



**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> September 2025

**Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall**  
**Weekly Reflection**

**Lord God, you are our strength and our refuge, our guide in times of doubt and our peace in moments of worry. Today, I place our life in your hands. Help us to walk in your light, to speak with kindness, and to act with love. Teach us to trust in your plan, even when we do not understand it. Give us the courage to do what is right, the patience to wait on you, and the faith to follow wherever you lead. May we seek you in prayer, find you in others, and serve you in all I do. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

We're excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and achievement together. As always, we are incredibly proud of our children and the progress they continue to make. This year, we remain ambitious and forward-thinking in our approach, and we're pleased to share our **school vision and priorities** for 2025–2026.

**[Raising Expectations, Deepening Learning](#)**

At the heart of our vision this year is a strong focus on **challenge and depth**. We want all our pupils to be confident, curious learners who think deeply and work hard. That's why we are continuing to strengthen the **questions we ask in lessons**—whether spoken or written—encouraging children to reflect more, explain their thinking, and push their understanding even further.

**[Continuing to Improve Handwriting](#)**

Our children already show pride in their presentation and handwriting, and we are pleased with the standards seen across school. However, we know that consistency is key, and we will continue to support pupils in improving their **handwriting fluency, formation, and stamina** throughout the year.





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### [Excellence in Attainment – Aiming High for July 2026](#)

We have high aspirations for all our children and are working hard to ensure that by **July 2026**:

- Attainment in **reading, writing, maths, and EPGS** at **Key Stage 2** remains **at least 10% above national averages**.
- Outcomes in **phonics** and **Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)** remain significantly above national levels.
- A **targeted intervention plan** is in place to **close the attainment gap** for our pupil premium children compared to the previous year.

### [Retaining Knowledge and Building Stronger Foundations](#)

Learning doesn't just happen in the moment—it needs to stick. That's why we're focusing on helping pupils **recall, revisit, and apply** what they've learned regularly. This helps them make strong connections between topics and deepen their understanding over time.

To support this, we're embedding **Cold and Hot Quizzes** across all subjects. These short assessments help children reflect on their starting points and celebrate their progress by the end of a unit.

### [More Pupils Working at Greater Depth](#)

We continue to strive for **higher standards in teaching and learning**, and this includes increasing the number of pupils working at **greater depth**. Teachers will be using **developmental marking** and **deeper questioning** to stretch children's thinking and promote high-quality responses.

### [Mastery in Mathematics](#)

Working alongside the **Kent and Medway Maths Hub**, we are embedding a **mastery approach** to maths in every classroom. This means ensuring that **100% of teaching staff** provide planned opportunities for pupils to reason, problem-solve, and apply their knowledge with confidence.





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By July 2026, we aim for **at least 80% of our pupils** to show strong **fluency and understanding** in mathematical concepts, preparing them fully for the next stage in their learning journey.

### [Improving Attendance for All](#)

Regular attendance is essential to every child's success. This year, we are implementing **effective attendance strategies** to ensure our **whole school attendance** meets or exceeds national averages. We are also placing a particular focus on reducing **persistent absence among our Pupil Premium children**, helping all children make the most of their time in school.

### [Sustaining High Standards in Early Years](#)

We are proud of our Early Years team and the fantastic start our youngest learners make at St Ethelbert's. We are committed to maintaining **Good Level of Development (GLD)** outcomes that are **significantly above national averages** through:

- High-quality, inclusive teaching
- Targeted early support
- A **language-rich environment** that develops confidence and communication

### [Enhancing the Nursery Outdoor Area](#)

Our Nursery is a joyful and nurturing place for our youngest children, and this year we are investing in further **developing the outdoor area**. By the end of the academic year, we aim to create a more **stimulating, purposeful space** that supports all areas of early learning and encourages physical, social, and imaginative play.

### [Working Together](#)

We know that strong partnerships between school and home lead to the best outcomes for children. Thank you for your ongoing support, your encouragement at home, and your belief in our shared mission.





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Let's make 2025–2026 a year of achievement, joy, and excellence—together.

Warmest regards,

Mr Marshall  
Headteacher

### [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](#). A Google form will be sent out to all parents and if you would like your child to have a school lunch on that day, please complete the form. Thank you.

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

Please note that the SEND parents evening has been changed from **4<sup>th</sup> March 2026** to **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026**.

### [School meal price increases](#)

Please note that from **1<sup>st</sup> August 2025** the price of a school meal will increase from **£3.23** per meal to **£3.37** per meal.

### [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.





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**School Photos**

Braiswick will be coming in to collect the photo orders on **Thursday 18th September**. Please ensure all envelopes are handed in to the class teacher by **Tuesday 16th** so that they are ready for collection. Please note if you wish to place any photos orders after this date then they will need to be ordered online. Thank you.

**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.

**PTFA**

The PTFA Term 1 newsletter is attached. This can also be found on our [website](#)

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

<b>Reception</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>96.3%</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>98.1%</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>92.8%</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>94.6%</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>98.3%</b>
<b>Whole School this week</b>	<b>94.2%</b>
<b>Whole School academic year to date</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>National Average academic year to date</b>	<b>%</b>





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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****

**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**





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