

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst

5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the beginning of another school year, I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break. I would like to extend a very special welcome to all those new children and their parents who have started at our school, you are most welcome and I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming weeks. The children look fantastic in their new school uniforms and I thank you all for your support with this. The beginning of the school year is always quite hectic so along with the fortnightly newsletter please refer also to the school website and twitter feed regarding up and coming events.

School Start Times

A reminder that school starts at 8.45am. Ideally children need to arrive by 8.40am as the gates will be locked at 8.45am as children should be in class at 8.45am ready to start their school day. This applies to all classes in main school including Reception class, after their staggered start dates (Nursery start at 8.45am). Any children arriving after 8.45am will need to be signed in late at the school office. Being late causes disruption to teaching in class & can be unsettling for the children, so we ask that all children are punctual. The breakfast club is also available from 7.45am, please consider utilising this free provision.

Staffing

We would like to welcome Mrs Hanlon and Miss Bunclark to St William of York who will both be working in Year 6 alongside Mrs Nevin.

Year 1 – Year 6 Parent Welcome Meetings

We will be holding Parent Welcome Meetings after school on Wednesday 17th September. There will be two time slots per year group; 3.30-4.00pm and 4.00-4.30pm. This will give parents/carers the opportunity to meet the new staff in that year group and find out about the class timetable, homework etc

Chess

Chess sessions for children in Years 4/5 and 6 will begin in a couple of weeks' time, these will take place every Thursday morning.

Year 6 Holy Family High School Visit

Our Year 6 children will be visiting Holy Family High School for a full day next Friday, 12th September. Further details regarding the day will be shared with those parent/carers over the next few days.

School PE Kits

Children should wear their school PE kit to school on their allocated days. Children who are going swimming are to also wear their PE kits on that particular day. The school PE kit is a plain white t-shirt with purple PE shorts and trainers. Children can also wear plain black tracksuit bottoms/leggings in the winter. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

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.



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Swimming

Our Year 5 children will start their swimming lessons next Wednesday afternoon, 10th September, and will continue with these right up until Christmas. Year 4 will have their lessons in January and right the way up to the Easter break and Year 3's will be the whole of the summer term.

Year 5 Bikeability

Please see the message sent on School Spider to register your child for Bikeability which will be running during the week beginning 17th November.

Reception 2026 & High School Applications

A reminder to all parents/carers of children who are 4 years old by 31.8.26 & Year 6 that you will need to go online at Sefton's website to fill in the application for High School. I would advise that you put three schools down as per the guidance otherwise if you don't get your first choice you may be allocated a school which doesn't match your preferences. In addition please be mindful of entry requirements i.e. baptised catholic etc. The closing date for Reception 2026 is 15th January 2026 & High School is 31st October 2025.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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. Bookings can be made on our School Spider app.

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



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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.

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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