



ST ETHELBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY
HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL, IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

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13th February 2026

Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

Loving Father,

As we begin our half term break, we thank you for all the blessings of this school term. Bless the children, parents, and staff of St Ethelbert's with a happy, restful, and safe holiday.

May this time bring joy, peace, and renewal to every family, and help us return refreshed and ready to learn and grow together.

**Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

By the end of today, sunset will be 5.06pm. 1st March – 5.35pm; 1st April – 7.27pm; 1st May – 8.17pm. Brighter, warmer days are coming! It has been a lovely week in school as we head towards half term and lots of learning has been happening. Ms Dowd and I always see lots of learning across the school and talk to children on a daily basis; the standard is improving all the time, especially in the quality of writing. We are having a big focus on more challenging work and handwriting this year. The children are clearly remembering more across a broad and balanced curriculum; they could tell Ms Dowd and I what they have been learning in each subject. It is always a pleasure to chat to a number of children about school and see them so happy in their learning.

Next week marks the beginning of Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday, an important time in the Christian calendar. Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter, when Christians reflect, pray and often give something up as a way of preparing their hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. Sadly, Ash Wednesday falls in half term this year so we will be unable to have a whole school Mass but Mass will





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happen in church as normal with Father Jonathon. During Lent in school, the children will learn about the meaning of Lent, including themes of kindness, forgiveness and helping others, and will be encouraged to think about how they can make positive choices in their daily lives.

On Wednesday after half term, the children will be taking part in special lessons to learn about and celebrate St Ethelbert's feast day. Throughout the day, classes will explore the life and legacy of St Ethelbert, reflecting on his faith, leadership and the values he demonstrated. These activities will help the children deepen their understanding of our school's heritage and provide a meaningful opportunity to consider how we can live out these values in our own daily lives.

At our school, we truly value open and honest communication with parents and carers. Your views are incredibly important to us, and we welcome all feedback—whether it is positive comments about what is working well, or constructive suggestions about areas we can continue to develop. Listening to your perspectives helps us to grow and ensure we are providing the very best for your children. Please do feel free to speak to me or Ms Dowd on the gate; we are always happy to listen and work together for the benefit of our whole school community.

Last week, our heating system in the Junior building unexpectedly broke down, which is why you may have noticed a temporary boiler currently situated in the car park. The boiler had already been scheduled for replacement later this year, so this has simply brought the process forward. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who rallied together to help keep the school open, including the use of temporary heaters to ensure the children remained comfortable. Please be assured that the hot water was not affected, as it runs on a separate system. We are hopeful that a new boiler will be installed over the next couple of months, after which the temporary unit in the car park will be removed.

As we reach the end of a busy and successful term, we would like to wish all our children, staff and parents a very happy, safe and relaxing half term break. Christmas seems a distant memory now! This is a wonderful opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy some special time together. Thank you for your continued support and hard work throughout the term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 23rd February, refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead!

God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher





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[Free School Meal Vouchers for FSM children](#)

Parents and carers of children eligible for a free school meal voucher should have received your vouchers via email for the end of term holiday. Any problems please speak to Mrs Knol-Haines, Bursar

[Make-up](#)

We have noticed that some children are bringing make-up into school. These are strictly not allowed in school. Please check your child's bag and remove. These must be kept at home. Thank you

[Class Photos](#)

This year, whole class photos will be on Monday 9th March. Please make sure the children come in wearing full school uniform, even though this is an expectation every day. Weather permitting, we will have traditional photographs outside in front of the church like before. If not, the photographs will have to be in the junior hall. We are praying for kind weather!

[Advanced preparation - World Book Day](#)

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. Children are welcome to come to school dressed as a character from a book, but if your child prefers it, they could come in their uniform and bring in a book to share with their class instead.

[Breakfast Club – IMPORTANT NOTICE](#)

Due to a significant increase in the number of children attending Breakfast Club and to ensure we maintain a safe environment for all pupils, please note the following:

- All sessions **must** now be booked in advance through School Money. Bookings can be made up until midnight the night before the required session.
- To ensure the safety of all children, attendance is now strictly capped at 30 pupils per session. Once this number is reached you will not be able to make a booking. All children must be booked in advance to attend. If a child has not been pre-booked, they will unfortunately not be able to join breakfast club that morning.
- A parent or carer must now check their child in with a member of staff at either 7:45 am or 8:00 am.

Exceptional Circumstances: We understand that emergencies happen. If you require a space due to exceptional circumstances and are unable to book online, please contact the School Office directly. Please note that admission in these cases is at the sole discretion of the Headteacher.





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We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us keep our breakfast Club safe and enjoyable for all children.

[Thanet Lifeguard Club](#)

Thanet Lifeguard Club is offering spaces on its popular Rookie Lifeguard Programme, designed for young people who want to build confidence in the water while learning essential lifesaving and water-safety skills. The programme is fun, engaging, and suitable for all abilities.

Children will learn:

- Water safety awareness
- Basic rescue techniques
- Personal survival skills
- Teamwork and confidence in the pool
-



If you would like more information or to register your child, please contact Thanet Lifeguard Club at mail@thanetlifeguardclub.com

[Kent Fostering and Supported Homes](#)

We are looking for new carers and hosts to join our outstanding fostering community and help care for some of Kent's most vulnerable children and young people.

As part of our team, carers and hosts receive excellent support, high-quality training, and the opportunity to make a lasting, positive difference in a child's life.

To learn more, visit our website <https://www.kentfostering.co.uk/>

It's never too late to give a child a second chance to shine and become the person they're meant to be.



To speak to one of our advisors please call us on **03000 420 002** or fill in our online enquiry form [here](#).





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SEND

Please click [here](#) for the latest Kent County Council Newsletter for SEND. Here you will find the latest news on Children's mental health, KCC SEND progress to date and further general advice, guidance and support.

PTFA

Please nominate our PTFA for the chance to win £1000 for our children/school.

They start each year with a clean slate - 2025 nominations are not carried over, so please nominate us again this year!

Thank you for your continued support.

[Click here](#)

**EVERY ENTRY
COUNTS**



Please take one minute
to nominate us
for £1,000!



Children showing our school values this week				
Year Group	Class Name/Saint Name	Child	Value	Reason for Value
Nursery	United Kingdom Saint George	All of Nursery	Inclusion	Showing amazing teamwork all term, being helpful and working hard. Well done
Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Freddie	Knowledge	Being really eager to learn and improving with his phonics





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		Ella	Knowledge	Always wanting to grab a pencil and practise her writing!
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Poppy	Thoughtfulness	Showing kindness to friends in class and always offering to help adults
		Kasi	Knowledge	independently writing her own sentence using her phonic knowledge
Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	Year 2	Inclusion	Being so welcoming to our new pupil Scarlett
Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Briella	Thoughtfulness	Offering to help adults with various jobs
		Alicja	Knowledge	Explaining and choosing a headline for her newspaper report
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Agastya	Knowledge	Demonstrating good understanding of pitch during our science lessons about sound
		Ocean	Inclusion	Being kind and considerate to others. You always work hard to include others.
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Lucy	Thoughtfulness	Always making sure everything is tidy and offering her help.





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		Amily	Inclusion	Talking to the class about Chinese New Year and bringing in lucky red envelopes for us all
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Ronald	Knowledge	Showing incredible reasoning in maths
		Lottie	Knowledge	Always participating, being engaged and sharing during lessons



Well done!





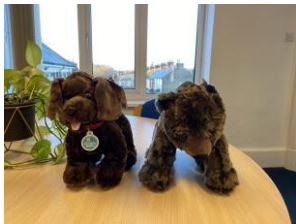
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Class Masses

If you would like to join us for a class Mass then you are very welcome. Children lead the Mass with readings and bidding prayers.

Date	Year Group attending Mass
25th February	No Mass
5th March	Year 4
12th March	Year 3
19th March	Year 2
26th March	Year 6

Mass will be on Thursday mornings at 9.30am in St Ethelbert's church



Attendance this academic year...

Class with No Lates: Year 4

Our attendance policy states that we aim for a 100% attendance

Reception	92.6%
Year 1	97.3%
Year 2	94.6%
Year 3	93.5%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	94%





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Whole School this week	95.1%
Whole School academic year to date	95%
National Average academic year to date	94.8%

**PLEASE NOTE – IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE WRAPAROUND CARE STAFF AFTER 4PM
THE NUMBER TO CALL IS **07400 170519****

DIARY DATES

2025/26

February 2026

23rd TERM 4 STARTS FOR CHILDREN

25th St Ethelbert's Feast Day – whole school mass

March 2026

1st St David's Day

5th World Book Day - Dress up

9th Class photos

17th St Patrick's Day

17th St Gertrude's Day

20th Red Nose Day - wear red

24th Feast of Saint Oscar Romero

24th/25th Parents Evening – 3.20-6.00pm

30th Easter hats and bonnets due in

30th Sharing the learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm

30th Multiplication Table Check parent's info meeting 3.20pm

31st Passion Service - 10am

31st Stay and Play session for children starting Nursery in Term 5 - 3.30pm-4.00pm

April 2026

2nd END OF TERM 4

20th TERM 5 STARTS





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22nd SEND Parents Evening
23rd St George's Day
24th Swimming Year 4 - 1.10-1.55pm (5 sessions)
25th Feast of St Mark

May 2026

4th Bank Holiday

Year 2 Tests

7th Crowning of Mary - whole school Mass

11th - 14th Year 6 SATs

22nd Sharing the Learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm

21st Summer Census

22nd END OF TERM 5

