friday 13th November in support of Children in Need. It would be lovely to see them dressed as brightly as possible, Children in Need themed clothing is more than welcome but please do not feel the need to purchase extra items from the shops (unless you want to), home decorated clothing can be fun too!

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Amy in Year 6 who after a successful trial period has been selected for the Kent U11 girls cricket squad. Well done Amy.

End of term Celebration Certificates

Even though we can not meet in an assembly myself and Mrs Kinslow visited each class to present the celebration certificates to the children today. It was wonderful to celebrate the children's learning over the course of the term. We presented certificates for subject excellence, improvement, attitude, perseverance, good manners and politeness. Well done to all who received a certificate.

INSET DAY - FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL. We look forward to seeing the children return on MONDAY 2nd November for the first day of Term 2.

Enjoy the school break.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher





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DIARY DATES

October		
Friday 23 rd	INSET DAY	CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL
LAST DAY OF TERM 1		
November		
Monday 2 nd	First day of term 2	Children to wear winter uniform
	Return Home School Agreements. Return ClassDojo reply slip Return Infant Nativity reply slip Return Year 6 WW II Class trip consent form	
Tuesday 3 rd	Bag2School PTA collection	9am cycle/scooter compound
	Where possible we ask that children do not ride their bikes/scooters to school on this day	
Thursday 5 th	PTA Cake Sale	2.30pm
Friday 6 th	Love in a Box Christmas Shoe Box Appeal	Return box to school
Friday 13 th	Children in Need TAG DAY The brighter the better	£1.00 per child
Friday 20 th	Nasal Flu Spray Immunisation DEADLINE to reply	Reply by Midnight
Wednesday 25 th	Nasal Flu Spray Immunisation day	All Years
Friday 27 th	Year 6 WW II Day – Kent Life	

