



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

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12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall**

**Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**

**God of joy, as we light the Advent candle this week, fill our hearts with your gladness and our lives with your light. Strengthen the weary, comfort the hurting, and make us signs of your coming hope. Come, Lord Jesus, and renew us in your peace. Amen.**



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

**Pantomime – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**

On Tuesday, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 travelled to Canterbury once again to watch 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' at the Marlowe Theatre. Every year, I am so stressed for the first ten minutes while the Dame picks a boyfriend. I will never forget the first year I was picked and 'enjoyed' every minute....not!! It was a close call again this year but luckily I slid down my chair just enough!

The children were so excited and showed exceptional behaviour. It is down to our brilliant and dedicated PTFA who met the cost of the theatre tickets. As I said last year, but wish to repeat because it is meant: it is these moments when I truly love my job; to sit in the theatre and see the smiles and enjoyment on the children's (and staff) faces! It is experiences like both pantos (singing, vocabulary, dancing, orchestra, drama, speech and language, travelling to Canterbury) where the children get an enriched experience of life. The fact that we soaked up most of the cost, as it would be so expensive otherwise, is incredible. The





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children are a credit to our school, and yourselves. A thank you goes out as well to all our parent helpers who came with us on the day. Again, we would struggle to do the trip without the support of parents to ensure we were above ratio. We have already booked again next year for the sixth year in a row, to see Peter Pan. If you are on Facebook then we have put a video of the finale (the Marlowe did give us all permission as it was the school performance). Next Tuesday, it will be the turn of nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 as we walk to the Granville Theatre to see Aladdin. Again, all paid for by the PTFA. Thank you to everyone involved.

### [Events next week](#)

Please keep a note of all the events happening next week. We have all the Christmas performances/services to complete on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please can I ask all Key Stage 2 children to be back at school at 6pm on Tuesday so we can prepare for the church service at 6.30pm. Once you have dropped off, you can head around to the church and wait for the performance to begin. It will be busy for the evening performance so please be prepared for that. Afterwards, we will take the children back to school and dismiss them as normal in the playground. Photographs and videos are allowed at all performances but do not put them on social media. I do have children who are not allowed on social media. Thank you for your respect and understanding with this request. The only non-uniform day next week is on Wednesday and the children can wear their Christmas jumpers. If a child prefers to wear a school uniform to help with the structure of their day then that is absolutely fine. This year, we are raising money for 'Save the Children' by wearing our Christmas jumpers; if possible, can you donate directly using the link <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day> We will also be having Christmas lunch that day. I hear we will be serving 164 children for Christmas dinner on Wednesday. Mrs Vernon normally makes it a well-oiled machine, ensuring the whole school eats at once.

### [Performances are ticketed events only](#)

Please note all Christmas performances this year are a ticketed event. Your child will come home with their tickets today. You should have received a form via email to register. We ask parents that you choose one performance only. This is to restrict audience size and to ensure we know who is on site in the event of an evacuation, to ensure everyone's safety. This is the first year we have done this so there may be some teething problems but we can review and amend if needed for next year. Thank you for your understanding.

### [End of term 2](#)





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We break up for Christmas next Friday at normal time (3.10pm/3.20pm). There are no clubs or Wraparound care next Friday

### [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.

### [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](mailto:kentonlineadmissions@kent.gov.uk).

God Bless

Mr Marshall  
Headteacher

### [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, Bursar.

### [Walk to School Project](#)

This week we have 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](#)





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**School Christmas Lunch**

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our Christmas lunch. Please see the menu attached. A Google form has been sent out to all parents to be completed if you wish your child to have a Christmas lunch.

**After School Clubs and Wraparound provision**

Please note that the last day for **all** after school clubs and wraparound provision will be **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December**. Thank you.

**Christmas Performance and Nativities**

Please find below a list of our Nativity and Christmas Services below.

Video recordings and photographs will be permitted so it can be shared with the wider family as long as it is for personal use and not to be shared on social media.

We have sent out a Google Form to all parents to sign up for your child's performance. Please be aware that the Year 1 and Year 2 performance at 2.15pm is **limited to two adults per child**. **Please sign up for either the morning or afternoon performance, but not both**. Thank you for your cooperation.

<b>Who?</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Time?</b>	<b>Location?</b>
Nursery performance for am and pm children	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Infant Hall (Lilian Road entrance)
Reception performances	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	2.15pm	Infant Hall (Lilian Road entrance)
Year 1 and 2 performances	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am or 2.15pm	Infant Hall (Lilian Road entrance) Parents can choose to watch either the 9.15am or the 2.15pm performance <b>but not both</b>
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 service	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00pm or 6.30pm	St Ethelbert's Church





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- Please note we require **all** children in KS2 to return to the 6.30pm performance. Please drop children off at 6.00pm at school and then head to the church. Parents can choose to watch the 2.00pm or 6.30pm performance.

Tickets for the performance will be sent home with the children today. Please book via the Google form. Thank you.

### **An Amazing Achievement – Ruby Year 3**

Ruby, one of our Year 3 pupils, has achieved the highest award possible in Beavers, the Chief Scout's Bronze Award. This is an incredible achievement, as Ruby successfully earned every single badge available, showing amazing dedication and skill across a wide range of activities. Her adventures included camping away, participating in water sports, engaging in community projects, and many other exciting challenges. Congratulations, Ruby, on this amazing achievement!



### **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.

### **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](#)





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Children showing our school values this week				
Year Group	Class Name/Saint Name	Child	Value	Reason for Value
Nursery	United Kingdom Saint George	Lottie	Thoughtfulness	Helping another child in the Nursery when they needed help getting their bag ready to go home
		Uthra	Knowledge	Joining in with phonic sessions, knowing the sounds taught so far and the nursery rhymes
Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Ethan	Knowledge	Showing really good thinking in the construction area to make a ball roll up a slope
		Asmin	Thoughtfulness	Being kind and caring to her friends in class
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Ibrahim	Thoughtfulness	Always being helpful to adults in the classroom
		Violet	Knowledge	Working hard to follow instructions in our English lesson
Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	Kayden	Inclusion	Working well with others in his PE lesson
		Arlo	Knowledge	Correctly using suffixes to improve his sentences





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Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Jennifer	Inclusion	Taking the time to encourage her peers to participate in games
		Mikolaj	Knowledge	Correctly identifying how adverbs and expanded noun phrases improve our descriptions
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Maymunah	Knowledge	Discussing how we can make positive changes to combat environmental issues, in our science lesson
		Carter	Thoughtfulness	Working well as part of a team and treating his peers with respect
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Sophie	Knowledge	Producing some lovely poems in year 5's poetry unit
		Samuel	Knowledge	Trying really hard with his writing – keep it up!
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Lena	Knowledge	Producing fantastic reasoning and problem solving knowledge in maths
		Elenora	Thoughtfulness	Helping her talk partner understand tricky work





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**Well done!**

**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
18 December	No Mass

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





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[Attendance this academic year...](#)

Class with No Lates: Year 1

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

Reception	98.5%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	90.3%
Year 3	90.3%
Year 4	90.3%
Year 5	92.5%
Year 6	96.2%
Whole School this week	93.5%
Whole School academic year to date	95.5%
National Average academic year to date	95.3%

**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**





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**December 2025**

15th Nursery Christmas Concert 11:00am  
15th Nativity Play (Reception) 2.15pm  
16th Carol Concert (Juniors) 2.00pm & 6.30pm  
16th Granville Theatre Panto for YN- Y2  
17<sup>th</sup> Nativity Play (Y1 & Y2) 9.15am & 2:15pm  
17th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumpers – non school uniform  
19th Benediction - 1.15pm  
**19th END OF TERM 2**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The last day for all after school clubs and wraparound provision will be **Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December**

