

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst
28th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

World Book Day

Next Thursday, 6th March, is World Book Day. Children will be allowed to bring their favourite book to school &, if they want to, dress up as a character from that book. The children will be doing various activities in their classes linked to World Book Day. The dressing up is optional, children who don't want to dress up just come into school in their uniform as usual.

Year 1 Dental Hygiene Workshop

Active Sefton came into school this week to work with our Year 1 children on dental hygiene. The children learned about the importance of regular brushing and the effect that sugary foods can have on their teeth.

Year 5 Mindfulness Workshops

Class 5 had their first mindfulness workshop this Thursday. This was their first of four sessions and the feedback from the children has been overwhelmingly positive.

New School Football Kit

Peel Pots have very generously donated to us a new school football kit. We are very grateful to them for this kind gesture. (Photos of the kit can be found on the school website).

Online Safety Workshops

Knowsley CLC will be coming into school in the next few weeks to run some online safety workshops with the children. Knowsley CLC also produce our monthly online safety newsletter which is sent out & is on the school website. The newsletter has lots of up to date information regarding online safety and gives information about age appropriate games/apps etc.

Friday Morning Mass

Classes will start attending 10 am mass at St William of York Church on Fridays. Year 4 went along today with all other classes attending on a rota basis.

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.*
- *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.*



Together Everyone Achieves More

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	93.6%	Y1	98.6%	Y2	94.6%	Y3	97.3%	Y4	97%	Y5	95.3%	Y6	92.7%	All school	95.6%
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Well done to Year 1, Year 3 & Year 4 who all had over 96%.

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

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. A newsletter for March activities has been sent out on School Spider today.

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.

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.

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 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



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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.

Kind regards

Mr. M. Murphy
Headteacher



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