



30th September 2025

As we prepare to enter the beautiful month of October, traditionally dedicated to **Mary, the Mother of Jesus**, we take time to reflect, pray, and celebrate the many blessings of our school community. It has been a **wonderfully busy and positive start to the year**, and we are proud of how well the children have settled into routines and embraced learning.

A Prayer for October

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Guide us with your gentle strength.
Help us to be kind, respectful, and full of love.
May our hearts be open to learning,
And our hands ready to help others.
Amen.*

Respect and Attendance – A Brilliant Start

Two of our key focuses this term have been **Respect** and **Attendance**, and we are thrilled with the progress children have made. Pupils are showing real maturity in their behaviour, kindness towards others, and pride in their school environment. Attendance across the school has also been excellent, and we've already had one class complete their **Attendance BINGO** cards! Congratulations to Class 4 who have won a non-uniform day on **Thursday 2nd October!**

We'll continue to send out regular updates celebrating attendance success and encouraging children to aim high. Every day in school really does count.

Reading at Home

Reading is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning and development. It builds vocabulary, strengthens imagination, improves concentration, and nurtures a lifelong love of stories and knowledge. Children who read regularly at home often show greater confidence in their writing, comprehension, and ability to express themselves clearly.

We encourage all families to make reading a part of their daily routine. This could be sharing a bedtime story, listening to your child read aloud, discussing a favourite book, or even reading together as a family. These moments not only support learning but also strengthen bonds and create lasting memories.

Please remember to record home reading in your child's reading diary, and don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher for book recommendations suited to their interests and reading level. Whether it's fiction, non-fiction, comics, or poetry – every page read helps your child grow.

Let's work together to make reading a joyful and consistent part of every child's day.

Car Parking – Let's Work Together to Keep Everyone Safe

We are once again experiencing issues with parking around the school site, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times. While we understand that mornings and afternoons can be busy, it's vital that we all take responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our children, families, and neighbours.

Please be mindful when parking near school. **Avoid blocking driveways**, parking on pavements, or stopping in unsafe areas. These actions not only cause inconvenience to local residents but also pose a risk to children walking to and from school. We kindly ask all parents and carers to drive slowly and carefully in the surrounding streets and to use designated parking areas wherever possible.

We are proud of the strong sense of community at St William's, and we know that by working together, we can maintain a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for everyone. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Foundation Governor Vacancy – Could You Help Shape Our School's Future?

We may have a vacancy for a **Foundation Governor** on our school's governing body. This is a vital and rewarding role that helps to shape the strategic direction of our school, support leadership, and ensure that our Catholic ethos remains at the heart of everything we do.

Governors work closely with the Headteacher and senior leaders to monitor progress, ask thoughtful questions, and help make decisions that benefit all children. You don't need to be an expert in education – just someone who is committed to supporting the school, willing to learn, and able to give a little time each term to attend meetings and contribute to discussions.

If you are a practising Catholic and feel you could offer your time and skills to this important role, please speak to **Mr Tiplady** for more information. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in helping our school continue to grow and thrive.

SEN Support Plans – Working Together to Support Every Child

Parents of children with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)** should now have received their child's updated **Support Plan**. These plans are a key part of how we ensure that every child receives the tailored support they need to thrive in school.

We kindly ask parents to **read through the plan carefully**, and return the **signed copy** to school as soon as possible. If you have any **comments, suggestions, or feedback**, please include them – your insights are incredibly valuable and help us to refine and personalise the support we offer.

Support Plans are developed in close partnership between teachers, our SEND team, and families. They outline specific strategies, targets, and resources that will be used to help your child succeed. By working together, we can ensure that these plans are meaningful, effective, and responsive to your child's needs.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the plan in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or our SENDCo. We are here to support you every step of the way.

October Rosary

Throughout the month of October, children will be invited to take part in **Rosary sessions each Friday**. These quiet, prayerful gatherings offer a special opportunity to reflect on the life of Jesus and honour **Mary, the Mother of God**, during her dedicated month.

The Rosary is a powerful form of prayer in the Catholic tradition, helping us to grow spiritually, find peace, and deepen our relationship with God. For many children, these sessions provide a calm and meaningful moment in the week to pause, think, and pray together as a school community.

We are proud to continue this tradition at St William's and thank you for supporting our mission to nurture both the hearts and minds of our pupils.

School Council – Pupil Voice in Action

We are delighted to announce that our new School Council has been elected, and meetings are already underway. Pupils from across the school have been chosen by their classmates to represent their views, share ideas, and help make positive changes within our school community.

The School Council plays an important role in promoting pupil voice, encouraging children to take responsibility, and helping them understand how they can contribute to the life of the school. Already, council members have begun

Please find below a list of initial dates for your diaries. Further dates to be shared once sporting fixtures calendar has been finalised.		
Wednesday 1 st October	Start of Black History Month	
Thursday 2 nd October	Whole School Mass	
Thursday 2 nd October	First Holy Communion year 4 Parents Meeting - 4:30 pm	
Friday 3 rd October	Cross Country Festival	
Friday 10 th October	World Mental Health Day	
Wednesday 15 th October	Flu Vaccinations	
Thursday 16 th October	Trust Pupil Parliament Meeting	
Friday 17 th October	Football Cup and Shield	
Tuesday 21 st October	Open Event for new and prospective parents	
Thursday 23 rd October	Last day of Half term for children.	
Monday 3 rd November	Children Return to School	
Thursday 6 th November	Visit of Bishop Stephen	
Thursday 6 th November	Start of After School Rugby club	
Tuesday 11 th November	Parents afternoon	Parents should attend 1 session on either day.
Thursday 13 th November	Parents Afternoon	
Thursday 13 th November	Class 4 Celebration of the Word	
Tuesday 18 th November	School Photographer	
Thursday 20 th November	Class 3 Assembly	
24 th November	Anti Bullying Week	
Wednesday 10 th December	Class 3 and 4 Performance (afternoon and evening)	
Thursday 11 th December	Class 1 and 2 Performance (morning and afternoon)	
Tuesday 16 th December	Class 1 and 2 Christmas Party	
Wednesday 17 th December	Class 3 and 4 Christmas Party	
Thursday 18 th December	Whole School Mass	
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day	
Friday 19 th December	Finish for Christmas Holidays.	
Monday 5 th January 2026	Training Day	
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school.	

discussing ideas around playground improvements, fundraising events, and ways to support wellbeing across the school.

Dates for your diary

