



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 8: Friday 6th November 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term Two. I trust that you all had an enjoyable break as we now prepare for the term that lies ahead. Thank you also for the support and understanding that you have shown this week. As you're aware, Year 4 are currently self-isolating due to a positive case of COVID-19. We are missing them from our school family, but I'm sure you'll join with me in sending our thoughts and prayers to them at this time and we look forward to having them back with us. I would like to thank you for your continued support during these troubled times as we once again find ourselves in another lockdown. However, we have worked together really well since last March and with constant reviews of risk assessments, and following up-to-date Government guidelines, and of course your support, we have been able to keep the children safe while maintaining excellent attendance. It is a difficult time for everyone and we appreciate the effect that this is having on our school community. I'm sure you will also join with me in thanking the staff of St. William of Perth who have continued to work to ensure your children are happy, safe and flourishing.

Attendance

As you are aware we are now in another National Lockdown, but we remain open. It remains very important for children to attend, to support wellbeing and education and working parents/carers.

Health Reminders - A reminder to parents: dropping off and collecting children from school

With lockdown measures coming into force yesterday, it's now more important than ever for you to 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. With the weather becoming colder we are aware that rooms are a little chillier than usual. While the heating will be on to warm the building, the need for constant ventilation of classrooms means that the effectiveness of the heating throughout the day may be compromised. Can you therefore, please ensure that all children have a school jumper/cardigan to wear at all times. 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 in our previous newsletter, 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.





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Year 6 Remembrance Assembly: This week saw our first class assembly since March. The assembly was recorded and shared in class with the other year groups. As part of our recovery plan we feel it is important to bring back, in a digital form, these assemblies as the children gain so much from developing and performing them. Thank you to the children of St. Francis' class who led us in prayer and reflection in their assembly about remembrance. The assembly was beautifully moving and reflected the depth of the children's learning. The rest of the school really enjoyed watching on their interactive whiteboards Year 6s performance.

Remembrance Day

To commemorate Remembrance Day and in support of the Poppy Appeal, we have been selling poppies. Thank you to everyone who has helped to support this worthwhile charity. On Wednesday we will be holding a two-minute silence at 11 am to honour the brave men and women who have given their lives in conflicts.

New Internal Classroom Doors

During half term we had new classroom doors installed as part of our drive to improve the security and safeguarding of our school site. The children have been commenting on how nice the new doors look. My thanks to the contractors for their hard work.

PTA Bag2School Thank you to all those who donated clothes to support the bag2 school fund raising initiative. With your help and support £117 has been raised for the school.

PTA Cake sale - Thank you also to those who supported the PTA cake sale on Wednesday - we raised £122 for the school. Thank you for supporting the school.

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. 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.

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 Monday.

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.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>

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





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

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

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - We have had an excellent response to this charity appeal and thank you for your support. Poppies continue to be available for sale from the main office until Wednesday 11th November.

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 containing 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.

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!

In memoriam - Gill Hanson

During half term, very sadly one of our foundation Governors, Mrs Gill Hanson passed away following a short illness. Gill worked tirelessly to support her local community as part of her Christian vocation in many different roles. Those of you in the parish will know of her work in the administration of the parish and her commitment to helping the clergy. In her local community she was also a huge supporter of the winter shelter and devoted a lot of her time to selflessly helping the homeless in Medway. In school, Gill was a passionate governor and a true friend to our school. In her role as a Governor she helped in areas such as Religious Education, SEN, Pupil Premium, recruitment and finance. She gained much delight from seeing our children perform at the many plays she attended and I am sure that many of you will remember fondly her speeches thanking the children for their efforts. She will be greatly missed by all. Please keep the family in your prayers at this time. May she rest in peace.

We would also like to pass on our condolences to Mrs Randall and Mrs Meredith on the sad loss of members of their families over the last two weeks. We think of all who are suffering with bereavement and illness at this time and pray that God will offer them comfort during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

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Headteacher

DIARY DATES

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

