



1st November 2023

I hope all of our families have had a wonderful half term break. The second half of the Autumn term is always jam packed with important events so please make a note of important dates for your diary and we look forward to seeing you in school soon.

Catholic Life

Today is the Feast of All Saints: ***God of life, we give thanks for all the holy men and women who have lived throughout the world. Help us to live as you would like us to by showing love to all, bringing peace and always trying to do what is right. Amen.***

As mentioned in the last newsletter, one of our key focuses in school this year is Catholic Social Teaching (CST). CST is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. Staff enjoyed a trust wide professional development day before the half term holiday where we were able to reflect on how CST is lived out at St William's. We have begun a number of projects to support CST in school which you will see throughout the school year, the first of which will be a whole school art competition. We will be sharing details with children this week and we would encourage families to support their children with their entries.

Mass will be celebrated this half term in school by Father McKenzie on Thursday 21st December at 10am. All welcome.

Parental Involvement

Thanks to all parents who were able to attend these events. We were overjoyed at the number of parents who were able to attend and we hope it was a worthwhile experience for you all. We received some fabulous feedback following the events which highlighted the behaviour and work of pupils and the excellent teaching which was observed. Due to the success of these events we will be arranging similar ones after Christmas. Watch this space!

Parent teacher meeting appointments can now be booked using your My Child at School app. Simply open the app and select 'parents evening' from the main menu. Choose which of the two days you want to attend and book one of the available time slots. Appointments are available between 3:30 and 6pm on Tuesday 7th November and Wednesday 15th November. As Mrs Curtis is now on maternity leave, class 4 parents will have the opportunity to meet with Mrs Griffiths (whom many of you will already know) to discuss their child's learning and progress.

Ready Set Glow

Go Well (our sports partners) have arranged a 'Ready Set Glow' Day for the children taking place on Tuesday 14th November. The event will see all children from classes 2 – 5 taking part in games, activities and challenges in our dark 'disco' themed hall. Please can children wear either school PE kits or bright / neon coloured clothing. Early Years classes will not be involved in the activities but may still dress up for the day.

Remembrance Day

Poppies and poppy related merchandise will be on sale in school each afternoon. All money raised will be donated to the Royal British Legion. In addition, class 5 will be leading the school in a Remembrance liturgy on Thursday 9th November. All welcome.

Children in Need

Children in Need takes place this year on Friday 17th November. Children may come to school in non uniform. Please can children bring £1 donation for the charity.

Attendance Matters!

Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically. Children who are absent will develop gaps in their knowledge. It is vital that we do all we can to prioritise children's attendance at school so that they can enjoy their learning and socialising with their peers.

Our school attendance target is 97% and currently attendance across all classes is as follows:

Nursery	92%	Class 1	94%	Class 2	96%
Class 3	96%	Class 4	95%	Class 5	94%

As you can see, improvements can be made in all classes so lets have a special effort to make sure all children are in school!

Nut Free School

We have a duty to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and all members of the school community. Although we recognise that this cannot be guaranteed, St William's aims to be a Nut-Free school. The school aims to protect children, and staff, who have allergies to nuts yet also help them, as they grow up, to take responsibility as to what foods they can eat and to be aware of where they may be put at risk. We do not allow nuts or nut products in school lunch boxes. Please can you support this when preparing your child's packed lunch.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 1 st November	All Saints Day
Thursday 2 nd November	All Souls Day
Thursday 2 nd November at 1:30pm and Friday 10 th November at 9:15am	Open Event for new parents
Friday 3 rd November	Flu Vaccines
Tues 7 th and Wed 15 th November	Parent Teacher Meetings
Thursday 9 th November 9am	Class 5 remembrance Liturgy
Tuesday 14 th November	Ready Set Glow Day
Thursday 16 th November and then the next four subsequent weeks	Year 5 / 6 Netball tournament
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Monday 20 th November	School Photographer
Thursday 23 rd November	Class 3 Assembly
Thursday 30 th November	Whole School Pantomime trip to Gala Theatre
Wednesday 6 th December (change of date)	Christmas Fayre
Friday 8 th December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Monday 11 th December (2:00 pm)	Early Years Christmas Performance
Wednesday 13 th December (1:30pm and 6pm)	Class 4 & 5 Christmas Performance
Thursday 14 th December (2:00pm)	Class 2 & 3 Christmas Performance
Week Beginning 18 th December	Christmas Parties
Monday 18 th December	Christmas Movie Night
Thursday 21 st December	Whole School Advent Mass – 10am
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day
Friday 22 nd December 2pm	Carols Around the Tree
Friday 22 nd December	Finish for Christmas holidays.