



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

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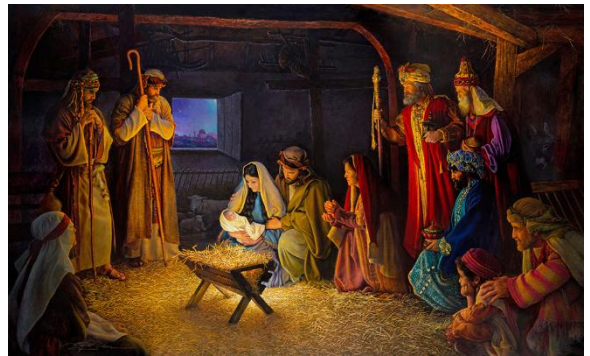
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19th December 2025

Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

Merry Christmas!

Loving God, at this joyful Christmas time, we thank you
for the gift of Jesus,
for the hope, peace, and love he brings to our world.
Bless our school, our children, our teachers, our
families, and our governors. Help us to be kind to one
another, to share generously, and to welcome everyone
with caring hearts. May this Christmas fill us with joy
and guide us to bring light and goodness to others,
today and always. Amen.



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding term, we would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support of St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery. Your partnership, encouragement, and involvement play an invaluable role in our school community.

The Christmas season is a special time for reflection, gratitude, and togetherness. We hope the coming weeks provide opportunities to spend precious time with family and friends and to enjoy moments of peace, joy, and celebration.

What a joyful, emotional, and incredibly busy final week it has been in school. The children and staff have been truly tremendous, even though we are all very tired and ready for a well-earned rest! It has been a privilege to witness the confidence and talent shown across all six Christmas performances: the





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wonderful Nursery sing-along, Reception's first Nativity, and the joyful Year 1 and 2 Nativity, to our beautiful Key Stage 2 Advent Service in church. The addition of *O Holy Night* was especially moving, sung with such passion that it genuinely brought a lump to my throat. Judging by the many kind comments and likes on our Facebook page, I know it touched you too.

It was also lovely to spend time with so many families during this festive period. The singing, acting, and readings throughout all performances were outstanding, and Ms Dowd and I are immensely proud of the children's hard work.

On Wednesday, the school was filled with a wonderful festive atmosphere as all the children enjoyed Christmas lunch together. Thank you to our catering staff and to Mrs Vernon for the delicious meal and for ensuring such smooth service. Feeding the whole school within half an hour was quite an achievement!

I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to serve St Ethelbert's and to be Headteacher of such a truly wonderful school. I know Ms Dowd feels the same. We are blessed with a strong, caring, family-feel community. Thank you to parents, grandparents, and extended family members for your ongoing support and kind words this week, and to our fantastic PTFA for raising vital funds throughout the year. You all help make our school the close knit community it is, always putting our children first. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day. I could not do my role without them. In particular, I would like to thank Ms Dowd, our Deputy Headteacher, and our School Manager/PA, Mrs Vernon, for their constant support; our caretaker, Mr Kain; cleaners, Mrs Kain and Mr Marshall; office staff Mrs Dobinson and bursar Mrs Knol-Haines; and our lunchtime assistants, Mrs Parveen, Mrs Kelly, Miss Hare, and Mrs Brien. Your dedication keeps our school running smoothly. I also thank our SENDCo, Mrs James, all teachers, and support staff for their continued commitment, enthusiasm, and care. It is a joy to work alongside such a devoted team.

As I reflected last year, this time of year is important for recognising how far the school has moved forward and for refocusing our efforts as we continue to develop St Ethelbert's further in 2026. We always strive to ensure your child's experience here is the very best it can be, and we are excited about the work still ahead.

Before that, we all need two weeks to rest and enjoy time safely with friends and family. Christmas is a time for happiness and sharing, but we are mindful that this is not possible for everyone. Let us continue to think of others and support them through our words and actions, not just now, but throughout the





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year. We hope and pray for a peaceful 2026 and for greater unity, kindness, and understanding in our communities and across the world.

Term 3 begins for children on **Tuesday 6th January at 8:40am**. Breakfast Club will open at **7:45am**, and Wraparound provision will also resume on the 6th.

On behalf of the governors, parish, PTFA, and staff of St Ethelbert's, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2026.

Thank you once again for being such a valued part of our school community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year.

[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.

God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher

[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.





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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 Christmas holiday. Any problems please speak to Mrs Knol-Haines, Bursar.

[Walk to School Project](#)

Last week we introduced the walk to school project which encourages children to walk, scoot, cycle etc to school. This is to encourage a healthy activity and hopefully help to reduce the congestion and fumes near the school. The children register on an interactive board each morning how they got to school and can earn badges each month by walking at least once a week. Please click on the link to watch a sort vide which explains how it works. [Walk to School Project](#)

[Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025](#)

We just wanted to let you know the amount we as a school raised for the Royal British Legion.

'The total raised by St Ethelberts was **£653.31** and was the most raised by all the schools in Broadstairs and Ramsgate!

So very well done!

A huge thank you to all of your staff and pupils for giving so generously.

The Royal British Legion.

Thank you for all your support for this Charity. Lest we forget.



[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



A HUGE Thank You from the PTFA

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, as well as to those who generously donated cakes, sweets, bottles, and items for our tombola. We are also very grateful to everyone who attended the fair.

We are happy to announce that we raised £867.15, which is a fantastic total, especially in the current financial times.

All the funds will be dedicated to enhancing the children's school experience.

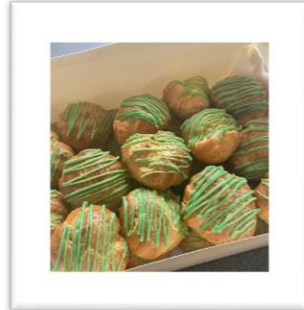
If you have any feedback or suggestions please email us at ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk.

Thank you again for your continued support.





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[Kent Family Hubs](#)

Please find attached a copy of the Kent Family Hub timetable from September to December 2025. The next Strengthening Families workshop to help reduce conflict between parents/carers is running on **16th October 10:00am – 12:00pm at Birchington Family Hub**. For those that wish to attend please use the booking form via this link [Strengthening Family Relationships \(SFR\) Workshop - Reducing Parental Conflict](#)

Children showing our school values this week				
Year Group	Class Name/Saint Name	Child	Value	Reason for Value
Nursery	United Kingdom Saint George	The whole of Nursery	Inclusion	Delivering a fantastic Christmas concert on Monday and behaving amazingly at the Pantomime on Tuesday!!
Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Layla	Thoughtfulness	Giving her Christmas cracker crown to someone who broke theirs





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		Adam	Knowledge	Doing very well with his reading in his phonics test! Well done 😊
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	All of Year 1	Thoughtfulness	Their wonderful behaviour during our trip to the pantomime
Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	All of Year 2	Knowledge	Their wonderful presentation of the KS1 Nativity
Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Eliza	Thoughtfulness	Including others in games on the playground and in class
		Aiden	Knowledge	Making amazing progress with his handwriting
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Darcie	Thoughtfulness	Using good manners and being polite to others
		CJ	Knowledge	Showing good researcher skills during Geography
		Toby	Thoughtfulness	Showing a younger member of wraparound how to do a game and then including them in his game
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Lucy	Knowledge	Going the extra mile at home producing some fantastic fact files





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		Bailey	Inclusion	Always ensuring that others are included and happy
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Frank	Inclusion	Making everyone in the class cupcakes and gingerbread!
		Julia	Thoughtfulness	Showing initiative and maturity when reading for an absent pupil in the Christmas service



Well done!





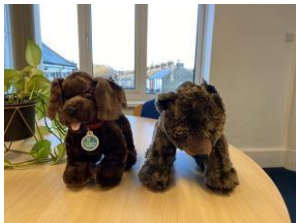
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Class Masses

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

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



Attendance this academic year...

Class with No Lates: Year 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6!!

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

Reception	93.5%
Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	87.5%
Year 3	89.3%
Year 4	95.3%
Year 5	92%
Year 6	86%
Whole School this week	91.1%
Whole School academic year to date	95.2%
National Average academic year to date	95.07%





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**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

January 2026

5th INSET DAY (3 of 5)

6th TERM 3 STARTS FOR CHILDREN

6th Epiphany Whole School Mass

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

17th Shrove Tuesday

18th Ash Wednesday

23rd TERM 4 STARTS FOR CHILDREN

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

