

# ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



**ST WILLIAM ROAD THORNTON CROSBY L23 9XH**

Tel: 0151 924 7280 Fax: 0151 931 4558

E-mail: [head.stwilliamofyork@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:head.stwilliamofyork@schools.sefton.gov.uk)  
[www.stwilliamofyork.co.uk](http://www.stwilliamofyork.co.uk)

**Headteacher: Mr M Murphy**

**School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a belated Happy New Year to everyone. Please see the information below regarding forthcoming events and news about the school. In addition to this, we have also updated some sections on our website so please refer to this as it will keep you informed about events across the school.

## Healthy Habits

Active Sefton will be coming into school over this half term to work with children from Reception up to Year 6 around healthy lifestyles. The different programmes are aimed at promoting healthy habits and will involve the children learning about nutrition (having a healthy diet) and the importance of exercise.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 6 with visiting the Plaza Cinema on Friday morning, 24<sup>th</sup> January to watch a film based on the Anne Frank Diaries. All Crosby Primary Schools have been invited to attend the event, which is free of charge.

## Bullybusters

Bullybusters will be coming into school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January to deliver Friendship Workshops for all our junior classes. They will then be leading some training for our Well-Being Ambassadors who support their peers at lunchtime.

## Y5 Bikeability

We have arranged for Bikeability to come into school, on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January to work with our Year 5 children who can ride a bike. If you haven't applied for your child & would like them to take part please let the school office know.

## Phones/Smart Watches

Just a quick reminder that any children who bring Phones/Smart Watches into school must hand them into their class teachers at the beginning of the day and these will be returned to them at home time.

## Chess

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have restarted their Chess sessions following the Christmas break. The children thoroughly enjoy the sessions and we have found that these have had a considerable impact in developing their concentration and problem solving skills. At the end of the academic year there is also a Merseyside Chess Tournament at St Georges Hall so we hope to be able to enter some children into that competition.

## School Attendance

As you will know, the government have introduced new procedures for attendance from September. The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy can 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.*



Together Everyone Achieves More

• 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 or look on the NHS website. 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. Please see below attendance per class to date. Our target is 96%;

Rec	95%	Y1	91.8%	Y2	92.2%	Y3	93.8%	Y4	91.3%	Y5	97.5%	Y6	96.7%	All school	94%
-----	-----	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------	----	-------	------------	-----

Well done to Year 5 & 6 for attendance of over 96% this week.

### 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.

### 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 – Christmas Activities

We wanted to let you know that we have places available at our After School Club. The club runs from 3.15pm to 5.45pm daily in Term Time. After-school clubs are more than just a place to go; they’re a chance for your children to learn, grow, and have fun outside of regular classes, to let off steam, make new friends, cooperate, and work together as a team. Their Emotional growth is supported as little ones learn to be patient and understanding through structured activities. Our after school sports and physical activities keep children healthy and happy especially during winter months. We have a special time table for January/February. Please see our Newsletter sent out today for full details. The full session £12 must be booked for the First Aid course & activities.

### 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.

### Reception Class Applications 2025

A reminder to all parents 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 need to be completed by 15.1.25.

### 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.

### 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



Together Everyone Achieves More

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.

### **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.

Kind regards

Mr. M. Murphy  
**Headteacher**



**Together Everyone Achieves More**