

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
9th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a belated Happy New Year to everyone. Please see the information below regarding forthcoming events and news about the school. In addition to this, we have also updated some sections on our website so please refer to this as it will keep you informed about events across the school.

Healthy Habits

Active Sefton will be coming into school over this half term to work with children from Reception up to Year 6 around healthy lifestyles. The different programmes are aimed at promoting healthy habits and will involve the children learning about nutrition (having a healthy diet) and the importance of exercise.

NSPCC

Mr Davies has organised for the NSPCC to come in and do workshops with children in Years 2, 5 and 6 on Tuesday 13th January. Information regarding the workshops has been sent to all the parents/carers of children in those year groups.

Liverpool FC in the Community

Over this half term Liverpool FC in the Community will be coming into school every Wednesday to deliver multi skills workshops to children in Y1, 2, 3 and 5. They will also be providing an after school club session for members of the girls football squad.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 6 with visiting the Plaza Cinema on Thursday morning, 29th January to watch a film based on the Anne Frank Diaries. All Crosby Primary Schools have been invited to attend the event, which is free of charge.

Year 4 and 6 Chester Zoo Visit

Years 4 and 6 will be visiting Chester Zoo on Tuesday 20th January. Further information regarding the trip has been circulated to the parents of children in those classes.

Chess

Children in years 4/5 and 6 have restarted their Chess sessions following the Christmas break. The children thoroughly enjoy the sessions and we have found that these have had a considerable impact in developing their concentration and problem solving skills. In addition to this, a group of children will be taking part in a chess league fixture next week at Our Lady St Philomena's Catholic Primary School in Liverpool.

School Attendance

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

| Rec | 96.3% | Y1 | 96.6% | Y2 | 99.1% | Y3 | 86.5% | Y4 | 91.7% | Y5 | 96.7% | Y6 | 98.3% | All school | 95.2% |
|-----|---------|----------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|------------|-------|
| | 6 lates | 17 lates | | 9 lates | | 13 lates | | 4 lates | | 14 lates | | 10 lates | | 73 lates | |

Well done to Reception, Year 1, 2, 5 & 6 for achieving above 96%!



Together Everyone Achieves More

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Together Everyone Achieves More

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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