

# ST. WILLIAM OF YORK CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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**Headteacher: Mr M Murphy**

**School Business Manager: Mrs S Middlehurst**  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Proposal on School Expansion

A letter and a copy of the Statutory Proposal regarding possible expansion of St William of York to a 1.5 form entry school was sent out to all parents/carers on 14<sup>th</sup> April. If you didn't receive a copy then please go on to the schools website which has the proposal in full.

## Parents/Carers Online Safety Briefing – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May (4 – 4.45 pm)

The link to the Online Safety Briefing for parents and carers is on the school website. If you click on parents and then follow the link down where it says Online Safety Newsletter & updates you will see the session listed there. The session will be a guide to social media and livestreaming - this will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children.

## Football News

We have had two teams play in tournaments over the last week and both have played really well. Our Year 3 team played last Friday and came 6<sup>th</sup> overall out of 18 schools, narrowly missing out on a play-off spot. The Year 2 team played this afternoon at Chesterfield High School and played well getting through to the final narrowly missing out on overall win. Well done to all those children involved! Finally, good luck to our girl's football team who play Valewood in the semi-final of the cup next Thursday.

## Family Summer Bingo – 20<sup>th</sup> May

Tickets for our Family Summer Bingo on the 20<sup>th</sup> May are now on sale at £2 each at the School Office. Initial interest has been high and with only 100 tickets on offer it should hopefully be a sell-out. (Please note that entry to the event will be ticket only).

## Y6 KS2 SATS – W/b 11<sup>th</sup> May

This is just a quick reminder to our Y6 parents that the children will be undertaking their Key Stage 2 SATs tests from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May till Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please see the letter send out this week in paper & on School Spider.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to ensure that all children can fully access learning, build strong relationships, and achieve their best. Being in school every day and on time helps establish positive routines and supports both academic progress and wellbeing. To encourage this, we are introducing a range of rewards, including weekly class recognition, half-termly treats, and termly prizes for both classes and individuals. Children who show excellent or improving attendance will also be acknowledged through certificates and postcards home. In addition, the overall winning classes will have the opportunity to take part in a special end-of-year trip. Please see some examples below:

- On a weekly basis the winning class for the best attendance and punctuality will be told in Friday's assembly and on the following Monday they will get an additional playtime (golden time) using play equipment. Well done to Year 2 & Year 5 who have thoroughly enjoyed their golden time so far.
- At the end of each half term the children with the best attendance of 96% or above will have a film afternoon in the hall with refreshments.



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- At the end of each term there will be a fun half day per class who have the best attendance and best punctuality.
- The children with the best attendance of over 98% at the end of each term will receive a special certificate and their names will go in the hat to win £20.
- The children whose attendance shows signs of improving will receive a postcard home acknowledging & congratulating them on their efforts.
- At the end of the year the winning classes for attendance and punctuality will go on a trip to either Knowsley Safari Park, Farmer Teds, CHET (Outdoor Pursuits), Crosby Lakeside Centre or the Waterloo Plaza Cinema.

### 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.

### Summer Uniform

Thank you for all your cooperation regarding the summer school uniform. Children can wear the summer dresses along with the school cardigan or a plain white polo shirt with short trousers and the school jumper. **Black** school shoes are to be worn by children from Y1 – Y6, not sandals or trainers. Children can also continue with the shirt and school tie as normal if preferred. Children in the EYFS (Nursery and Reception) can continue with their jogging suits or wear purple PE shorts with a plain/or school white t-shirt/polo shirt. Children in the EYFS do not wear the summer dresses as these aren't suitable for the continuous provision/play which forms part of the EYFS Curriculum. *(Children in the Nursery and Reception wear trainers)*

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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



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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.

### 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.

### 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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