



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 16: FRIDAY 7th JANUARY 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

A very warm welcome back and a very happy New Year! I hope you have all had a peaceful and happy Christmas with your children and families but it is always so lovely to see the children returning to school after a holiday.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for all the kind gifts, cards and messages that were received in school at the end of term.

The children have begun Term 3 keen and eager in their learning. Please continue to support them in all their homework and home reading. It all makes such a difference!

Covid

Cases continue to rise in the local community. We encourage all our families to follow the government's plan B guidance. As always, we ask that if your child is presenting with symptoms that they remain at home and undertake a test. Any visitors to our school site are asked to wear a mask while on site. Please remember hands, face, space as key measures to help everyone stay safe. We continue to implement strict control measures within school including hand hygiene, ventilation and cleaning regimes. It is vital that we all do our part in reducing transmission of the virus so we can continue to give your children the best educational experience possible with the least disruption in these challenging times.

Uniform

Earrings, Hair and Uniform reminder

Our uniform and being smart is very important. We ask for your support in ensuring that the uniform policy is adhered to. Our high expectations for presentation contribute to the high standards of behaviour that our school is renowned for.

Earrings: We do discourage ear piercing during the academic year as the children are unable to participate in any PE activities until they are able to remove them independently. This is a legal requirement under Health and Safety. It is much better if they are pierced at the beginning of the summer holiday.

A reminder that any earrings worn should be **plain gold or silver studs** i.e. not diamantes or different shapes.

Hair: Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back from the face, not cover the eyes and hinder learning. Please remember that hair bands should be plain black or blue or in the school colours. Trim lines and other extremes of fashion are not allowed.

Due to current government guidelines with regard to class ventilation; those children that are feeling the cold within class are encouraged to wear extra clothing beneath their school uniform. In addition to the school sweatshirts and cardigans, children are also invited to wear a school fleece bearing the school logo, available to purchase directly from our school uniform supplier, Brigade Clothing which 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 and is to be worn over, not in place of a sweatshirt / cardigan. It is recommended that you order a size larger than normal to account for it being worn over school uniform.

Until further notice, all other items of school uniform will remain available to purchase from the school office.

Please ensure **all hats are in plain school colours or is a school hat** i.e. **not** furry animal ears, fancy muffs, ear muffs etc.... School knitted hats are available from the school office and are currently charged at £4.70 each.

Year 6 Swimming

Year 6 swimming will restart this Tuesday. Please ensure your child has a coat as the children will be attending even if the weather is inclement.





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

MYG

Medway Youth Games will restart on Tuesday 18th January. Please be aware the club will **not** be run on Tuesday 11th January.

Catch up lessons

Catch up lessons will restart on Monday 17th January with new groupings. Those identified for this provision will be contacted next week. **NO CATCH-UP LESSONS MONDAY 10th JANUARY.**

Admission to St. William of Perth School Reception Classes in September 2022

The closing date for primary level admissions is **15th January, 2022 at 5pm.**

Please see the school website for details of the school's admission policy and procedures, or contact the school office for a paper copy. However, in addition, parents **MUST** apply to the Local Authority. This can be done online at https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200137/schools_and_learning/1059/applying_for_a_primary_school_place/3

Please note: Children born between September 2017 and 31st August 2018 are due to start school in September 2022.

Late Arrival at school

May we remind all parents / carers, that when arriving at school after 8.55 am registration, **children must be escorted to the school office to be signed into the school building**, thank you.

Christmas is a joyous time with our families but we ask that you keep in your prayers, members of our school community and their family members who have been unwell at this time, especially those in hospital or who may have been diagnosed with serious illnesses. Also, please remember those members of our school community who have lost loved ones over the Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

	Diary Dates – Subject to Change	
January 2022		
Tuesday 11 th	Year 6 swimming resumes	
Friday 14 th	Violin Tuition to resume	
Saturday 15 th	Local Authority Admissions Deadline September Intake - Year R	5pm
Monday 17 th	Catch Up Lessons – start date – groups to be confirmed	
Tuesday 18 th	Year 6 Medway Youth Games after school club to resume	
Thursday 20 th	Year 4 Class Trip - Guildhall Museum Rochester	TBA
February 2022		
Tuesday 1 st	Year 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara	TBA
Tuesday 8 th	Year 1 and Year 2 Class Trip – Rochester Cathedral Gaia exhibition	TBA
Thursday 3 rd	Harry Potter Book Night – Years 3 – 6 only	4.15-5.45pm





St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School

Severe Weather

As we are going to be experiencing much colder weather over coming months, I thought it would be helpful to remind parents about how we would communicate school closure to you.

Please be assured that we will open the school if at all possible.

1. A notice will be placed on the school website by 7.00am. So please keep an eye on the front page of the website. This should be your first port of call.

2. We will send a ParentMail.

3. We will contact Heart FM who will list on their website, schools that they know to be closed.

4. There will be a notification on the Medway Council website under school closures.

Please do not presume that if the Maths School and Rochester Grammar are open that St. William of Perth will be open. The needs of a 5 year old child in terms of staffing and welfare are not the same as a teenage child and a higher staff ratio is required.

How do we make a decision as to whether the school can open? –

I was asked a couple of years ago when we last had bad weather how we make a decision on whether the school should close in severe weather. Essentially, I don't make the decision by myself. I consult head teachers of other local schools, seek guidance from the local authority and agreement of the Chair of Governors.

The following are examples of the types of issues that are taken into account when undertaking a risk assessment before deciding whether to open or close:

1. Is it possible to provide adequate staffing cover for all or some of the pupils? Are sufficient numbers of staff able to get in to school safely?
2. Will sufficient first aiders be on site? Will first aid cover be available?
3. Will there be adequate supervision of children at lunchtime and break times? Will there be sufficient support staff available in class to assist with children with special needs etc. and the particular demands of pupils with medical needs or disabilities?
4. Will there be health and safety issues, e.g. insufficient heating, frozen pipes, iced pavements?
5. Are the surrounding roads safe for travel? Would emergency vehicles be able to attend the school to assist a child or staff member if needed.

