



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

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20th March 2026

Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

**Lord of mercy and renewal, as we draw nearer to the mystery of
your passion,
soften our hearts and deepen our faith. In this season of Lent,
cleanse us of what separates us from you, and plant within us a
spirit that is faithful and new. Teach us to trust in your promise of
redemption, even in moments of weakness and doubt. May we
walk with Christ in his suffering, so as to share more fully in his
resurrection. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

Finally, the spring equinox has officially passed and we have had a taste of warmer sunshine this week. My goodness, it makes a difference when the warm sun shines and spring is definitely in the air around St Ethelbert's.

Please don't forget that it is parents evening next week Tuesday and Wednesday. If you haven't signed up already then please do.





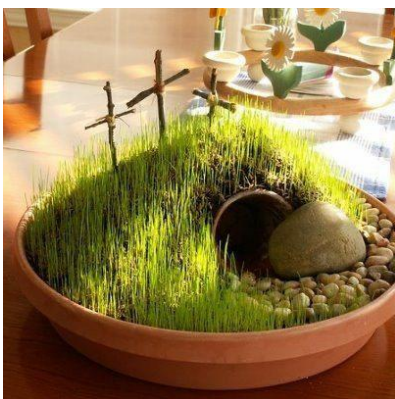
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God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher

Easter Bonnet/Easter Garden Competition

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.





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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 12th April.** Any problems please speak to Mrs Knol-Haines, Bursar.

Year 4 Swimming

The Year 4 swimming will start on Friday, 24th April, 2026 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 22nd May, 2026. 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.

Sharing the Learning

Monday 30th March will be 'Sharing the Learning'. All parents from Nursery to Year 6 will be invited into class to share the learning of this term from 2.30pm. 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.





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Easter Menu

On Wednesday, 25th March there will be an Easter themed menu. If you would like your child to have a school meal on this day there is no need to pre-book just let the teacher know in the morning. Please pay via School Money. Thank you.



WOW parent survey

As you may know, we take part in WOW- the walk to school challenge by Living Streets. With WOW, pupils start the day walking, wheeling, cycling, scooting or doing Park and Stride – where parents or carers park ten minutes away from the school and walk or wheel the rest of the journey – so thank you for your continued efforts with this. Regular exercise encourages pupils to build strong, healthy, lifelong habits, and they often arrive at school feeling calmer, refreshed, and ready to learn.

To help improve these journeys, Living Streets is asking parents and carers to complete a short survey about your school commute. Your feedback will directly shape how schools, councils and decision makers make routes safer and easier.

Please take a moment to complete the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/parentWOW>

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win a £200 shopping voucher. You can read the full terms and conditions [here](#).

Thank you so much for your support,

Neelam Bhardwaj | Project Coordinator





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Six Nations Rugby Event

On Saturday our year 5/6 pupils took part in the 6 nations rugby event.

Despite the slow start to the tournament, the team suffered a narrow loss against Upton and then against St Joseph's.

The team then started to move the ball better and use the space well to find gaps to run through. Winning against Garlinge 2-0 and then St Nicholas 3-2.

This meant we were placed in tier 4 out of 5 now facing Upton 2, St Gregory's and Dame Janet.

Losing a game, drawing a game and winning a game in this stage.

It was so nice to see great tries scored by Nina, Isiah and Eve. Playing some great rugby throughout and showcasing the skills that they had been learning in their PE lessons. Stanley, Jeremiah, Francesca and Rory also showed great teamwork and skill.



What a great tournament, the children thoroughly enjoyed it and can't wait to play again soon. Great teamwork! Well done to all those who took part! 🏈

Instagram

Don't forget we have our own school Forest School Instagram account where you can see photos of what they have been doing in our very own onsite Forest School!

<https://www.instagram.com/stethelbertsforestschoo/?igsh=MWRraXI2MjNlc25xNA==>





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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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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>



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>





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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	Bella	Knowledge	Writing her name all by herself! Very proud!
		Uthra	Inclusion	Showing huge progress with her language and speech and joining in with her peers!
Reception	Poland Saint Jadwiga	Judith	Thoughtfulness	Always being kind and caring to her friends
		Betty	Knowledge	Trying really hard to sound out the words in her writing!
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Poppy	Knowledge	Exploring how to use materials to create a dress. You showed great understanding of texture and cooer and used your creativity to bring ideas to life
		Jessica	Knowledge	Always trying her very best and taking great pride in the presentation and effort of her work





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Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	Naeemah	Inclusion	Encouraging and helping others when working in a group situation
		Zachary	Thoughtfulness	Helping tidy up the classroom after a very messy DT lesson
Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Jennifer	Thoughtfulness	Being a helpful aide to Mrs Hitch
		Emma	Knowledge	Studying the religious reading for church and delivering the reading with great skill
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Gabriel	Knowledge	Showing good attention to detail in his D&T designs
		Eryk	Thoughtfulness	Being tolerant of others and always treating others with kindness
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Adriana	Knowledge	Creating a fantastic piece of homework on the solar system
		Ronnie	Knowledge	Giving a fantastic example of personification
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Phoebe	Inclusion	Always cheering me and others up with her wonderful sense of humour
		Amy	Thoughtfulness	Showing maturity and fairness in her lunchtime equipment job





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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
Wednesday 25th March	Whole School Mass

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 4

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

Reception	95.8%
Year 1	95.6%
Year 2	95%
Year 3	87.7%
Year 4	97.2%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	93%
Whole School this week	94%
Whole School academic year to date	95.1%
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)**

DIARY DATES

2025/26





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March 2026

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 Year 4 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

