

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst
3rd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Halle Day

Today we celebrated Halle Day in school, this is a day when the children come off timetable and take part in a variety of fun and engaging lessons linked to their own well-being. The day is called Halle Day in memory of Halle Fletcher who very sadly passed away a number of years ago when she was a pupil in Year 3. The aim for the day is for children to have fun as well raising money for a charity which has been nominated by the Fletcher Family. (Charities/organisations we have donated to in the past include CLIC Sargent/Alder Hey and Love Jasmine). On behalf of the family I would like to thank you for all your kind donations with this year will go to Zoe's Place.

Football News

The school team have played two matches so far they lost to Waterloo last week but came back strongly this week and beat Linacre Primary School. Well done to all the boys and girls involved!

Sefton Mental Health Schools Team (MHST) Coffee Morning

Thanks you to everyone who was able to come along to the Coffee Morning on Thursday. The MHST team is there to support parents with their children's mental-health and it was great to get an overview of the service they can provide for parents. If you were unable to attend but would like some more information then please contact Mr. Davies.

BullyBusters

BullyBusters will be coming into school next week to take a number of workshops with children across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. After this they will then be training up our Well- Being Ambassador volunteers from Y5 and Y6.

Chess League

As you know, Chess has long tradition here at St William of York having been part of the school curriculum for Years 4/5 and 6 for the last 14 years. We've been down to London to take part in the National Finals and annually take part in the Merseyside School Tournament at St Georges Hall every July. On the back of all this Chess In Schools have now asked to become involved in a Chess League with teams from Liverpool and Manchester taking part. (All matches will take place in school time).

School Photographs

All the children had their photographs this week and order forms have been sent home today. Please place your order on line for delivery to school.

Online Safety Session for Parents

A link to a recording of the online safety session is now available for parents/carers on the school website.

Autumn Term Parents Evenings

The dates for the autumn term parent's evenings are Tuesday 21st October, from 4.30 – 6.30pm and Wednesday 22nd October from 3.30 – 5.30pm. All appointments will be 10 minutes each. A link to book an appointment via School Spider will be set up next week.

Friday Morning Mass

Year 4 will be attending mass at St William of York next Friday, 11th October at 10am.



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Communicating with Class Teachers

Our teachers try to make themselves readily available to speak to parents/carers at the beginning/end of the school day. However, the teacher's first priority is to make sure all the children enter the classroom in the morning in a safe ordered manner and to leave at the end of the school day with the appropriate adult/ or in line with the permissions given by the parent/carer. As a result it is not always possible for the class teacher to have a conversation with you. If the teacher is busy and you would like to speak to them then please contact the office and they will then ask the class teacher to ring you.

St William of York Parish Priest

The new Parish Priest, Fr Derek Lloyd came in to school this week to introduce himself. He is looking forward to seeing the classes at Friday mass and also saying hello to all members of the school community at mass each weekend.

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.

Attendance

The government have introduced new procedures for attendance from last September 2024. The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy can also 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.*

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

Rec	92.7%	Y1	94%	Y2	90.3%	Y3	99.3%	Y4	94.2%	Y5	100%	Y6	97%	All school	96%
	7 lates	9 lates		2 lates		9 lates		3 lates		9 lates		12 lates		51 lates	

Well done to Year 3, Year 5 & Year 6 for achieving our 96%+ target!

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.

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



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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.

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.

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

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.



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Kind regards

M Murphy

Mr. M. Murphy
Headteacher



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