

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
www.stwilliamofyork.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst
14th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Y5 Quarry Bank Mill trip

As part of their History topic our Year 5 children visited Quarry Bank Mill this week. Thankfully the weather stayed dry for them and they all had a very enjoyable time. The people leading the workshops at the Mill were very complimentary about the children's engagement and behaviour. Well done Year 5!

Football News

It's been a busy week of football with the league fixtures restarting across the various competitions. Our girls' team played St Benedict's on Tuesday and put on a very strong performance. Despite losing, all the girls can be extremely proud of their efforts. Our Year 3/4 team played in a tournament at Chesterfield High School this afternoon. With over 12 schools competing the competition was extremely tough but all the children played really well and had an enjoyable afternoon.

HSBC Financial Workshops

All year groups from Year 1 up to Year 6 took part in some Financial Literacy workshops this week, which were organised by HSBC. The children learnt about how the banking sector works and also the importance of looking after their own money.

Chess Match

Children from Year 4 and Year 6 took part in a Chess Match against four other schools, at Green Park Primary on Tuesday. It proved to be a very successful afternoon with St William of York winning the overall competition. It's hoped that these matches will become more frequent with SWOY down to host a competition soon.

Lentern Walk – CAFOD

Just a reminder that all the children will be taking part in a sponsored walk around the school field on Friday 4th April. Information has already been sent out about how donations can be made with all money raised being donated to CAFOD.

Red Nose Day

Friday 21st March is Red Nose Day so as part of the schools fundraising efforts for Comic Relief children can, for a small donation, come into school next Friday wearing something red as part of the school uniform.

School Attendance

Please see below attendance per class for this week along with the number of late arrivals. Our target is 96%;

Rec	96.5%	Y1	95.5%	Y2	96.3%	Y3	93%	Y4	88.3%	Y5	91.3%	Y6	91.3%	All school	93.1%
0 lates		5 lates		9 lates		6 lates		5 lates		11 lates		4 lates		40 lates	

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.



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- *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 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.

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. Holiday fines (5 days & over or combined over a 10 week period) are now £80 per child rising to £160 if not paid within 21 days, if not paid the fine will go to court. For second & third episodes of absence, fines start at a higher amount or go straight to court. These are new procedures that started from September 2024 introduced by the government. Please see School Spider messages or the School Website.

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.

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 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 are attending 10am mass, on a rota basis, at St William of York Church on Fridays.

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.

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.

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.



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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 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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