



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

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Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

Prayer for the St Ethelbert's School Community – 2026

Loving and faithful God, we thank you for the gift of a new year and for the many blessings you pour upon the community of St Ethelbert's. As we begin 2026, guide our children as they learn and grow, bless our families with health, patience and joy, and strengthen our staff with wisdom, compassion and hope. May our school be a place of peace and kindness, where everyone feels valued and safe, where challenges are met with courage, and successes are received with gratitude. Through the example of St Ethelbert, help us to live with faith, generosity and love, trusting always in your care and guidance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

As we begin this new year, we hope you were able to enjoy some time to rest and recharge over the Christmas period with family and friends.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for the kind cards, messages and generous presents — they were truly appreciated and meant a great deal to us all. We look forward to working with you again as we start the new term together.

'Life is like a book. Some chapters are sad, some are happy and some are exciting, but if you never turn the page, you will never know what the next chapter has in store for you'. On behalf of all staff, governors, parish and PTFA, I would like to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2026.





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„Życie jest jak książka. Niektóre rozdziały są smutne, inne radosne, a jeszcze inne ekscytujące, ale jeśli nigdy nie przewrócisz strony, nigdy nie dowiesz się, co przyniesie kolejny rozdział." W imieniu całego personelu, zarządu, parafii i Stowarzyszenia Rodziców i Przyjaciół Szkoły (PTFA) pragnę życzyć wszystkim Szczęśliwego, Zdrowego i Pomyślnego Nowego Roku 2026.

Let's hope that this year is a successful year at our lovely school. Let's also pray for some hope, positivity and peace in the world. 'A wise man said: Hate has 4 letters but so does Love; Enemies has 7 letters but so does Friends; Lying has 5 letters but so does Truth; Cry has 3 letters but so does Joy; Negativity has 10 letters but so does Positivity. Life is 2 sided, so choose the better side.'

Although the children have only been back one week, we have started the year very well at St Ethelbert's. I know it must have been a shock to the system on Tuesday to get prepared both mentally and physically when the weather is so dark and cold at the moment. The children have come back ready to learn with superb behaviour as always and showing our school values of Inclusion, Thoughtfulness and Knowledge. The children really do live out our school motto of High Expectations for all, in the Light of Christ. Please ensure you are on time at school. The gates open at 8.40am. We have had a few too many lates this week and it is disruptive for your children.

I was very lucky to have a short break away in Rome, Italy. Rome is a wonderful city and I was quite struck by its beautiful architecture and long history. I was extremely blessed to attend the Angelus with the Pope two Sundays ago. This is an experience I shall never forget. It was quite something to be standing with a wide range of people from different cultures and languages from around our world such as Spain, South Korea, France, America, to name a few but all with the same purpose in mind. This made me think of our school where we have Inclusion as one of our values. Everybody is welcome at our school and will be treated with courtesy and respect. Travelling and meeting people from different walks of life is just wonderful. When I was in St Peter's Basilica, I thought of our school; all the staff, governors, children and parents and lit a candle for us all. You were all in my prayers for a successful new year.

We would like to make parents aware that Ofsted has recently changed the way schools are inspected, with a new inspection framework which came into effect from November 2025. The criteria and focus of inspections are significantly different from the previous model, placing greater emphasis on a broader range of evidence about school life and pupil experience.

St Ethelbert's was inspected last year and we were delighted to receive a very positive outcome. Based on current timelines, we would not expect our next inspection to take place until around 2029.

For parents who are interested in understanding these changes in more detail, Ofsted has produced a helpful short YouTube video explaining the new inspection approach. We will share the link in this newsletter for anyone who would like to watch it.





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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbl0FvY976g>

Wishing you a lovely weekend. Try to stay dry and warm as the weather continues to be so wet and cold at the moment.

God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher

[Admission to Primary School - Reception 2026](#)

Applications are open between Friday 7th November 2025 and close on Thursday 15th January 2026 and can be made at <https://kent.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Admissions.aspx> If you are unable to access the online site, an alternative format can be requested by emailing kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk.

[Attendance](#)

This is just to make you all aware that registration opens at 8.40am and learning starts straight away. Children will be reading, handwriting, correcting work from the day before, completing spellings or times tables. The gates are kept open until 8.50am for parents that have children on both sites. Let's make a fresh start in January. Our attendance overall is higher this time of year compared to last, which is great. We need to try and keep it that way as the year progresses.

[Year 6 Parents](#)

There will be a SATs information evening on Monday, 12th January at 3.25pm in the Year 6 classroom. We will talk to you about the different exam papers the children will have to complete in May and how you can help prepare your child at home.





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Change of Menu

On Thursday, 15th January there will be an 'All Day Breakfast' menu for census day.. If you would like your child to have a school meal on that day please pay via School Money. Thank you. Please see attached flyer for details. This can also be found on our website



| Children showing our school values this week | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-----------|--|
| Year Group | Class Name/Saint Name | Child | Value | Reason for Value |
| Nursery | United Kingdom Saint George | Florence, June, Donny and Joelle | Inclusion | Settling into Nursery very well for the first full week! Well done! |
| | | | | |





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|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|----------------|--|
| Reception | Poland Saint Jadwiga | Judith | Knowledge | Being super confident with our sentence reading in phonics! |
| | | Betty | Inclusion | Settling into Reception class with ease and making lots of friends 😊 |
| Year 1 | Romania Saint Andrew | Alexander | Knowledge | Talking about his feelings in RSE |
| | | Hrihaan | Thoughtfulness | Being polite and patient when waiting for his turn |
| Year 2 | Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary | Hugo | Knowledge | His understanding of how to write an accurate sentence |
| | | Ocheze | Knowledge | Her care and creativity in her Art lesson this week |
| Year 3 | Japan Paulo Miki | Connie | Knowledge | Her determination and mastering of adding numbers and the exchanging process |
| | | Alicja | Thoughtfulness | Her unselfish acts of helping others |
| Year 4 | Italy Catherine of Siena | Leia | Knowledge | Showing good understanding of classification keys in science |
| | | Bailey | Thoughtfulness | Treating others with kindness |
| Year 5 | India | Joe | Knowledge | consistently taking part in class discussion |





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|--------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | Saint Mother of Teresa | Kaiden | Knowledge | trying hard in all aspects of learning |
| Year 6 | France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux | Sienna, Aislin, Frank and Zoe | Inclusion | Including others in games and encouraging them to join in |
| | | Amorah | Inclusion | Going out of her comfort zone to join in an unfamiliar game |



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 |
|---------------------------|--|
| 6th January | Epiphany Whole School Mass (Yr 6 leading) |
| 15th January | Year 5 |
| 22nd January | Year 4 |
| 29th January | Year 3 |
| 5th February | Year 2 |
| 12th February | Year 5 |
| | Half Term |
| 25th February (Wednesday) | Feast of St Ethelbert Whole School (Yr6 Leading) |
| 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 | 95.2% |
| Year 1 | 96.6% |





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|---|---------------|
| Year 2 | 96.1% |
| Year 3 | 91.6% |
| Year 4 | 97.3% |
| Year 5 | 93.5% |
| Year 6 | 93.2% |
| Whole School this week | 94.3% |
| Whole School academic year to date | 95.19% |
| National Average academic year to date | 95.07% |

**PLEASE NOTE – IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE WRAPAROUND CARE STAFF AFTER 4PM
THE NUMBER TO CALL IS [07400 170519](tel:07400170519)**

DIARY DATES

2025/26

January 2026

12th Year 6 SATs parents meeting 3.25pm
15th Spring Census
Catholic Census
21st Young Voices at the O2

February 2026

9th Children's Mental Health Week - non-uniform on 13th
10th Safer Internet Day
13th Around the World Day
13th Sharing the Learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm
13th END OF TERM 3 FOR CHILDREN





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17th Shrove Tuesday

18th Ash Wednesday

23rd TERM 4 STARTS FOR CHILDREN

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

