

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
13th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

First Holy Communions

Congratulations to all those children who made their First Holy Communion yesterday. It was a really enjoyable occasion with fantastic singing from all the school. The children then had a party in the afternoon to celebrate their special day. A big thank you also to all the staff and Fr Ged who helped prepare the children for the day and also to all the family members who came along to support them on their special day.

Houses of Parliament Visit

A number of children from Years 4 and 5 visited the Houses of Parliament last Friday. They were given a tour of parts of the building, told about its history and also got to meet some Ladies and Lords. While in London the children also got to visit a number of London's famous landmarks. The adults who accompanied the children said their behaviour was exemplary throughout the day and they were a credit to the school!

Cells Kids

Children in Years 4/5 and 6 took part in workshops today organised by the CELLS Project (Choices, Education, Lifelong Learning, and Support). The aims of the workshops being to help young people make positive and informed choices. The sessions raised awareness around the risks associated with crime and unsafe behaviour, while empowering children with the tools and confidence to stay safe and fulfil their potential.

CAFOD Assembly

A representative from CAFOD recently came into school to thank the children for their fundraising as a result of the Big Lent Walk. We managed to raise over £275, which we were told would pay for around 65 chickens to support communities in Africa.

School Attendance

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

Rec	92.3%	Y1	97.2%	Y2	91.7%	Y3	96.5%	Y4	99.7%	Y5	95.7%	Y6	98%	All school	96%
4 lates		4 lates		10 lates		4 lates		12 lates		6 lates		7 lates		47 lates	

Well done to Year 1, 3, 4 & 6 for achieving our 96%+ target!

The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy can be found on the School Website. Email & App messages were sent out last week to parents of children with less than 90% attendance (persistent absentee category) & to those who could potentially fall into this category shortly, as well, as children who regularly arrive late. We understand that there are, in most cases, valid reasons for attendance being low & lates being high but we have to keep parents informed of the figures. Punctuality is very 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. We monitor all children's attendance closely & ask for your support to ensure your child is in school as much as possible. Please let us know if there are specific reasons affecting attendance & punctuality as we may be able to help.



Together Everyone Achieves More

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.

Y5 Chesterfield High School Visit – Thursday 19th June

Our Year 5 children will be visiting Chesterfield High School next Thursday, 19th June. The children will be walking to and from the school, leaving around 9.15 am and returning at 2.30 pm. A message has been sent via email & School Spider. If you would like any additional information regarding the day then please speak to the Y5 teacher.

Rock Kidz – Friday 20th June

Next Friday Rock Kidz will be coming into school to undertake a variety of fun workshops and assemblies across the school with music being the underlying theme. It promises to be a really enjoyable experience for all the children. A message has been sent out by email & School Spider.

Sports Day – Tuesday 24th June

This is just a quick reminder that sports day is on Tuesday 24th June. Reception/Y1 and Y2 will have theirs at 10 am on the school field while the Junior Sports Day (Y3,4,5&6) will start at 1.45 pm. Fingers crossed for some dry weather!!!

Summer Uniform

Thank you for all your cooperation regarding the summer school uniform. Just to clarify;

Summer uniform in main school, Years 1 to 6, is either a purple gingham dress along with the school cardigan or jumper or a plain white polo shirt with grey short trousers and the school cardigan or jumper. Black school shoes are to be worn by children from Y1 – Y6, not sandals or trainers. On PE days, PE kit is to be worn i.e. school purple shorts & a white t-shirt. We have noticed a few variations e.g. on the summer pinafore and would ask parents to follow prescribed guidelines regarding the summer uniform.

Summer uniform for Nursery & Reception is school purple PE shorts or purple gingham shorts, a white t-shirt or polo & the school sweatshirt. Dresses or playsuits are not permitted, children in the Nursery and Reception can wear black trainers (no laces) due to the nature and content of the EYFS Curriculum for safety.

All children can continue to wear the Winter & Spring uniform if they wish to.

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 – Reception to Year 6

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 May activities will be sent out shortly on School Spider today.

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.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Healthy Snacks/Packed lunches

We have noticed a number of children bringing in sweets/chocolate bars as part of their snack/packed lunch. As a school we are always trying to promote healthy lifestyles and would appreciate your support in providing healthy alternatives.

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 school jumpers/cardigans & PE kit. 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.

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 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

M Murphy

Mr. M. Murphy
Headteacher



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