



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

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13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall**

**Loving God,  
As we continue our Lenten journey, help our hearts  
get closer to you.  
Cleanse us of what separates us from your love and  
teach us to live with humility, faith, and compassion.  
Strengthen us to follow your ways and prepare our  
hearts for the joy of Easter.**

**Amen.**



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

This week has been a busy week at St Ethelbert's. We have had a number of governor monitoring visits including Catholicity; subjects monitoring; health and safety; Early Years; Pupil Premium; SEND; curriculum; school improvement; finance; wellbeing; safeguarding and many more. Thank you to our governors for taking the time to come in and see what is happening. I am pleased to report all meetings were extremely positive.

The reading in an usual place competition will be put out to parents next week so you can vote for your favourite. Please only vote ONCE! We will announce the winner before Easter. Thank you to all entries.

Easter Bonnet/Easter Garden Competition

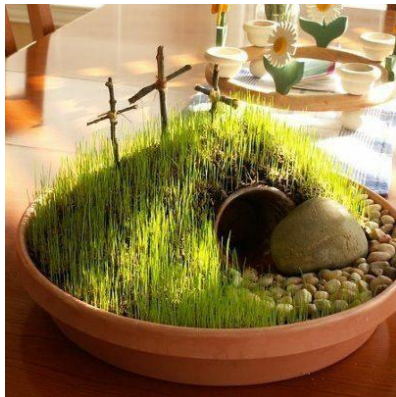




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This year on Thursday 2nd April we will be having our annual Easter hat/Easter Garden competition for the children. We would be very grateful if you could support your child in designing and making an Easter bonnet, or an Easter Garden. Please don't feel pressured to spend any money though as we all know the current financial situation. A girl and a boy from each class will be chosen. All winners will receive an Easter prize!



It is always a lovely time of year when we put all designs in the hall for the week; it is a sea of colour. An Easter Garden is a great way for your child to learn about Jesus and how he died for us and rose into heaven. Your Easter Garden can be made from a shallow planting container, stones, soil and grass for example. We would love you to use your creativity to come up with your own design. Your bonnet could be made from card, paper, or use a hat you may already have as a base. Then allow your child to decide what they would like on their bonnet, it could be something related to the Easter Story, flowers, signs of new life such as Lambs, chicks and chocolate eggs. It can be anything linked to Easter.

Please send your Easter Garden or bonnet in with your child on Monday 30th March so they can be displayed in the hall for the week. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful Easter Gardens, hats and bonnets! Please ensure your child's name and year group is clearly marked on the bonnet/garden.

God Bless

Mr Marshall  
Headteacher





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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.

### Year 4 Multiplication Table Check

On Monday 30th March there will be a Year 4 parent information meeting about the multiplication tables check. Parents information can be found by following the link: [multiplication tables check - information for parents](#)

The meeting will be at 3.20pm after Sharing the Learning.

### Free School Meal Vouchers for FSM children

Parents and carers of children eligible for a free school meal voucher will shortly receive your vouchers via email for the Easter holiday. **Please note that these vouchers must be redeemed by 12<sup>th</sup> April.** Any problems please speak to Mrs Knol-Haines, Bursar

### 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:

- 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.





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**[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.

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.





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### [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.



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

### [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



Book here:

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





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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.

Children showing our school values this week				
Year Group	Class Name/Saint Name	Child	Value	Reason for Value
Nursery	United Kingdom Saint George	Isla	Knowledge	Always joining in during phonics sessions, knowing all the sounds taught so far as well as the nursery rhymes
		Augustine	Knowledge	Being so much more confident when learning our phonic sounds and nursery rhymes





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Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Harley	Knowledge	Telling the class how clouds are formed and where rain comes from!
		Penelope	Knowledge	Trying really hard with sounding out her words when writing!
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Adem	Thoughtfulness	Being such a thoughtful friend, always checking that others are okay and helping everyone feel cared for
		Violet	Inclusion	Your kindness and inclusion, always making sure everyone is welcomed and no one is left out
Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	Isabelle	Knowledge	Her creative thought process in DT to build a fairground ride
		Damian	Knowledge	His excellent understanding of money
Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Logan	Knowledge	Methodically completing his writing and comprehension tasks
		Lily-Grace	Inclusion	Supporting one of her classmates with their work
Year 4	Italy	Eva	Inclusion	Always being polite and respectful to others





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	Catherine of Siena	Darcie	Knowledge	Improving her arithmetic test score by 11 points since our last test week
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Samuel	Inclusion	Trying really hard to improve his behaviour, he also gave some fantastic answers in RE on Monday
		Logan	Inclusion	Joining in with lessons and trying to improve his attitude to learning
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Poppy	Knowledge	Scoring more rugby tries in one hour of PE than the entire England team in The Six Nations!
		Yaan	Knowledge	Not missing a single mark in his math SATs! Wow!





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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
19th March	Year 3
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Whole School Mass</b>

**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

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

Reception	90.9%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	98.6%
Year 3	94.5%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	97.8%
Year 6	92%
Whole School this week	95.3%
Whole School academic year to date	95.2%
National Average academic year to date	94.4%

**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)**

DIARY DATES

**2025/26**





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**March 2026**

17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day  
17<sup>th</sup> St Gertrude's Day  
20<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day - wear red  
24<sup>th</sup> Feast of Saint Oscar Romero  
24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening – 3.20-6.00pm  
30<sup>th</sup> Easter hats and bonnets due in  
30<sup>th</sup> Sharing the learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm  
30<sup>th</sup> Year 4 Multiplication Table Check parent's info meeting 3.20pm  
31<sup>st</sup> Passion Service - 10am  
31<sup>st</sup> 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**  
22<sup>nd</sup> SEND Parents Evening  
23<sup>rd</sup> St George's Day  
24<sup>th</sup> Swimming Year 4 - 1.10-1.55pm (5 sessions)  
25<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Mark

**May 2026**

**4th Bank Holiday**  
**Year 2 Tests**  
7<sup>th</sup> Crowning of Mary - whole school Mass  
11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATs  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sharing the Learning - parents invited in from 2.30pm  
21<sup>st</sup> Summer Census  
**22nd END OF TERM 5**

