



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

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26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall**

**Weekly Reflection**

**Loving God, As we come to the end of another week, we pause to give thanks — for the lessons we've learned, the friendships we've deepened, and the strength we've found in one another. With the arrival of autumn, we are reminded of the beauty of change — the shifting colours, the cooler air, and the invitation to slow down and reflect. Bless our school community this weekend. Grant rest to the tired, peace to the anxious, and joy to those seeking light in small things. May this weekend be a time to breathe, to reconnect, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the days ahead. Keep us safe, keep us grounded, and guide us gently into the rhythm of the new season.**

**Amen.**

Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

We hope this message finds you well. As we move further into the term, we have a few important updates and reminders to share with you.

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**[Holiday Requests and Attendance](#)**

We would like to remind all families that, in line with government guidelines, any requests for holiday during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Regular attendance is essential for children's learning and development, and absences can significantly impact progress.

**New Fines:** Please be aware that the local authority has updated its policy, and fines will now be issued for unauthorised holidays. Additionally, persistent lateness may also result in a fine. We strongly





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encourage all families to ensure children arrive on time and attend school every day unless genuinely unwell.

Our overall school attendance is high at the moment with 97% attending. We want this to continue as the year progresses.

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### Harvest Festival – Monday 6th October

We are pleased to announce that our Harvest Festival celebration will take place on Monday 6th October. As part of this, we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items, such as tins, pasta, rice, and cereals, to help support our local community.

All donations will be sent to the Ramsgate Food Bank, and your generosity will make a real difference to families in need. If possible, please send in any food donations by **Friday 3rd October**, so we can create a lovely Harvest display in the hall ahead of the celebration.

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### Visit to St George's Cathedral

On Wednesday, Ms Dowd and I had the privilege of attending Mass at St George's Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson, alongside staff and pupils from other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Southwark. It was a beautiful service, and we were proud to represent St Ethelbert's. Please know that everyone in our school community was in our prayers during this special occasion.

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### New Head Boy/Deputy Head Boy and Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl – 2025-2026

On Monday, during Collective Worship, a number of Year 6 children did a sterling job by standing up in front of the whole school and reading the speeches they had written, persuading the school why they wanted to become Head Boy or Head Girl. All the children spoke very clearly and passionately. The new Head boy and Head girl will help with the leadership of the school and be representing the school at events and when we have visitors. The whole school heard all the speeches and went straight back to class to vote. All the children in the school had one vote for Head Boy and one vote for Head girl. The speeches were confident, articulate, meaningful and even some with a touch of humour. This enabled all





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children to get used to a democratic election and prepare for job opportunities later in life. I am very glad to announce the election winners were:

Head Boy: Stanley

Head Girl: Lily

Deputy Head Boy: Yaan

Deputy Head Girl: Eve

Thank you for your continued support.

God Bless

Mr Marshall  
Headteacher

### [Trip to Monkton Nature Reserve](#)

On Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October Year 1 and Year 2 will be going on a trip to Monkton Nature Reserve. Details of the trip and a permission slip have been sent home with your child. Please complete and return the slip as soon as possible. Further copies of the permission slip can be obtained from the school office.

### [Year 6 parents - Secondary School Places](#)

It's time to start thinking about secondary schools- please find attached a list of open day events for our local secondary schools which you may find useful. Applications for secondary school places are open now and close on 31st October. Details can also be found on our [website](#).

### [Change to menu](#)

On **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** there will be a change of menu to a Carnival Menu. Attached is a poster with the details and this can also be found on our [website](#).

### [Change to SEND Parents Evening](#)

Please note that the SEND parents evening has been changed from **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025** to **26<sup>th</sup> November 2025**.





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### Year 5 Swimming

The Year 5 swimming will start on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at Ramsgate Swimming Pool. The children will start their lesson at 1.10pm and finish at 1.55pm. The children will be back at school and ready to be dismissed as normal.

The programme will take place every Friday up to and including the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Your child will need to bring swimwear, goggles and a towel on these days. No spray deodorants are allowed, only roll-on. They must wear a coat as they may be cold walking to and from the pool.

### Cross Country

#### **YR 3-6 CROSS COUNTRY - 4th October 2025 – CANCELLED**

Please note that the above Cross-Country event at Quex has been cancelled. There is another event scheduled in for February and we will be signing up to this event.

### Lilian Road and Dane Park Road

One or two parents have been parking on double yellow lines on the corner of the road; blocking people in by the Hereson Centre; parking in the middle of the road to drop off children and using the private garage spaces on Lilian Road. Those spaces are for the residents and not the school. I fully support our neighbours. This week, we have seen examples of unsafe parking and children being dropped off and crossing the road themselves; please ensure your child is crossing the road safely and that you do not park on yellow lines. This is for the safety of all children. I appreciate that like every school, there is limited parking. I am very grateful to most St Ethelbert parents who are respectful of our neighbours and pedestrians. If there is no space then park further away where there is an appropriate space. The highway code applies for all drivers.



Again, can I please ask you to be considerate with your parking and slow down for the safety of all. Thank you to the majority of parents who do park sensibly on both Dane Park and Lilian Road. Moving forward, I will write to known individuals so there is not a blanket message in our newsletter.





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**The John Curran Cup – Year 5/6 football**

Last Friday year 5/6 students represented the school in the John Curran cup.

Overall the team played 4 games, unfortunately loosing 3 and drawing 1.

The teams that we came up against were of real good quality but we stood strong as a team, and managed to get ourselves a goal from Isaiah in year 5.

The team stayed strong and resilient throughout and represented the school in a brilliant way. Always showing the St Ethelberts values.



**Lily raises money for charity**

Lily in Year 6 has shown our value of 'Thoughtfulness' by raising money for the **Stroke Association**. During the summer holidays she set up a stall outside her house to sell bracelets that she made herself and has so far raised the amazing amount of **£875**! Lily continues to sell the bracelets at weekends and has set her target at £1,000, which we are sure that she will reach soon.

A huge well done to Lily. We are very proud of you!





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### Scholastic Book Fair



" We are excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to our school from the 2nd until the 7th October!

When our Scholastic Book Fair arrives, you'll be able to browse over 200 of the books children really want to read, from award-winners and new releases to beloved favourites and bestsellers, all at amazing prices. Plus, for every book bought, you help to **earn free books for our school!** All payments will be cashless so bring your phone. There will be a QR code to scan which will give you an online payment link at [www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay](http://www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay).

The book trolleys will be set up before and after school on the **KS2 playground** (Dane Park Road entrance) on the **2nd and 3rd October** and on the **Year 1 and 2 playground** (Lillian Road entrance) on the **6th and 7th October**. Feel free to go to whichever playground is most convenient for you.

Happy reading!"

### 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<br>Saint George  | Malachai | Thoughtfulness | Being a very kind friend and thinking of others                                      |
|  |                                 | Heaven   | Knowledge      | Learning the signs when singing Baa Baa Black Sheep this week                        |
| Reception                                    | Poland<br>Saint Jadwiga         | Thea     | Knowledge      | Doing really well with her phonics and blending!<br>Always being ready to learn<br>😊 |
|  |                                 |          |                |  |
| Year 1                                       | Romania<br>Saint Andrew         | Luna Mae | Inclusion      | Her caring and kindness towards children sitting alone                               |
|  |                                 | Poppy    | Knowledge      | Her understanding of one more and one less in maths                                  |
| Year 2                                       | Hungary<br>Elizabeth of Hungary | Isabelle | Thoughtfulness | Being a good friend at all times   |
|  |                                 | Zachary  | Knowledge      | Identifying missing numbers on a range of different number lines                     |





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|        |  |         |                |  |
|--------|--|---------|----------------|--|
| Year 3 | Japan<br>Paulo Miki  | Briella | Thoughtfulness | Always showing respect and having impeccable   |
|        |  | Abby    | Knowledge      | Demonstrating her mental arithmetic  |
| Year 4 | Italy<br>Catherine of Siena                                | Leia    | Knowledge      | Scoring full marks on her last two spelling tests  |
|        |  | Emilia  | Thoughtfulness | Thinking about how important it is to come to school and walking here (a distance of over a mile) when the car had a flat tyre |
| Year 5 | India<br>Saint Mother of Teresa                            | Samuel  | Knowledge      | Completing his homework with a lot of thought  |
|        |  | Bailey  | Knowledge      | Despite a damaged wrist, Bailey is always engaged and ready to learn   |
| Year 6 | France<br>Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux | Lucy    | Inclusion      | For always putting herself forward to help adults  |
|        |  | Zoe     | Thoughtfulness | For always doing the right thing and being ready to learn  |





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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.

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

**Attendance this academic year...**



Class with No Lates: Year 4





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

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Reception                              | <b>100%</b> |
| Year 1                                 | 97.9%       |
| Year 2                                 | 97%         |
| Year 3                                 | 97.9%       |
| Year 4                                 | 91%         |
| Year 5                                 | 97.2%       |
| Year 6                                 | 98.2%       |
| Whole School this week                 | 97.3%       |
| Whole School academic year to date     | 97.3%       |
| National Average academic year to date | 96%         |

**IT WILL BE A NON-UNIFORM DAY ON MONDAY FOR RECEPTION CLASS AS THEY HAD  
100% ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK**

God Bless

*Mr Marshall*  
Headteacher

**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**

**September 2025**

21st Feast of Saint Matthew

**October 2025**

2nd Autumn Census

5th World Teacher's Day

6th CAFOD Harvest Festival - food donations

10<sup>th</sup> Mental Health Day

18th Feast of Saint Luke

13th Sharing the Learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm - thrive focus

14th Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Monkton Nature Reserve

14<sup>th</sup>/15th Parents evening - 3:20pm - 6:00pm

**17th END OF TERM 1 FOR CHILDREN**

**27<sup>th</sup> TERM 2 STARTS FOR CHILDREN**

