



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

Saint Lucy, you did not hide your light, you let it shine for all to see.

This Advent, may we be inspired by you. May the light and hope of Jesus light up our work, our play, our friendships and every corner of our day.



Saint Lucy,

Pray for us

Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 30 November; a time for preparing to welcome Jesus at Christmas and also get ready for when He comes again.

As this year draws to a close, we are also in the last few weeks of the Church's Jubilee Year, celebrating Jesus' message of hope and encouraging us to live as Pilgrims of Hope. Our Advent resources continue this theme - as we prepare, live and celebrate the hope that Jesus brings. Starting Monday, the hall will look spectacular as we begin decorating with Christmas trees and class hoops. Each class will showcase its hoop for the season, using a theme of HOPE connected to the country their class is named after—celebrating our school value of inclusion.





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This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout December, and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

PREPARE IN HOPE

The assembly for the first week in December introduces children to Advent season with a story of excitement and expectation. The beginnings of our preparations in the countdown towards Christmas are compared with a child's excitement as the family gets ready for the birth of a new baby.

In the Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44), Jesus tells His disciples to 'stay awake' and be ready for the day of the Lord's coming. Like with the coming of a new baby, we often don't know exactly when this event will take place so the time to get ready is right now!

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *Put up an Advent wreath in your home or make one together, talking about the symbolism of the purple and pink candles and the circle of evergreen.*
- *Talk about ways as a family you can plan to get ready during Advent. You might choose to prepare in a different way for each of the four weeks.*

LIVE IN HOPE

In the assembly for the second week of December, children have the opportunity to reflect on how God's messengers, like John the Baptist, encourage us to live our journey of faith by helping us to listen, change our ways and live in the hope that God offers us.

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *Talk about different messengers in the Bible e.g. angels and prophets, as well as saints who have helped us to grow closer to God.*
- *Share an example from your own life when you have placed your hope in God.*

SAINTS OF HOPE: ST LUCY

Our Advent series of daily prayers has the theme 'Saints of Hope' inspired by the stories of St Nicholas, St Lucy and Our Lady of Guadeloupe.





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The prayers for the week beginning 8th December focus on St Lucy, a saint whose life was full of faith, courage and love for Jesus. Her light continues to inspire us today.

It has been a very busy but highly productive week in school, as all our school governors have been in to monitor the provision we offer. Across the week, we held a safeguarding monitoring meeting, finance and premises reviews, SEND and pupil premium meetings, early years and Catholicity discussions, as well as a School Improvement Committee meeting. In addition, every subject leader met with their link governor to share updates on developments within their subject areas. The school continues to show strong momentum and is confidently moving to the next level in every aspect of our work. Well done to everyone involved.

God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher

[Panto Time.... oh no it isn't.... oh yes it is!](#)

I believe the children deserve the best enrichment experiences in life as we aim for our school motto 'High Expectations for all, in the Light of Christ'. Therefore, I am very glad to announce for a FIFTH year in a row, that all of Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children will be jumping on a coach and heading to the Marlowe Theatre on Tuesday 9th December to see Snow White. Also, this year nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 will walk to the Granville Theatre on Tuesday 16th November to see Aladdin. You should have received a letter this week. Thank you very much once again to our brilliant PTFA who have agreed to buy the tickets for the whole school. We will only ask parents to contribute towards the coach to the Marlowe in key stage 2. This will be on school money. Please note that junior children will need to be picked up later on Panto day and there will be no clubs. We will text with updates so you know roughly when we are due back (approx 5.15pm). You never know each year as we always get traffic coming out of Canterbury and at the Lord of the Manor roundabout. All children including Year 6 will need to be picked up. There will be wrap around care for the infants. The infant trip to the theatre on the 16th will be back by normal dismissal time.





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[Discovery Planet](#)

On Sunday 30th November Discovery Planet will be running a free workshop from 12 noon to 4.30pm. This is for children of all ages and no booking is required. Please see attached poster for full details.

[PTFA News ...](#)

[PTFA Christmas Gift Wrap](#)

There will be a Christmas gift wrap event on Wednesday 3rd December. The payment for each gift (£2.50, up to 2 gifts per child) is available through 'School Money'.

The children can choose Christmas gifts from our various stock of items, which will be wrapped and ready for someone special.

We need more volunteers for this event and would greatly appreciate it if you could help wrap up the gift with the children in the morning.

ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk

[PTFA Junior Disco](#)

Juniors Christmas Disco will be on Wednesday 3rd December 3:20-4:30 PM. Please book a space via 'School money', £2.50 entry.

There will be hotdogs, doughnuts, candy floss, sweets, drinks, and games and crafts, so please bring some change.





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[PTFA Infant Party](#)

PTFA is delighted to invite all Infant's children to the Christmas party on Wednesday 3rd December 3:10-4:20!

Each child will have the chance to meet Santa and receive a special gift, as well as fun games, snack & drink, all included in the entry fee.

The payment for entry (£2.00 per child) is available through 'School Money'.

[Own Clothes Day for the Christmas Fair](#)

Friday, 5th December, will be a non-school uniform day in exchange for a donation to the PTFA Christmas Fair. Please bring an item for the fair listed in the photo.

[Christmas Fair- Friday 12th December \(after school\)](#)

We're excited to invite you to our annual PTFA Christmas Fair on Friday, 12th December, straight after school. There will be stalls, games, treats, and plenty of festive fun for the whole family.

We need volunteers to help run stalls and support the event. Please email ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk if you could help us.

Thank you for your continued support.

[PTFA Christmas Raffle](#)

The raffle tickets were sent home in an envelope this week. The ticket is priced at £1 each, if you could purchase any tickets please complete the stubs and return them with money in sealed envelopes. There is a return box in the school office. Also, please kindly return unwanted tickets so we can sell them to others.

There will be a lot of lovely prizes that are donated to PTFA:

- P&O Ferry, return trip
- Family entry ticket to London Tower Bridge
- A pair of tickets to the pantomime at Granville Theatre

The draw will be at the PTFA Christmas Fair on Friday 12th December, from 3:30 PM, we hope to see you all at the fair!





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ST. ETHELBERT'S PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR
FRIDAY DEC 12
3:30PM - 5:30PM

NEW! CHOIR PERFORMANCE
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS
HOT CHOCOLATE BAR
FREE GAMES & DIY PHOTOBOOTH
LUCKY DIPS + CAKES + RAFFLE + TOMBOLAS

ENTRANCE ON DANE PARK ROAD

ST ETHELBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

Christmas Raffle

P&O FERRY-DAY TRIP, DOVER TO CALAIS
GRANVILLE THEATRER PANTO FOR 2
LONDON TOWER BRIDGE FAMILY TICKET
CHUCK & BLADE BURGERS, RAMSGATE
QUEX FAMILY PARK, ICE SKATING
JOJO MAMAN BEBE
GADDS RAMSGATE BREWERY
MARGATE CAVE FAMILY ENTRY
HORNBY, WORKS FAMILY ENTRY
TESCO HERESON ROAD
TESCO MANSTON
WAITOROSE RAMSGATE
MONTEFIORE ARMS

12TH DECEMBER 2025, 3-30PM
AT ST ETHELBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

***100% OF MONEY RAISED WILL GO TO OUR SCHOOL & CHILDREN

Own Clothes Day – Friday 5th December

Own Clothes Day for the Fair, please bring in:

Nursery - stationery/colouring book
Reception - Chocolate or Sweets

Year 1 – Boy's toy
Year 2 - Girl's toy
Year 3&4 - Gifts
Year 5&6 - Drink/ Wine

Please email us if you could volunteer at the fair.
ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk

PTFA Christmas GIFT WRAPPING
Wednesday 3rd December AM

Children will choose a gift from our various stock and will be wrapped, £2.50 per gift (up to 2 gifts per child), please pay via School money.

Volunteers needed! If you can assist in helping children choose gifts and wrapping them, please contact PTFA.
ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk

PTFA CHRISTMAS DISCO

YEAR3-6
£2.50 ENTRY

WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER
3:20-4:30

CUP DRINK 20P
CANDY FLOSS 50P
HOTDOG £1
DOUGHNUT 50P
SWEETS 20P-£1
PRINGLES £1
TACK SHOP 50P-£1
GAME 50P
CRAFT 50P

St ETHELBERT'S PTFA

Christmas Party
FOR YEAR R-YEAR 2

Wednesday 3rd December 2025
3:10-4:20
£2 entry

- ★ Snack & Drink included
- ★ Games
- ★ Meet Santa and get a gift!





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Well Done Emerson!

Demonstrating our school value of 'thoughtfulness' Emerson in Year 6 visited the RNLI Lifeboat Station in Ramsgate and handed over £750 that he raised running more than 2km every day for 30 days; which in total amounted to an impressive 50 miles! What an amazing achievement and all for a very good cause. Well done Emerson we are very proud of you!



School Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 17th December we will be having our Christmas lunch. Please see the menu attached. A Google form will be sent out to all parents at the beginning of December 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, 18th 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 will shortly send out a Google Form to all parents for you 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.

Who?	When?	Time?	Location?
Nursery performance for am and pm children	Monday 15 th December	11.00am	Infant Hall (Lilian Road entrance)





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Reception performances	Monday 15th December	2.15pm	Infant Hall (Lilian Road entrance)
Year 1 and 2 performances	Wednesday 17th 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 but not both
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 service	Tuesday 16th December	2.00pm or 6.30pm	St Ethelbert's Church

- 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.

[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	Knowledge	Knowing the phonic sounds taught so far, practising writing them and then finding items that begin with that sound!
		Uthra	Inclusion	Following the Nursery routines and joining in with phonics as well as other learning activities
Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Adam	Knowledge	Working <u>super</u> hard on his reading skills! Well done 😊
		Chester	Inclusion	Inviting other children to join his bridge construction
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Jessica	Thoughtfulness	Helping other children to do their coats up
		Melody	Knowledge	Her improved tripod grip and handwriting
Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	Maisha	Inclusion	Assisting others who are less able
		John Paul	Knowledge	Persevering in using base 10 to solve addition and subtraction problems





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Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Ruby	Thoughtfulness	Her mature response and for setting an example for others in church
		Eliza	Knowledge	Her outstanding use of prepositional language when describing The Fantastic Mr Fox
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Blu-Belle	Thoughtfulness	Always offering to help adults with jobs around the classroom
		Eva	Knowledge	Scoring 19/20 in an arithmetic test this week
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Daisy	Inclusion	Reading beautifully in church during class Mass
		Amily	Knowledge	Producing an amazing piece on segregation in English
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Aislin	Knowledge	Applying her knowledge of multiplication to help with solving fraction problems
		Lilly-Pearl	Thoughtfulness	Helping others in her reading group with Mrs Milgate





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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
4 December	Year 4
11 December	Year 3
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 2 and Year 4

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

Reception	89.2%
Year 1	96.3%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	94.5%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	91.4%
Year 6	94.6%
Whole School this week	94.3%
Whole School academic year to date	95.7%
National Average academic year to date	95.4%

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





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DIARY DATES

2025/26

November 2025

30th St Andrew's Day

December 2025

1st Christmas Tree and hoops up

3rd PTFA Christmas Gift Wrap

3rd PTFA Christmas Disco – 3.20pm-4.30pm

3rd PTFA Infant Party – 3.10pm-4.20pm

9th Panto –Marlowe Canterbury Years 3-6

12th PTFA Christmas Fair (outside)

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

17th Nativity Play (Y1 & Y2) 9.15am & 2:15pm

17th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumpers

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, 18th December**

