

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
7th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

National Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is National Anti-Bullying Week so throughout the week in assemblies and PSHE time we will be talking about this year's theme which is entitled, "Power for Good". Odd Socks Day is taking place on Monday 10th November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.

Year 4 Royal Ballet Workshop

Children in Year 4 took part in a national online Royal Ballet Workshop this week. All the children had a great time and learnt a variety of different moves and formations.

Year 2 – The Great Fire of London

As part of their History curriculum Year 2 have been learning about the Great Fire of London. Today the children took part in a variety of workshops all about the event and got to learn even more about topic.

Children In Need

Friday 14th November is Children In Need day so the children can wear spots as part of their school uniform for the day. All donations will be sent on behalf of the school to the charity.

Girls Football Team

The girl's team have had a very successful start to the season. They played St Luke's Halsall this week and drew 2 all in a very competitive match. They have another fixture next Monday against St Edmunds & St Thomas at home.

Non-Uniform Day

Friday 21st November will be non-uniform day & child can come into school in their own clothes. If parents/carers could make a donation of bottle of wine, beer or spirits that would really be appreciated and these will go towards our Christmas Raffle prizes. Bottles can be handed in to the classes or the school office. (For the safety of the children please could parents hand over the bottles to the school staff).

Christmas Celebrations – Important Dates

Below are some dates for your diaries regarding Christmas Celebrations in school:

Tuesday 9th Dec – Nursery/Reception Christmas Celebration 10am (In the Hall)

Wednesday 10th Dec – Nursery/Reception Christmas Celebration 2.15pm (In the Hall)

Thursday 11th Dec – KS1 Christmas Performances: 10am and 2pm (In the Hall)

Friday 12th Dec – Nursery Afternoon Group Christmas Party pm

Monday 15th Dec – Nursery Morning Group Christmas Party am

Tuesday 16th Dec – KS2 Christmas Performances 10am and 2pm (In the Hall)

Wednesday 17th Dec – School Christmas Dinner

Thursday 18th Dec – Christmas Party Day (*Children come into school in their own clothes*)

Thursday 18th Dec – Nursery finish for Christmas today

Friday 19th Dec – Main School finish for Christmas at 2pm

Tuesday 6th Jan – School & Nursery re-open usual times

Liverpool FC in the Community Tournament

We have entered a team in a Mixed Football Competition next week. Good luck to all those children involved.



Together Everyone Achieves More

Year 5 – Bikeability

On Monday 17th Nov, Tues 18th Nov, Thurs 20th & Fri 21st November children from Year 5 will be having their Bikeability sessions. Further information will be sent out to the relevant children advising which day they will attend their session.

Mass

The new rota will begin next week for classes to attend Friday morning mass at St William of York Church.

Requiem Mass for Father Dunstan Harrington

A requiem mass will be held at St William of York Church on Wednesday 12th November at 7pm. for the Anniversary of Father Harrington's death

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.

Reception 2026 Applications

A reminder to all parents/carers of children who are 4 years old by 31.8.26 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.

School Attendance

The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy can also be found on the School Website. Please see below class attendance for this week;

Rec	97.7%	Y1	93.7%	Y2	94%	Y3	95.4%	Y4	95.5%	Y5	94.3%	Y6	93%	All school	95%
	2 lates	20 lates	5 lates	10 lates	7 lates	7 lates	15 lates	66 lates							

Well done to Reception class 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.

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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 their school jumper or cardigan, plain black tracksuit bottoms/leggings in the winter. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

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.



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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.

No Dogs

A reminder that we do not allow dogs on the school site.

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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