



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

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6th March 2026

Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

Heavenly Father, in this season of Lent you call us to repentance and new life. Purify our hearts, that we may thirst for you above all things. Give us the grace to turn away from sin and to follow your Son more faithfully each day. May your living water renew us and lead us to the joy of Easter. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

Alongside my newsletter this week, you will notice each year group has their curriculum newsletter for this term. Please have a read of what your children are learning for each subject and discuss this with the children. Don't forget you can find out more about our curriculum and what your children are taught on our school website: curriculum-overview.

There was no achievement assembly today due to the whole school having mass in church. Back to normal next week.

This week has been busy at St Ethelbert's and attendance has been amazing. On Wednesday and yesterday we achieved 99% attendance. Only two children were off in the whole school. Very well done everyone.

This week, the wait was over for our Year 6 children and parents as you found out what secondary school you have been allocated. Although most got a preference, not all did. I know some of you have queried about appeals and have already completed the form. Kent still deals with applications at this stage, not





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individual schools. If you are not happy with the school then my advice would be to appeal but still accept the place you have been offered for now. In the meantime, you can appeal. People change their minds and circumstances change for example, people move in and out of the area. In the meantime, if you need any further help or questions then please don't hesitate to catch me at the gate.

It was wonderful to see all the children and adults dress up yesterday in a wide range of costumes for the annual World Book Day event. We had Mary Poppins, Harry Potter, Spiderman, Where's Wally amongst many other characters. The children took part in a range of book day learning throughout the day. A huge thank you to Mrs Russell and Mrs Webb, our English leaders for organising another successful day. Reading lies at the heart of the curriculum at St Ethelbert's. We are dedicated to enabling our pupils to become lifelong readers and we believe reading is key for academic success. For more information about our reading programme, please follow this link <https://www.stethelbertsschool.co.uk/english-3/>

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Here's how you can get your child off to a great start: evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background. You can make a huge difference! Parents are the most important educators in a child's life – and it's never too early to start reading together. Even before they are born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from birth, even for just a few minutes a day, gives them the comfort of hearing your voice and increases their exposure to language. Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard. As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together. Make sure that your child is familiar with language and books so they can see how enjoyable reading is.

Some of the things you can do include:

- Reading aloud to your child, talking about the words and pictures, and sharing ideas about the book





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- Reading yourself – children who see adults reading, and enjoying it, are much more likely to want to read themselves
- Surrounding your child with books – you don't need hundreds of books at home, but go to the library or bookshop regularly to borrow books, spend time together, browse and make choices. In this way, reading becomes a habit.

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed - it's that simple." - Bali Rai Most importantly, talk to your child. Spend time with them, doing simple activities (like cooking and making things). As you talk about what you're doing, you are helping them to learn new words. Later, when they see words written down, they've already heard them and know what they mean. Maybe try to encourage 5 minutes less screen time a day and 5 minutes extra reading time. That would be an extra 35 minutes of reading a week. Happy Reading!





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How to Raise a Reader

- Read to your kids when they're little.
- Let them pick books they like.
- Show your kids you love reading too.
- Have books in every room.
- Go often to find new books.
- Take turns reading aloud.
- Make reading a daily habit.
- Set up a comfy place to read.
- Ask questions about what they read.
- Listen to stories together on car rides.
- Reward them for finishing books.
- Introduce them to mysteries, adventures, and more.





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[Class Photos – Monday 9th March](#)

This year, whole class photos will be on Monday. Please make sure the children come in wearing full school uniform, even though this is an expectation every day. Weather permitting, we will have traditional photographs outside in front of the church like before. If not, the photographs will have to be in the junior hall. We are praying for kind weather!

God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher

[Make-up](#)

We have noticed that some children are bringing make-up into school. These are strictly not allowed in school. Please check your child's bag and remove. These must be kept at home. Thank you

[Class Photos](#)

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[Parents Evening](#)

Parents evenings will be Tuesday 24th and Wednesday, 25th March. You should receive a booking link via email.

Mrs James, our SENCO will be available on the Wednesday evening to discuss any SEN need. Please book a 10-minute appointment slot if you would like to discuss any new concerns around your child or discuss the provision they have in place.

[Breakfast Club – IMPORTANT NOTICE](#)

Due to a significant increase in the number of children attending Breakfast Club and to ensure we maintain a safe environment for all pupils, please note the following:





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- All sessions **must** now be booked in advance through School Money. Bookings can be made up until midnight the night before the required session.
- To ensure the safety of all children, attendance is now strictly capped at 30 pupils per session. Once this number is reached you will not be able to make a booking. All children must be booked in advance to attend. If a child has not been pre-booked, they will unfortunately not be able to join breakfast club that morning.
- A parent or carer must now check their child in with a member of staff at either 7:45 am or 8:00 am.

Exceptional Circumstances: We understand that emergencies happen. If you require a space due to exceptional circumstances and are unable to book online, please contact the School Office directly. Please note that admission in these cases is at the sole discretion of the Headteacher.

We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us keep our breakfast Club safe and enjoyable for all children.

[Important Reminder: School Lunchbox Guidelines](#)

We have recently noticed an increase in chocolate-based items in lunchboxes. To maintain our healthy eating standards and ensure the safety of all pupils, we would like to remind you of our policy regarding lunchbox contents.

 **Chocolate & Sweets**

Under our Healthy Eating Policy, chocolate and confectionery are not permitted. This includes:

Chocolate bars and bags of chocolate buttons.

Chocolate-covered biscuits or cereal bars.

Chocolate spread (e.g., Nutella or supermarket brands) in sandwiches or wraps.

Sugary confectionery e.g. Haribo, marshmallows, lollipops etc.

We kindly ask that these items are replaced with healthier alternatives such as fresh fruit, yoghurts, or plain rice cakes.

 **Strict Nut-Free Zone**

We have several pupils with severe nut allergies. To keep our school environment safe for everyone no nut products of any kind should be brought into school.

This includes peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter, and nut-based chocolate spreads.

Please Note: If these items are found in a child's lunchbox, staff will remove them for the safety of the school community. They will be returned to the parent at the end of the day.





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Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children healthy and safe. You can find our full Healthy Eating Policy on the school website.

PTFA – Mother's Day Gift Wrap

There will be a Mother's Day gift wrap event on Thursday 12th March. The payment for each gift (£2.50) is available through 'School Money'.

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

We are looking for additional volunteers to help the children choose and wrap gifts during the morning of the event. Any help would be very much appreciated.

If you are able to support, please contact:

ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk



Eat Them to Defeat Them

It's back! This year we are again taking part in the Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign. The children were given their pack and stickers to bring home this week.

"Eat Them to Defeat Them" is a multi-award-winning campaign by [Veg Power](#) and [ITV](#) designed to encourage UK children to eat more vegetables through a fun, themed approach. By framing vegetables as "invaders" that must be "defeated" by eating them, it aims to turn consumption into a game. The initiative combines TV advertising, school programmes, and reward schemes to increase vegetable consumption.





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Please follow the Eat Them to Defeat Them family link [here](#) for full details. The campaign runs from 3rd March 2026

Rugby Festival

Last Friday our year 5 and 6 students took part in a rugby festival.

They played against 3 other teams; St Joseph's, St Peter's and Newlands.

Winning against Newlands, and narrowly losing by 1 point in each match against St Joseph's and St Peter's.

It was so nice to see the children giving it their all and putting into the matches what they had been learning in PE lessons.

As always the children represented the school in brilliant fashion, showing excellent sportsmanship throughout. Well done.



Football Fun Factory

We are excited to announce that our Easter Football Fun Camps are returning this April, and we would love to welcome your children for days filled with football, games, and fun.

We are also delighted to be an official HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) provider, offering funded spaces for eligible children.



Sandwich Leisure Centre



Tuesday 7th April to Friday 10th April



08:45 – 3:30



Ages 5–12





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Book here:

<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/4504>



Goodwin Academy, Deal



Monday 13th to Thursday 16th April



08:45 – 3:30



Ages 5–12



Book here:

<https://booking.thefootballfunfactory.co.uk/event/4505>

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.

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
12th March	Year 4
19th March	Year 3
26th March	Year 2

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 5

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

Reception	94.4%
Year 1	97%
Year 2	98.6%
Year 3	96.4%
Year 4	97.1%
Year 5	98.5%
Year 6	97.6%
Whole School this week	97.1%
Whole School academic year to date	95.2%
National Average academic year to date	94.8%

**PLEASE NOTE – IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE WRAPAROUND CARE STAFF AFTER 4PM
THE NUMBER TO CALL IS [07400 170519](tel:07400170519)**





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DIARY DATES

2025/26

March 2026

9th Class photos
12th Mother's Day Gift Wrap - PTFA
17th St Patrick's Day
17th St Gertrude's Day
20th Red Nose Day - wear red
24th Feast of Saint Oscar Romero
24th/25th Parents Evening – 3.20-6.00pm
30th Easter hats and bonnets due in
30th Sharing the learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm
30th Multiplication Table Check parent's info meeting 3.20pm
31st Passion Service - 10am
31st Stay and Play session for children starting Nursery in Term 5 - 3.30pm-4.00pm

April 2026

2nd END OF TERM 4

20th TERM 5 STARTS

22nd SEND Parents Evening
23rd St George's Day
24th Swimming Year 4 - 1.10-1.55pm (5 sessions)
25th Feast of St Mark

May 2026

4th Bank Holiday

Year 2 Tests

7th Crowning of Mary - whole school Mass
11th - 14th Year 6 SATs
22nd Sharing the Learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm
21st Summer Census
22nd END OF TERM 5

