

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

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8th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Attendance

The government have introduced new procedures for attendance from September. The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy was sent out on School Spider this week & can also be found on the School Website. The information below shows how attendance can affect your child's future progression.

- *Above 97%: Less than 6 days absence a year, Excellent attendance! These young people will almost certainly get the best grades they can, leading to better prospects for the future. Pupils will also get into a habit of attending school which will help in the future.*
- *95%: 10 days absence a year. These pupils are likely to achieve good grades and form a habit of attending school regularly. Pupils who take a 2 week holiday every year can only achieve 95% attendance.*
- *90%: 19 days absence a year. The Government classes Young People in this group as "Persistent Absentees", and it will be almost impossible to keep up with work.*

We monitor all children's attendance closely & ask for your support to ensure your child is in school as much as possible. Please see the leaflet we have sent out regarding common illness symptoms. Punctuality is also important. Children need to arrive by 8.40am as the gates will be locked at 8.45am & children need to be in class at 8.45am ready to start their school day. This applies to all classes in main school including Reception class (Nursery start at 8.45am). Any children arriving after 8.45am will need to be signed in late at the school office. Breakfast Club starts at 7.45am with last entry being 8.35am. Last time for food is 8.25am.

Tax Facts Workshops

As you will probably know from recent press releases there is a big push on educating children about "financial literacy". As a result we organised for representatives from HMRC to come into school on Tuesday and undertake a variety of workshops, called Tax Facts, with all our Junior Classes.

Year 5 Museum Trip

The Year 5 visited the Albert Dock & museums in Liverpool on Wednesday as part of their work in Geography/History. All the children had an enjoyable day and their excellent behaviour was recognised by a number of members of the general public. Well done Class 5!

National Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week so throughout the week in assemblies and PSHE time we will be talking about this year's theme which is entitled, "Choose Respect". Odd Socks Day is taking place on Tuesday 12th November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

School Nurse Visit

The school nurse will be in next Tuesday to do some handwashing workshops with children from Reception, Year 1 and the Year 2 classes.

Children In Need

Friday 15th November is Children In Need day so the children can wear spots as part of their school uniform for the day. All donations will be sent on behalf of the school to the charity.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Y6 Girls Football Tournament

Good luck to our Girls football team who will be taking part in a tournament next Friday afternoon, 15th November, at Chesterfield High School.

Reception Class Applications 2025

A reminder to all parents/carers of children who will be 4 before 31.8.25 that you will need to go online at Sefton`s website to complete the application for Reception class 2025. Applications for Reception Class 2025 need to be made by 15.1.25.

Doctors, Dentist & Hospital Appointment

A reminder to try to make routine Doctors & Dental Appointments outside of school hours. For all appointments in school hours we need to see the appointment letter, text or card.

Holiday Requests

All requests for absence must be made in writing at least 7 days in advance. We have forms available at the school office. Please see the School Website for more information about the changes to Penalty Notices from this year.

New School Telephone System

As you know we have had a new telephone system installed in school over the last month and there have been some teething problems. However hopefully now these have all been rectified and I would like to thank you for your patience. The new system has enhanced features as well as being able to record calls.

Pastoral Care Lead

Mr Davies is on the yard every morning before school should you have any queries or need any advice, you can also speak to him about any concerns you have around your child in class and then he can speak to the class teacher. You can also make an appointment to speak to him should you wish to discuss something further.

Nursery Places

We have a limited number of places still available so if you have children of nursery age or know of friends/family who are looking for places and are new to the area then please get in touch to arrange a visit to our fantastic facility.

Pre-loved Uniform

If you have any uniform your child has grown out of and no longer needs please can you pass it into the school office. We particularly need PE kits & Nursery/Reception uniform. You are welcome to come along and help yourselves to any items of uniform you need from our pre-loved uniform table in the foyer by the school office.

Healthy Snacks/Packed lunches

As a school we are always trying to promote healthy lifestyles and would appreciate your support in providing healthy alternative snack/lunch options for your children.

Free Breakfast Club

Our Free Breakfast Club continues to be extremely popular. It runs every morning in the school hall from 7.45 am, however the cut off time for when food can be served is 8.25 am with the doors closing at 8.35 am. This free facility is available to children from Reception upwards so please do come along.

After School Club

We have places available in our After School Club. Our prices are still very competitive compared to other schools & in addition our Breakfast Club remains a free facility. The First Hour is £6 & the full session is £12. We also have a new booking system on School Spider which allows parents to book and pay for sessions in advance. In terms of staff, Mrs. Chambers left us last week. We wish her well for the future & welcome Mrs Ward to the school team.

School Spider – All communications & online payments

Our school communication system is School Spider. It is important that you download the School Spider app so you do not miss out on information. The system also allows you to book and pay for After School Club & School Meals. School Meals & After School Club bookings need to be made via the app in advance. Bookings cannot be made on the day. To download, go to the app store on your phone & search School Spider, search for our school & follow the instructions to set up an account. You need to use the same email address that school have for you.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Book Swap

A reminder we have a free book swap located in the foyer by our office! A book swap is an easy and fun way to swap books you no longer need for books you want to read! Please come along to see the books on offer and join in- don't forget to bring something to swap! Book Swap Rules 1. You can leave as many books as you like but please only take one book home at a time. 2. Make sure that the book(s) you are leaving are your own. 3. Make sure your book(s) are appropriate, clean and in good condition. 4. Make sure that you leave the shelf tidy and keep your swapped book in good condition. 5. Bring your book back once you have read it and swap it for another.

Dogs

A reminder to parents that dogs cannot be brought onto the school premises.

Mass

The new rota will begin next week for classes to attend Friday morning mass at St William of York Church.

Mass times at St William of York Catholic Church

9.30am Sunday morning at St William's & 11.15am Sunday morning at St Mary's Little Crosby

Christmas Celebrations – Important Dates

Below are some dates for your diaries regarding Christmas Celebrations in school:

Wednesday 11th Dec – Nursery Christmas Extravaganza 10am and 2.15pm (In the Nursery)

Thursday 12th Dec – KS1/Reception Christmas Performance 10am

Friday 13th Dec - KS1/Reception Christmas Performance 10am

Tuesday 17th Dec – KS2 Christmas Performances 10am and 2pm

Wednesday 18th Dec – School Christmas Dinner

Thursday 19th Dec – Christmas Party Day (*Own clothes*)/ Last day for Nursery children

Friday 20th Dec – School closes at 2 pm for Christmas Holidays

Kind regards

Mr. M. Murphy
Headteacher



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