



St Wilfrid's Catholic Academy

Summer 2 2026 Newsletter

Mission Statement

“With kind hearts and a thirst for knowledge, we strive to build a community of love and service by learning from and loving others as Jesus did.”

Motto

“Love one another as I have loved you.”
John 13:34

A Message from the Principal

As we come to the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of our pupils, staff and wider school community, and to thank everyone who has played a part in making this year such a memorable one.

Throughout the year, our school motto, "**Love one another as I have loved you**," has been evident in the daily life of our school. We have seen countless examples of kindness, compassion, respect, and support shown by pupils, staff, and families alike. It is this shared commitment to caring for one another that continues to make our school such a special place to learn, grow, and flourish.

Our pupils have once again been a tremendous source of pride. They have demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience and determination in the classroom, on the sports field, through the arts, in performances, competitions, educational visits and in their service to others. Their successes have been many and varied, and they have embraced opportunities with confidence and positivity. None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff, who continually go above and beyond to provide the very best experiences for every child.

I would also like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. The strong partnership between home and school is one of our greatest strengths and plays a vital role in helping our children achieve their full potential. As we continue to strive for excellence, I encourage all parents to complete the parent questionnaire. Your feedback is invaluable and provides us with an important source of information that helps us celebrate what we do well and identify ways in which we can continue to improve. We greatly value your views and thank you in advance for taking the time to share them with us.

I am particularly pleased to share that attendance has once again been a real strength of the school. Our whole-school attendance figure has improved on last year's already positive average, reflecting both the commitment of our pupils and the value that families place on education. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children attend regularly and arrive each day ready to learn.

We are also incredibly grateful to the many volunteers who have supported the school this year. Whether hearing readers, helping at events, accompanying educational visits, or giving your time in other ways, your contribution has enriched school life and provided valuable opportunities for our children. We could not offer the breadth of experiences we do without your generosity and support.

As a Catholic school, our faith remains at the heart of all that we do. We are thankful for the strong and active partnership we continue to enjoy with our parish. Through Masses, liturgies, charitable activities and shared celebrations, our collaboration with the parish has enriched the spiritual life of the school and provided meaningful experiences that have helped our pupils grow in faith and understanding.

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire school community for the incredible support I received during the build-up to running the London Marathon in April. The encouragement, kind words, sponsorship, and good wishes from pupils, families, staff, and parishioners were truly overwhelming.

I wish all our families a happy, safe, and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Thursday 3rd September** for the start of a new academic year.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. Have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Mr Glover
Principal

Catholic Life - Year 3 First Holy Communion Children

Congratulations to our wonderful Year 3 pupils who recently received the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion**.

We are incredibly proud of each one of them for the reverence, respect, and prayerfulness they showed on this very special occasion. It was a beautiful Mass, and it was wonderful to see the children celebrating this important milestone in their faith journey, surrounded by their families, friends, and our parish community.

A sincere thank you to our staff, parish, families, and everyone who supported and prepared the children for this special sacrament. Your guidance, encouragement, and prayers helped make the day truly memorable.

To continue the celebrations, the children enjoyed a special gathering in school with their classmates, sharing their joy with friends and staff. We pray that God continues to bless our Year 3 children as they grow in faith, hope and love, and that they continue to walk with Christ throughout their lives.



Parish Diary of the Sacred Heart

Please see the attached link for up-to-date information on mass times and dates.

[Sacred Heart Parish Diary](#)

Catholic Life – CAFOD Award

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that **St Wilfrid's has been awarded the CAFOD LiveSimply Award!**

This prestigious award recognises our school's commitment to living **simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others**, reflecting the Catholic values that are at the heart of everything we do.

This achievement has only been possible thanks to the incredible support of our whole school community. We would like to say a huge **thank you and congratulations** to our amazing children, staff, and families for their enthusiasm, generosity, and dedication. Every donation, every act of kindness, every fundraising event, and every effort to care for our common home has played a part in achieving this award.

During the assessment, the CAFOD assessor was incredibly impressed by the many ways our school community works together to support those in need, care for creation, and make a positive difference. They spoke very highly of the genuine compassion, generosity and sense of community that shine throughout St Wilfrid's, recognising the way we put our values into action every day.

We are immensely proud of this achievement, which belongs to every member of our St Wilfrid's family. Thank you for helping us to make a difference and for showing what it truly means to **LiveSimply**.

Together, we will continue to care for others, care for our world, and live out our faith through our actions.



Catholic Life

☀️ Nursery Places Available – September 2026 ☀️

We are now welcoming applications for our Nursery starting in **September 2026**.

Our Nursery provides a warm, safe and nurturing environment where children are encouraged to grow in confidence, curiosity and independence. Guided by our Gospel Values, we strive to build a community of love, respect and service, ensuring every child feels valued and supported as they begin their learning journey.

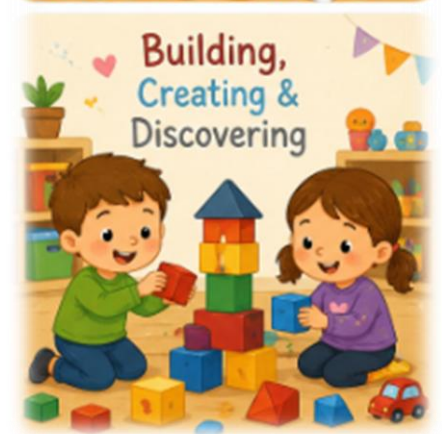
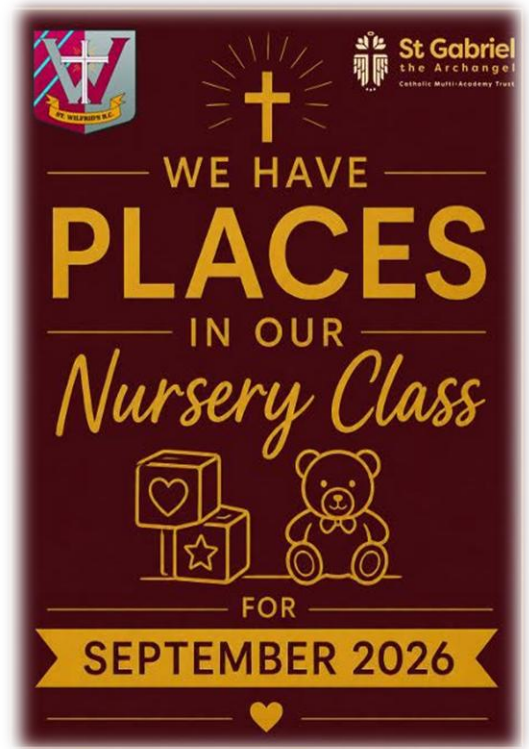
Children benefit from a balance of play-based learning and high-quality teaching, helping them develop essential early literacy, numeracy and communication skills while fostering creativity, exploration and a lifelong love of learning.

Our Nursery offers:

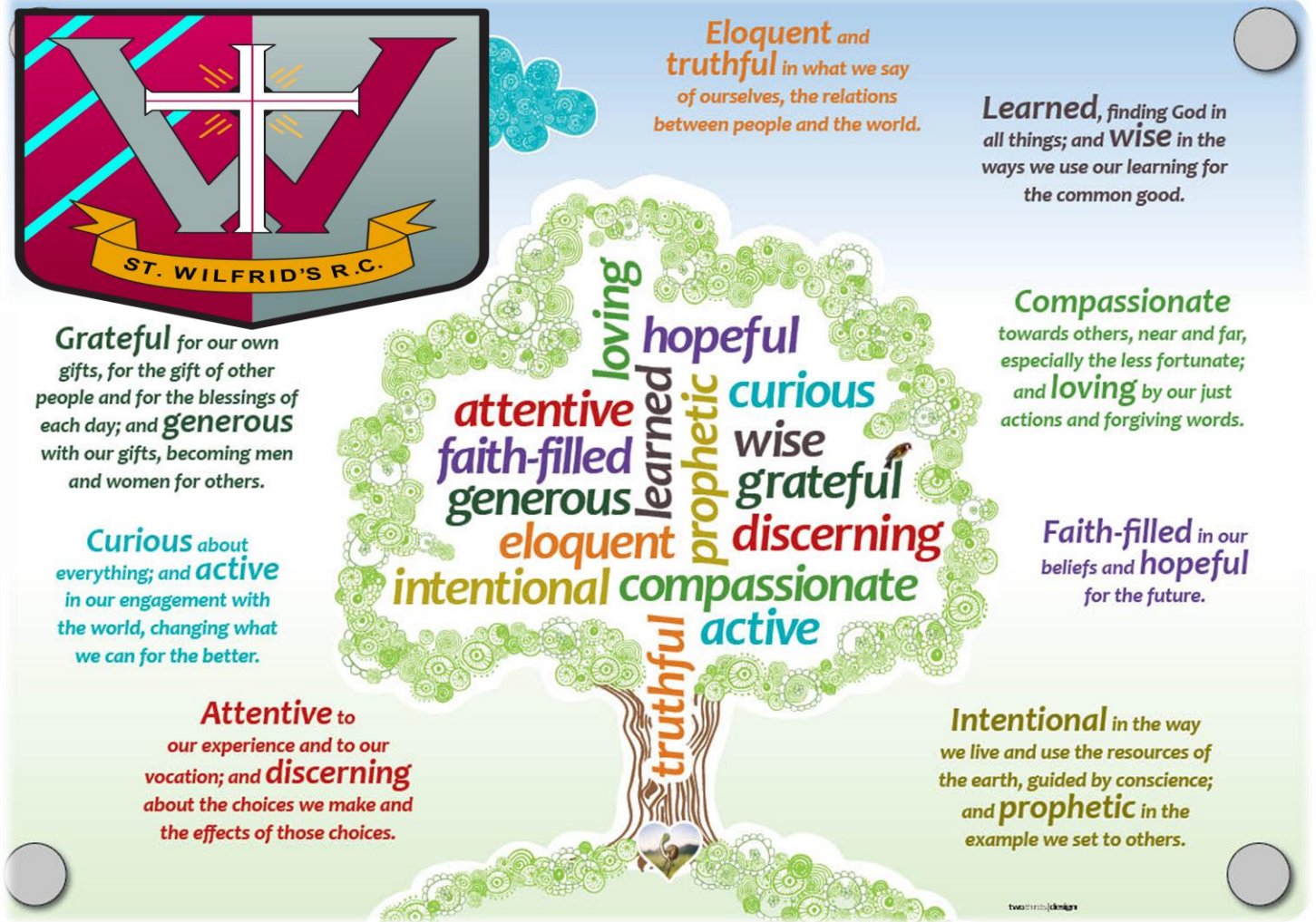
- A safe, happy, and caring environment
- Strong partnerships with families
- A balance of play-based learning and structured teaching
- Opportunities to develop confidence, independence, and social skills
- A firm foundation for future learning and success

"With kind hearts and a thirst for knowledge, we strive to build a community of love and service by learning from and loving others as Jesus did."

If you are interested in a Nursery place for September 2026, please contact the school office for more information or to arrange a visit. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school community.



Catholic Life - Values and Virtues

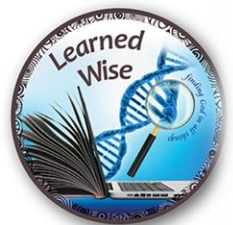


Values & Virtues

Autumn 1

Compassionate & Loving

Compassionate
towards others, near
and far, especially the
less fortunate, and
loving by their just
actions and forgiving
words.



Attendance Matters – A Year to Celebrate!

What a fantastic year it has been for attendance at St Wilfrid's! Thanks to the commitment of our children and the continued support of our families, our whole-school attendance has improved every half term compared to last year.

One of the highlights of the year was our **100% Attendance Reward Trip to Alton Towers**, where **50 children** who achieved 100% attendance enjoyed an unforgettable day out. A huge thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers for helping to make the trip such a success.

We are also incredibly proud of the **36 children** who achieved **100% attendance for the entire academic year**, as well as the **200+ children** who received certificates for achieving **96% attendance or above** during the final half term. Their commitment and determination are truly commendable.

Planning is already underway for next year's Attendance Reward Trip, with our newly elected School Council choosing the next exciting destination. Remember, attendance is measured **from reward trip to reward trip**, so any absences from **10th July 2026** will count towards next year's reward.

To further support excellent attendance, we are also introducing a new **Non-Prescription Medication Policy** from September. With parental consent through **Arbor**, staff will be able to administer appropriate non-prescription medicines, such as children's paracetamol or allergy relief medication, after contacting home. We hope this will help children with minor illnesses remain in school where it is safe and appropriate to do so, ensuring they miss as little learning as possible.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support. Together, we are helping every child make the most of every school day!

Attendance

Reporting Absences

Please be reminded of our attendance procedures for reporting absences: Parents and carers must notify the school on the **first day of an unplanned absence**, either by calling the school office/absence line on **01782 235 676** or by emailing **absence@stwilfridsnewman.co.uk**, as soon as practically possible.

Absences due to illness will be recorded as **authorised** unless the school has a genuine concern regarding authenticity. If there are concerns, parents/carers may be asked to provide medical evidence, such as a doctor's note, prescription or appointment card. We will not request medical evidence unnecessarily. If the school is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the absence may be recorded as **unauthorised**, and parents/carers will be informed.

Please also be aware that staff may carry out a **home visit from Day 1 of absence**. This is not a check-up but a supportive measure to maintain clear communication with families and to offer guidance on next steps.

Full details can be found in our **Attendance and Punctuality Policy**, available on the school website.



Do I need to keep my child off school?

NHS Somerset

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after starting antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after starting antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 hours after starting antibiotics
Flu or Covid-19 Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		



ATTENDANCE WINNERS



Name	Class	
Mrs. Gravano	Nursery	93.5%
Miss Jones	Reception	94.9%
Mrs. Osborne	Reception	97.2%
Miss Hodgson	Year 1	94.1%
Miss Bacon	Year 1/2	93.7%
Miss Burke	Year 2	96.6%
Miss Weir	Year 3	97.4%
Mrs. Spencer	Year 3/4	96.3%
Mr. Petrozzi	Year 4	97.1%
Miss Forster	Year 5	95.7%
Mr. Bailey	Year 5/6	95.7%
Mrs. Mortimer	Year 6	96.7%

EVERY SCHOOL
DAY COUNTS

*"School – where
memories are made."*



stoke.gov.uk



**Summer 2 Attendance
winners are**

Year 3 – 97.4%

**Whole school
attendance for this
term:**

95.6%

**Thank you to all parents
and carers for all your
support so far this year!**

**St. Wilfrid's Catholic
Academy - Attendance**

School Council - A Visit from the Lord Mayor



Our School Council had the wonderful opportunity to meet the Lord Mayor during a special visit to St Wilfrid's. The children asked a range of thoughtful questions about her role and responsibilities, and she was incredibly engaging, taking the time to answer each one with warmth and enthusiasm. It was a memorable experience for our pupils, and we would like to thank the Lord Mayor for visiting our school and inspiring our children.



School Council



Our School Council had the exciting opportunity to meet our local Member of Parliament, **David Williams**, during a special visit that gave pupils a valuable insight into the role of an MP and how they represent the local community.

The children had carefully prepared a range of thoughtful questions in advance and were delighted to have them answered in such an engaging and informative way. They enjoyed learning more about how decisions are made, the importance of democracy, and the many ways an MP works to support local people.

It was a fantastic experience that encouraged our pupils to develop their confidence, curiosity, and understanding of citizenship. We want to thank David Williams for taking the time to visit and inspire our School Council—it was an afternoon they will remember for years to come.



Music Events – Big Sing & SMW Summer Concert



On Monday 6th July, a small group of children joined the rest of the primary schools from across the former Newman Collegiate to form a choir which sang at the St Margaret Ward Summer Concert. The children all had a great time and represented the school well.



Year 4 and Year 5 took part in the Big Sing concert at the Victoria Hall. The children joined other schools from around the city to sing a selection of songs together. There was even a special visit from Kelvin the Kiln. Over the past few weeks, the children worked hard to learn a variety of songs and were excited to perform them together as part of a huge choir. The event was a memorable experience, giving the children the chance to perform in front of an audience and experience the joy of singing alongside hundreds of other young people.



Music Events - City Music School Visit

Our pupils were delighted to welcome City Music School, which treated them to an exciting and engaging musical experience. Children had the opportunity to hear a wide range of instruments being played, learning about the different sounds, styles, and techniques each one offers. The visit was a fantastic way to inspire a love of music and encourage our pupils to consider developing a new skill through instrumental lessons. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm as they discovered the many opportunities available to them and explored the joy that learning a musical instrument can bring.



Music Events - World Music Day



To celebrate **World Music Day**, pupils across the school took part in exciting and interactive African drumming workshops. The children had the opportunity to learn how to play traditional **djembe** drums, exploring a variety of rhythms and musical techniques, including call-and-response patterns. The workshops also introduced pupils to the important role that drums have played throughout history as a means of communication and storytelling in many African communities. It was a lively, engaging experience that encouraged teamwork, listening skills and confidence, while giving everyone the chance to experience music from another culture. The sound of drumming echoed throughout the school, making World Music Day a memorable celebration enjoyed by all.

Careers Morning



Our children enjoyed a fantastic **Careers Morning**, allowing them to learn about a variety of exciting careers and the many opportunities that could lie ahead.

Our EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils were delighted to welcome a police officer, who spoke about the important role they play in keeping our communities safe. The children loved asking questions and finding out what a typical day in the job looks like.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils were inspired by visits from a police officer, a nurse, and a personal trainer. Each visitor shared their experiences, explained what their role involves, and talked about the skills, qualities and determination needed to succeed in their profession.

Throughout the morning, pupils also took part in a range of career-themed activities, encouraging them to explore different occupations, recognise the skills they are already developing and begin thinking about their own aspirations for the future.

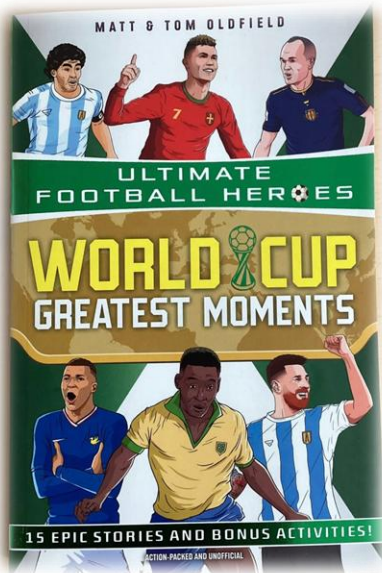
A huge thank you to all our visitors for generously giving up their time to support our school. Their enthusiasm and willingness to share their experiences made the morning both inspiring and memorable, and we are incredibly grateful for their support.



Year 3 & Year 4 Inspiring Author Visit



Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils enjoyed a fantastic visit to the **Floral Hall at Tunstall Park**, where they had the privilege of meeting the inspiring author, **Matt Oldfield**.



Matt shared how he and his brother found the inspiration to write their books, giving the children a fascinating insight into the writing process and encouraging them to use their own creativity and imagination.

It was an enjoyable and inspiring experience, and we hope it has encouraged many of our pupils to continue their love of reading and writing.



Year 2 Middleport Pottery Trip

Our Year 2 pupils enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Middleport Pottery, where they explored the rich heritage of one of Stoke-on-Trent's most famous pottery sites. During the visit, the children took part in hands-on creative workshops, designing and producing their own ink prints for decorative tiles before creating their own clay bottle kilns inspired by the iconic pottery industry. The day was filled with creativity, learning, and fun, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills while learning about our local history. A huge thank you to all our parent volunteers who gave up their time to support the visit—your help is greatly appreciated and helped make the day such a success.



Year 1 New Brighton Beach Trip

Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed a fantastic trip to New Brighton Beach, making the most of a fun-filled day by the seaside. The weather was kind to us for most of the day, allowing the children to spend plenty of time building sandcastles, playing games, and exploring the beach before the rain arrived. Fortunately, we managed to enjoy our picnic lunch just in time!

A highlight of the visit was a trip to the ice cream parlour, where everyone enjoyed a well-earned ice cream. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and respect, representing St Wilfrid's brilliantly. We were especially proud when members of the public took the time to compliment our pupils on their impeccable manners and behaviour.

It was a memorable day filled with smiles, laughter, and wonderful experiences, giving the children the opportunity to create lasting memories while enjoying time together outside the classroom. Well done, Year 1—we are incredibly proud of you all!



Tunstall Town Athletics Tournament

Forty pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 proudly represented St Wilfrid's at the annual **Tunstall Town Athletics Tournament** held at a packed Northwood Stadium. Competing against eight local schools, our pupils demonstrated outstanding determination, sportsmanship and teamwork throughout an exciting day of track and field events.

The children gave their all in every event, achieving excellent results across both the track and field disciplines. They continually encouraged one another, celebrated each other's successes, and showed fantastic team spirit from start to finish. Their determination and resilience were especially evident during the relay races, where they worked together brilliantly to finish the competition on a high.

Thanks to their hard work and commitment, **St Wilfrid's finished in an impressive 3rd place overall.**

We are now eagerly awaiting news of which of our talented athletes have been selected to represent Tunstall at the City Finals next month.

We are incredibly proud of every pupil who took part. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school and should all be very proud of their achievements.



Year 5 Parent Lunch



Our Year 5 Parent Lunch was a wonderful occasion that allowed families to spend quality time together during the school day. Parents and carers joined their children to enjoy a delicious lunch, sharing conversations, laughter, and making special memories together.

The event was a fantastic success and provided a lovely opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school. It was heartwarming to see our pupils proudly welcoming their families into school and enjoying such a special experience together. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the afternoon so enjoyable.



EYFS & KS1 Father's Day Breakfast



We were delighted to welcome so many fathers, grandfathers, and other special family members to our Early Years and Key Stage 1 Father's Day Breakfast. It was wonderful to see families spending quality time together, enjoying a delicious breakfast and creating special memories before the start of the school day.



The event was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the important role that fathers and father figures play in our children's lives. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the morning such a happy and enjoyable occasion. We hope all our families had a wonderful Father's Day celebrating together.



Summer Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fair. It was wonderful to see so many families come together to enjoy a fantastic afternoon while raising money for our school. The event featured a great selection of stalls and attractions, including candy floss, slushies, ice cream, a bouncy castle, and a variety of games and activities organised by both our staff and local stallholders. A special thank you goes to everyone who donated prizes, bottles, and pre-loved school uniforms, as well as those who gave up their time to help make the event such a success. We'd also like to give a special mention to Mr Petrozzi, who bravely volunteered for the 'Staff in the Stocks' and raised an incredible £60!

We are delighted to announce that the Summer Fair raised **over £520**, which will be used to purchase new equipment for the children in the new academic year. Thank you once again for your generosity, kindness and continued support—it truly makes a difference to our school community.



Year 6 - Residential at Stanley Head



Our Year 6 pupils had an amazing time during their four-day residential at Stanley Head, taking part in a wide range of exciting outdoor activities that challenged them to build confidence, resilience and teamwork. From canoeing, high ropes and rock climbing to rifle shooting, axe throwing, crate stacking and exploring The Roaches and Lud's Church, every day brought a new adventure.



Throughout the week, the children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination, supporting one another and stepping outside their comfort zones. They also enjoyed fun evening activities, including a scavenger hunt and a traditional campfire.

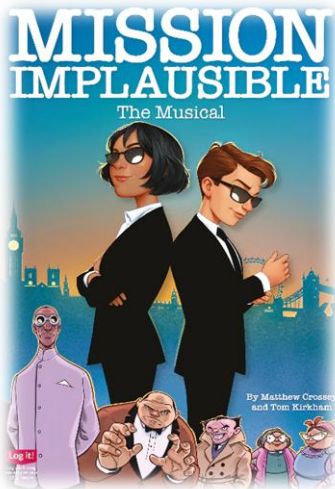


The children were outstanding ambassadors for St Wilfrid's throughout the visit. Their excellent behaviour, positive attitudes, and willingness to encourage one another were praised by the Stanley Head staff. We are incredibly proud of everything they achieved and the wonderful memories they created together.



Year 6 - Mission Implausible

Our Year 6 pupils wowed audiences with their fantastic production of *Mission Implausible*. They entertained families and the whole school with a brilliant performance, showcasing their outstanding acting, confident singing, and excellent teamwork. Packed with plenty of laughs, memorable characters, and even a prison cell on stage, the production was a huge success from start to finish. We are incredibly proud of every pupil for their hard work and dedication. Well done, Year 6.



Year 6 – Leavers' Prom



What a wonderful evening our Year 6 pupils enjoyed at their end-of-year prom! Dressed to impress, the children celebrated together with a fantastic evening of food, music, dancing, and plenty of laughter. They struck a pose in the photo booth, sang along to their favourite songs and made memories with friends that will last a lifetime.

The prom was a fitting celebration of their time at St Wilfrid's and a lovely way to begin the final week of their primary school journey. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves and celebrating all they have achieved together over the past seven years.

We hope they will always look back on this special evening with smiles and happy memories. Well done, Year 6 – we are so proud of you all!



Parent support



What is Big Cup?

Becoming a new parent is one of life's most wonderful times. But for some, this transition can be terrifying and completely isolating. With no support network to help financially or emotionally, the sudden responsibilities of new parenthood can be overwhelming. New families struggling on low incomes can find this time especially hard.

Big Cup helps families overcome isolation by bringing them together through free weekly parent-and-toddler play groups across Newcastle & Stoke. Big Cup offers parents the opportunity to meet up with other local families. It offers the chance to discuss common concerns, address a toddler's needs, and find space to smile and relax in a friendly environment. Building a critical support network for parents.



■ Family Lives

■ <https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

■ 0808 800 2222

- Family Lives is an online provider that offers a wealth of online parenting and family support through their confidential hotline, FREE online courses, live chat, parent advice videos, and more.
- Their free online parenting courses are a great way to get advice and learn new skills in the comfort of your own home, and at times to suit you. All of their courses are filled with helpful techniques and ideas developed by their experienced parenting professionals to help you become a confident and happy parent. Crucially, you can do our course whenever and wherever suits you and work through it at your own pace.
- Family Lives' range of courses includes:
 - Parents Together
 - Let's play
 - Coping with teens
 - New baby in the family
 - Raising confident children
 - Sibling arguments
 - Co-parenting

Free School Meals – Changes from September 2026



The Government has announced changes to Free School Meal eligibility, which will come into effect from **September 2026**.

From the start of the new academic year, **all children whose parent or carer receives Universal Credit will be entitled to a free school meal**, regardless of household income. This means that many more families will now be eligible to receive free school meals.

Children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** will continue to receive **Universal Infant Free School Meals**, as they do now.

Why is it important to apply?

If your family receives **Universal Credit**, we strongly encourage you to apply for Free School Meals, even if your child already receives a free meal through another scheme.

Registering your child may enable our school to receive **additional Government funding (Pupil Premium)**. This funding helps us provide extra support for pupils, including additional teaching resources, intervention programmes, wellbeing support, educational visits and enrichment opportunities.

Do I need to do anything?

If you think you may now be eligible, please look out for further information from the school about how to apply. We will be contacting families with details of the application process and are happy to help if you have any questions. These changes are fantastic news for many families and will help ensure that more children have access to a healthy, nutritious meal during the school day while also providing valuable additional funding to support children's education.

Tax Free Childcare

You can receive up to £500 every 3 months (up to £ 1,800 a year) for each of your children to help with the cost of childcare.

If you receive Tax-Free Childcare, you will need to set up an online childcare account for your child. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay £2 to use toward your provider.

What can you use Tax-Free Childcare for?

You can use it to pay for approved childcare, for example:

- Childminders, nurseries and nannies
- After school clubs and play schemes

Childcare Choices

Apply

You can apply online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare>

**Childcare
support is
expanding**

More before
and after-school
childcare places are
here to help parents

To find out more visit
[ChildcareChoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Childcare



Eligibility

Your eligibility depends on:

- Whether you're working
- Your income (and your partner's income if you have one)
- Your child's age and circumstances
- Your immigration status

If you're self-employed, you may still be eligible.

Your Child

Your child must be 11 or under and usually live with you. They stop being eligible on the first September after their 11th birthday.

Adopted children are eligible, but fostered children are not.



KEY DATES

AUTUMN I 26 / 27



Monday 31st August	Bank Holiday School Closes to all
Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day (School closed to children)
Wednesday 2nd September	Inset Day (School closed to children)
Thursday 3rd September	School reopens to all

You can keep up to date with events in school by checking the key dates on our school website:

<https://www.stwilfridsnewman.co.uk/>

Or

Visit our school Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St.WilfridsNewman/>

Please contact the school office should you require any further information.