



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

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9th October 2026

Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

Heavenly Father,

Bless us this October with faith, peace, and love.
Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Rosary, draw us closer to Jesus. Guide our families, protect those we love, and help us follow your will each day. Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

Harvest Food and CAFOD

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for your incredibly generous donations of food for our Harvest Festival. Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference, with all of the food being donated to our local food bank to support individuals and families in our community who are in need.

On Monday, we were also delighted to welcome John Darby, a representative from CAFOD, who spoke to our pupils about the charity's important work around the world. John also received the money raised from our recent non-uniform day. We are delighted that the funds raised will help to provide two toilets for communities in need in other countries, making a positive and lasting difference to people's lives.





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Thank you once again to all our parents and carers for your continued generosity and support. It is wonderful to see our school community coming together to help others, both locally and around the world.

St Ethelbert's WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT yesterday!

Yesterday, the National Literacy Trust and British Council were aiming to set a new GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for the most people reading online in 12 hours and St Ethelbert's school took part throughout the day with other schools across the world such as in Pakistan, India and Perth, Australia. Thank you to Mrs Russell and Mrs Webb for signing the school up for the event. As part of the National Year of Reading, the call is simple: whatever you're into, take 10 to read into it. Whether it's a book, comic, magazine, or a match report, reading for just 10 minutes supports wellbeing and can open new worlds. This year, in partnership with the British Council, Take 10 is becoming a global initiative. By drawing from the British Council's global network of education and cultural partners in 85 countries and territories, this record attempt connected children, teachers, families and communities. The record event included four exciting sessions with world-renowned authors and influencers, each designed to engage and inspire different age groups: 5-8 years, 8-12 years, 12-16 years and adults (aged 16+). Each session included a slot where participants will take 10 minutes to stop and read, creating a global shared reading moment. Each session repeated during the day at different times to make the event as accessible as possible to a global audience. We will let you know if we have helped to achieve a new World Record! We should be told in a few weeks once it has all been validated.

Important Reminder About Parking

We ask all parents and visitors to be mindful of parking around the school, particularly on Lilian and Dane Park Road. Please remember that the parking spaces outside the Hereson Centre are designated for their visitors only, and the parking under the arches is private parking reserved for local residents. It is important not to park on double yellow lines or street corners and to be considerate to our neighbours and pedestrians at all times. Dane Park Road is already a nightmare with cars cutting through to miss the traffic lights so let's not make it worse by poor parking. Your cooperation helps us maintain good relationships within our community and ensures safety for everyone. Now we can use our staff car park again, I am hoping this will take some pressure off the local roads.

Parents' Evening Reminder

The first Parents' Evening of the year will take place a week on Tuesday and Wednesday after school. You should have received a form to sign up for your appointment slot. If you encounter any issues booking your time, please don't hesitate to contact the school office for assistance. All parents are kindly asked to enter the school through the Dane Park Road entrance.

Data Collection

In order to keep all information accurate and up to date we will be asking parents to complete a data collection form on parents evening. Blank forms will be available outside the classrooms and we would ask all parents to





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complete a form and hand it to the class teacher at the start of your appointment. This information will be kept strictly confidential and used in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

A Special Nativity Display

On Tuesday, I met with our PTFA to discuss some exciting ideas for the school year ahead. This Christmas, I would love to create a life-size Nativity scene using the shelter on Dane Park Road as you enter through the visitor gate. The display will include a real Christmas tree, life-size wooden silhouettes of the Nativity characters, Christmas lights, hay and lots of festive touches to help bring the Christmas story to life for our children and families.

To make this happen, we would love your help! If you are able to lend a hand with setting up the display towards the end of November, are a bit of a DIY whizz, or have any materials or items that you could donate, please let us know. Whether you can offer your time, skills or resources, every little bit of support would be greatly appreciated. We are really looking forward to creating something special for our school community to enjoy this Christmas!

Wishing you all a relaxing weekend.

God Bless

Mr Marshall

Headteacher





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Year 6 parents - Secondary School Places

It's time to start thinking about secondary schools!

For children starting Year 7 in September 2027, applications opened on Monday 1 September and close on Monday 2 November 2026.

You can apply for up to 4 schools:

- Put the schools in your order of preference.
- It is in your best interest to list 4 schools.
- Naming only one school does not guarantee your child a place at that school or give priority for a place over another child.
- You are not able to name the same school more than once.

Details can also be found here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

Year 5 Scientists



Year 5 spent the afternoon as scientists investigating what makes a solution. They experimented with substances to determine which were soluble and which were insoluble.

Well Done Year 5!



Year 1/2 Football

On Thursday, our Year 1/2 pupils took part in a football event at Margate FC. The children played a total of six matches, winning three and losing three.





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It was wonderful to see all the children playing with smiles on their faces and enjoying being part of a team. There were lots of goals scored by Alexander, Freddie, Jessica and Ibrahim, while Hirihaan impressed everyone with some brilliant tackles and excellent defending.

Overall, the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of representing the school. They showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the event, making us all very proud of their efforts.

Well done to everyone who took part!



[HAF Vouchers](#)

Vouchers for the October half term break will be sent to all eligible families on 1st October 2026. If you have any problems or queries, please contact Mrs. Knol-Haines, Bursar, email bursar@stethelbertsschool.co.uk

[Nursery and Reception - Virtual Tours](#)

Experience our nursery space first-hand with our immersive [virtual tour](#).

[Sharing the Learning](#)

Monday 19th October at 2.30pm will be our first 'Sharing the Learning' of this academic year. All parents from Nursery to Year 6 will be invited into class to share the learning of this term. Children will be dismissed at normal time. Parents can go between classes if they have more than one child. Please come to normal gates for entry. Gates will only be open for five minutes so please arrive on time. Thank you.

[Parents Evening](#)

Parents' evening is due to take place Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October from 3.20pm – 6.00pm. You will receive a link to sign up. Appointments last 10 minutes. This will be a chance to speak to the teacher about how your child has settled into the new year, progress made, targets and view books.





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Multiplication Tables Check

On Monday 19th October there will be a Year 4 parent information meeting about the multiplication tables check. The meeting will be at 3.20pm after Sharing the Learning. [Multiplication tables check: information for parents](#)

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 Adult Education

Please see attached information about the September Family Learning online courses, along with community workshops which are happening in Thanet, Canterbury and Dover. All courses are free to eligible learners and cover a range of topics designed to support family life, wellbeing and learning.

For full information and to book your free place please visit : www.kentadulteducation.co.uk

Scholastic Travelling Book Fair

We are delighted to announce that **£565.85** worth of books were bought this year from our Travelling Book Fair. This means that we have raised **£226.34** to spend on books for our school. Thank you to all our families. A big Thank You also goes to our Erin, Holden, Luiza, Holly and Adriana for their help with the Book Fair before and after school.





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There was also a bookmark competition and the winners are:

Year 1 – Chester
Year 2 – Zach and Ivy
Year 3 – Evelyn
Year 6 – Adriana

The winners each received a book of their choice.

Congratulations to the winners and Well Done! to all the children who took part.



[Raring2go!](#)

Raring2go! helps parents and families find local activities, events, clubs, and classes for children aged 0 to 12.

For more information and to read the Autumn Magazine, please follow the link:

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/canterbury/autumn2026/>



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Kent Family Hub

Kent Family Hub offers a range of **FREE Family Learning courses and activities** taking place across Thanet Family Hubs over the coming months. These sessions offer practical advice, support, and fun learning opportunities for families with children aged 2 years and over.

Please see poster for details.

This information can also be found on our [website](#)



Thanet Family Learning Courses

Venue Family Hub	Course Title	Day	Date	Start Time	End Time
Priory	Supporting Your Child's Anxiety	Monday	5 th Oct	12.30	14.30
Priory	Calm Together – Emotional Regulation You and Your Child	Monday	12 th Oct	12.30	14.30
Priory	Supporting Your Neurodiverse Child to Eat Healthy	Monday	19 th Oct	12.30	14.30
Birchington	"Bug Hunt"	Monday	26 th Oct	09.30	11.30
Newington	"The Gruffalo – Celebrating the National Year of Reading"	Tuesday	27 th Oct	09.30	11.30
Newlands	First Aid for Babies	Tuesday	17 th Nov	09.30	11.30
Margate	First Aid for Babies	Tuesday	24 th Nov	09.30	11.30
Northdown Road	"Festive Storytime and Crafts"	Thursday	3 rd Dec	09.30	11.30

To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

Courses for adults and children 2 years plus

Parents and carers are welcome to bring non-mobile babies to the session.

**To book your place on one of these
FREE courses, please contact:**

Email: thanetfhevents@kent.gov.uk



Kent Adult Education is part of
Community Learning and Skills

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Bringing learning to life





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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	Florence	Inclusion	Being more willing to raise her hand and have a go on the carpet!
		Donny	Knowledge	Showing great improvements in his phonics and rhyming words
Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Finlay	Knowledge	Showing fantastic knowledge about autumn and hibernation
		Jeremiah	Knowledge	Showing huge improvement with his phonic skills, including blending and segmenting
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Sahr	Knowledge	Writing complete sentences in his English book
		Thea	Knowledge	Her participation in science lessons on the topic of animals
	Hungary	Adem	Inclusion	His continued effort to help his classmates





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Year 2	Elizabeth of Hungary	The whole of Year 2	Thoughtfulness	How respectful and well behaved they were in church (they had lots of comments)
Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Gracie-Marie	Knowledge	Participating in class discussions during maths and working out answers correctly
		Isabella	Inclusion	Always trying to make others feel better if they are sad
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Connie	Inclusion	Always being considerate of other people's feelings
		Syna	Thoughtfulness	Always trying her hardest to succeed
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Gabriel	Inclusion	Always working as a team! Keep it up Gabriel
		Zuzanna	Thoughtfulness	Always thinking of and checking on others
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Kaiden	Knowledge	Trying extremely hard throughout SATS mock week and not giving up
		Liam	Knowledge	Working exceptionally carefully in all his mock SATS papers- it pays off!





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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
15 October	Year 6
22 October	Year 5





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	Half Term
5 November	Year 4
12 November	Year 3
19 November	Year 2
26 November	Year 6
3 December	Year 5
10 December	Year 4
15 December	KS2 Carol Service
	Christmas Holiday

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

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



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

Reception	91.6%
Year 1	93.1%
Year 2	93%
Year 3	97.7%
Year 4	91.2%





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Year 5	98.08%
Year 6	91.1%
Whole School this week	93.6%
Whole School academic year to date	95.7%
National Average academic year to date	94.6%

**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

2026-27

October 2026

16th Year 6 'Come Dine with Me' from 12pm
18th Feast of Saint Luke
19th Sharing the Learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm - thrive focus
19th Multiplication Table Check parent's info meeting 3.20pm
20th/21st Parents evening - 3:20 - 6:00pm
22nd END OF TERM 1
23rd INSET DAY (3 of 5)

November 2026

2ND TERM 2 STARTS FOR CHILDREN

Poppy sale
2nd Flu Vaccinations
9th Reception parent information evening for EY Profile 3.30-4pm
11th Remembrance – 2 minutes silence
16th - 20th Anti-bullying week
17th Times Table Rockstars Day - dress up
18th SEN Parents Evening
20th Children in Need – Non-uniform





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23rd UK Parliament Week

30th St Andrew's Day

December 2026

1st Christmas Tree and hoops up

2nd PTFA Gift Wrap

2nd PTFA Disco and infant Party (3.10-4.35pm)

9th Panto –Marlowe Canterbury Years 3-6 - Peter Pan

11th PTFA Christmas Fair (outside)

14th Nursery Christmas Concert 11:00am

14th Nativity Play (Reception) 2.15pm

15th Carol Concert (Juniors) 2.15pm & 6.30pm

15th Stay and Play - Spring Starters - Nursery 3.30-4.30pm

16th Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumpers

16th Nativity Play (Y1 & Y2) 9.15am & 2:15pm

17th Granville Theatre Panto for YN- Y2 - Jack & the Beanstalk

18th Benediction - 1.15pm

18th END OF TERM 2

