

ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Headteacher: Mr M Murphy

School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst
5th December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas Raffle Tickets

Over the next few weeks we will be selling raffle tickets at all our Christmas performances. The prizes on offer are fantastic and will be on show prior to the Christmas performances so please do bring along some spare change on those days in order to purchase some tickets. The costs of the tickets are £1.50 each or £5 for a book. Tickets can also be purchased on any other days from the school office. The draw will be made on Thursday 18th December with all winners being contacted to come and collect from the school office.

Christmas Jumper day

National "Christmas Jumper Day", in aid of Save the Children is Thursday 11th December. Children can come into school that day in their school uniform but with a Christmas Jumper instead of the school jumper/cardigan. We will be collecting any donations on the day which will then be sent off to Save the Children.

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) – no tickets
Wednesday 10th Dec – Nursery/Reception Christmas Celebration 2.15pm (In the Hall) – no tickets
Thursday 11th Dec – KS1 Christmas Performances: 10am and 2pm (In the Hall) – no tickets
Friday 12th Dec – Nursery Afternoon Group Christmas Party pm – no tickets
Monday 15th Dec – Nursery Morning Group Christmas Party am – no tickets
Tuesday 16th Dec – KS2 Christmas Performances 10am and 2pm (In the Hall) – tickets needed
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

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 17th December

The cook will be serving Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 17th December. Christmas Dinner is free for children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 & for all children who are entitled to Free School Meals. If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 & you pay for meals please book in & pay for Christmas Dinner on our School Spider app. There will be no other alternative food options on Christmas Dinner day so if your child usually has a School Meal but will not eat Christmas Dinner please send them in with a packed lunch. Many thanks.

Christmas Party Day

We will be having Christmas Parties in main school on Thursday 18th December 2025 in the afternoon during the school day. On the day, all children can come into school in their own clothes rather than their school uniform. There will be games during the afternoon and a disco. In order to provide a party buffet in each class we are asking each child to bring in a £2.00 donation. If you haven't already please pass the money in asap.

Christmas Raffle

We will soon be selling tickets for our Christmas Raffle prizes. Along with our usual hampers there will also be the chance to win tickets for Bongo's Bingo (Liverpool) as well as a free haircut amongst other things. Tickets will be



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available from the school office and will also be sold at our Christmas Performances. Money raised this year will be split between Zoe's Place and the school fund which goes to subsidise trips for the children.

Name the Christmas Husky

We are running a fundraiser to name the Christmas Husky. Please call into the school office or send your child in with £1 to select a name off the grid & have a chance to win this gorgeous Christmas Husky!

School Attendance

The School Attendance & Punctuality Policy can also be found on the School Website. Please see below class attendance for last. Our target is 96%;

| Rec | 92% | Y1 | 93.1% | Y2 | 87.9% | Y3 | 96.2% | Y4 | 86% | Y5 | 86% | Y6 | 87.7% | All school | 90% |
|-----|---------|----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-------|------------|-----|
| | 3 lates | 18 lates | | 3 lates | | 7 lates | | 9 lates | | 8 lates | | 8 lates | | 56 lates | |

Well done to our Year 3 class for achieving our 96%+ target!

A reminder that parents need to contact school by 9am on the day of absence to advise why their child is not in school. If they are unwell details of their symptoms is required. We have a dedicated answer machine on Option 1 when ringing school. If we do not hear from you & cannot contact you, then we may have to ask Sefton Council's Educational Welfare Officer to call out to your home address.

Doctors, Dentist & Hospital Appointment

A reminder to try to make routine Doctors & Dental Appointments outside of school hours. For late morning appointments please bring your child into school & come back to collect them for their appointment wherever this is possible. For all appointments in school hours we need to see the appointment letter, text or card.

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.

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 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.

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.



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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. The cost is £6 for the first hour & £12 for the full session. 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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