



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

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19th June 2026

Latest Newsletter from Mr Marshall

Loving God, As we approach the final weeks of this school term, help us to work calmly, kindly, and with grateful hearts. Give us the strength to meet our challenges, the wisdom to support one another, and the spirit of teamwork in all that we do.

May we encourage each other, celebrate our achievements, and finish the term with joy and peace.

Bless our school community and keep us united in friendship and faith.

Amen.

Dear St Ethelbert's Community,

Celebrating Mrs Rydz's Remarkable Service

It is with mixed emotions that we share the news that Mrs Rydz will be retiring this summer after an incredible **30 years of dedicated service** to St Ethelbert's.

Over the years, Mrs Rydz has supported and inspired countless children and families, and her kindness, patience, faith and commitment have made a lasting difference to our school community. She has been simply amazing, and her contribution to St Ethelbert's cannot be overstated.

Mrs Rydz connection with the school goes back much further than her official employment. Having moved from London with her family, she attended St Ethelbert's herself alongside her siblings. At just 15





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years old, she was already helping in the infant classes. In the 1980s, when her own children attended the school, Mrs Rydz volunteered her time before being offered a temporary contract, which later became a permanent position.

Throughout her career, Mrs Rydz worked with many wonderful children. She began working in Reception alongside Sister Maria in what is now our music room, before supporting children in Year 1 with Mrs Pitt and in Year 2 with Teresa Ebdon. Mrs Rydz also job-shared with another school mum and when a teaching assistant retired, Mrs Rydz's hours increased, allowing her to continue supporting even more children.

From 1995, Mrs Rydz also served as a lunchtime supervisor, becoming a familiar and reassuring presence throughout the school day. For many children, she has been one of the first smiling faces they saw each morning and one of the most encouraging voices they heard throughout their time at St Ethelbert's.

On Wednesday, Ms Dowd and I were delighted to attend a special Celebration Mass at St George's Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson. During this wonderful occasion, Mrs Rydz was presented with a special certificate and medal in recognition of her outstanding service to Catholic education. It was a fitting tribute to her many years of dedication and commitment.

Thankfully, we are not saying goodbye completely! Mrs Rydz will continue to be part of the St Ethelbert's family through our wraparound care provision for two days each week. I am certainly not ready to let her go fully just yet!

It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Mrs Rydz. On behalf of all the staff, governors, children, parents, and past pupils whose lives she has touched, I would like to thank her for everything she has given to our school.

We wish Mrs Rydz a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement with her husband, Derek, filled with joy, good health, and many wonderful memories.

Thank you, Mrs Rydz. You will always be a cherished part of the St Ethelbert's family.

Celebrating Mrs Francis Remarkable Service

We would also like to pay tribute to Mrs Maureen Francis, our much-valued Vice Chair of Governors and Foundation Governor, who is retiring after an incredible 30 years of dedicated service to St Ethelbert's. Throughout her time as a governor, including a period as Chair of Governors, Maureen has provided unwavering support, wise leadership, and a steadfast commitment to ensuring the very best for our children, staff, and wider school community. On Wednesday, Mrs Dowd and I were delighted to attend a special Celebration Mass at St George's Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson. During this wonderful occasion, Maureen was presented with a special certificate and medal in recognition of her outstanding service to Catholic education—a fitting tribute to her many years of dedication and commitment. It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Maureen, and we are deeply grateful for all the support, guidance, and leadership she has given over the years. We wish her a long, happy, and





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well-deserved retirement. Thankfully, we will still see Maureen around, as she continues to devote much of her time to St Ethelbert's Church and remains a cherished member of our parish and school family.

Staffing 2026-2027

I am pleased to share our staff structure for the upcoming 2026-2027 academic year at St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School and Nursery. I am thrilled to say that for a fourth year in a row we have no changes to staff. Please take the time to discuss these changes with your children to help them prepare for their new classes.

Headteacher: Mr Marshall

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Dowd

School Manager and PA: Mrs Vernon

Class Teachers and Classes for 2026-2027

- Nursery (United Kingdom / Saint George): Mr Clinch
- Reception (Poland / Saint Jadwiga): Miss Rees
- Year 1 (Romania / Saint Andrew): Mrs Webb & Mrs Russell
- Year 2 (Hungary / Elizabeth of Hungary): Mr Linton
- Year 3 (Japan / Paulo Miki): Mr Pressley
- Year 4 (Italy / Catherine of Siena): Miss Todd
- Year 5 (India / Saint Mother Teresa): Mrs Lawrence
- Year 6 (France / Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux): Mr Evans and Mrs King

Support Staff

Our wider team continues to provide dedicated care and specialised interventions across the school:

- SENCO: Mrs James
- Sports Coach: Mr Miles
- Speech and Language TA: Mrs Cayley
- Learning Mentors: Mrs Taylor (year 6 morning and supporting academic achievement across the school in the afternoon) and Mrs Calver (year 4 in the morning and supporting social, emotional and mental health/ THRIVE across the school in the afternoon)
- SEND Teaching Assistants: Mrs Hitch (year 5) and Mrs Kelly (year 4)
- Support Staff Team: Mrs Redford (Nursery), Mrs Silchenko (Reception), Mrs Thorne (Year 1), Mrs Gill (Year 2), Mrs Silsbury (Year 3), Mrs Milgate (Year 3), Miss Webster (Year 5), and Mrs Bradford (year 6)





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Important Transition Day Information

Our formal Transition Day will take place on Thursday 2nd July. On this day, current children will spend time in their upcoming classrooms with their new teachers. Children are to come into school as they do now. We will move the children up to their new class once settled in school. Likewise, they will return to their current classroom before dismissal. On this day, pick up and collect as you would normally do now. Our current Year 6 pupils will not be on-site at St Ethelbert's, as they are required to attend transition sessions at their respective new secondary schools. Please note that some secondary schools choose to run more than one transition day; please contact your child's specific secondary school directly to verify their exact arrangements and schedules.

Welcoming Our New Families

We are absolutely delighted to welcome our brand-new Nursery and Reception children into our school community. It was wonderful meeting so many parents on Tuesday evening during our induction session. Thank you for taking the time to join us and begin this exciting partnership.

Welcome to St Ethelbert's!

Year 6 residential

I was delighted to visit our Year 6 children on their residential trip on Wednesday evening and again last night. It was wonderful to see them having so much fun, demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout their stay. The children have enjoyed a wide range of activities during the day, keeping them busy and challenged, and in the evenings they have had the opportunity to relax and enjoy time together. On Thursday night, they enjoyed a delicious curry for dinner and on Wednesday night a campfire, which was a real highlight of the trip. The children have been a credit to the school, and it has been fantastic to see them making such special memories together. We will share more details and photographs from the residential in next week's newsletter as they only got back today and need a well earned sleep!

God Bless

Mr Marshall
Headteacher





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Dumpling Squishies – Safety Warning – PLEASE READ

Local councils are warning families about the safety of "dumpling squishies," which are highly popular soft toys shaped like little buns or dumplings that can be squeezed, stretched, or rolled between hands. While many are sold in exciting 'blind boxes,' high demand has led to a surge in counterfeit versions that often fail health and safety checks. Trading Standards officers have found fake versions that miss basic safety information, lack official CE or UKCA safety markings, and release hazardous



chemicals into the air that can cause eye, skin, or lung irritation. Parents should check these toys carefully and stop using them immediately if they smell unusually strong (like petrol), leak, look poorly made, or seem suspiciously cheap. For further information, you can read the full report published on the [BBC Newsround Website](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56888888). As a reminder, toys should not be brought into school, so please ensure these items remain at home.

Uniform Reminder – School Ties

A gentle reminder that ties are part of our school uniform policy. Recently, several pupils have been coming to school without them. We kindly ask for your help in checking that your child is wearing their tie each day. We do have a limited stock of second hand ties and if you require one, please check availability with the school office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Own Clothes Day for the Summer Fair

Friday 26th June will be a non-school uniform day in exchange for a donation to the PTFA Summer Fair. Please bring an item for the fair listed in the photo.

Thank you.

**Own Clothes Day
for the Summer Fair Friday 26th June**

Please bring the following items for the Summer Fair. If possible, we would appreciate donations of unused items.

Nursery - Sweets (No chocolates please)
Reception - Sweets (No chocolates please)
Year 1 - Stationery
Year 2 - Children's Book
Year 3 - Toy
Year 4 - Gift item
Year 5 & 6 - Bottles (No water please)

Summer Fair: Friday 3rd July 3:30



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PTFA Summer Fair

We're excited to invite you to our annual PTFA Summer Fair on Friday, 3rd July, straight after school. There will be stalls, games, treats, and plenty of fun for the whole family.

More volunteers are needed to help run stalls and support the event. Please email us at ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk if you can help. Thank you for your support.

Don't miss the performance by the School Choir!



PTFA Summer Fair Raffle

The raffle tickets were sent home in an envelope today. The tickets are priced at £1 each, if you purchase any tickets please complete the stubs and return them with money in sealed envelopes. There is a return box in the school office. Also, please kindly return unwanted tickets so we can sell them to others.

There will be a lot of lovely prizes that are donated to PTFA:

- Family entry tickets to Wildwood
- Family entry ticket to London Tower Bridge
- £25 voucher from Taylor Meat Ramsgate

The draw will be at the PTFA Summer Fair on Friday 3rd July from 3:30 PM, we hope to see you all at the fair!





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PTFA AGM Tuesday 14th July 3:30pm

The PTFA plays a vital part in the school community, and all the parents and carers are warmly invited to attend the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).

This is your chance to hear how the funds you have helped raise have been used for the benefit of the children at the school.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTFA Committee, to represent the association throughout the forthcoming academic year. Nominations should be sent in advance of the AGM for existing committee members willing to stand for re-election and for anyone wishing to stand as an Officer or Ordinary Committee Member for the first time.

Please complete the form if you wish to be nominated and return by 3 pm on Friday 10th July to the PTFA at ptfa@stethelbertsschool.co.uk.

If anyone would like to discuss the roles in the PTFA or would consider volunteering with support initially, please feel free to email us.

Year 3 Swimming – Term 6

The Year 3 swimming will start on **Friday, 5th June** 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 17th of July 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.

Sports Day

Next week we have sports day for each year group. Please can children wear their PE kits for their sports days as well as their PE day (if different days). Sports day may not be the same day as their normal PE day. Please all come through the Dane Park Road entrance. If the weather is bad or even too hot, then we will try to rearrange the day. Normal PE days will resume week beginning 29th June.

Nursery	22nd June 2.15pm
Reception and Year 1	23rd June at 1.15pm





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Year 2 and Year 3	24th June at 1.15pm
Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6	25th June at 1.15pm

[PTFA Sports Day refreshments](#)

As we are expecting warm weather for Sports Day next week, the PTFA will be selling refreshments for parents and carers.

Please bring some change, as we are unable to accept card payments.

PLEASE NOTE that these refreshments are for spectators only and are not available for pupils. We kindly ask that pupils are not sent to school with money for this purpose. Each child will receive a free ice pole at the end of the sports day.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to seeing you on Sports Day!



[Water bottles and fresh fruit/veg snacks](#)

To help keep our children healthy and ready to learn, please ensure your child brings a filled water bottle to school each day which they can then refill throughout the day. The bottle should be filled with water only and **not** juice. We also ask that any healthy snacks sent in from home are cut into bite-size pieces to minimise choking hazards and support safe eating habits. Children will be encouraged to sit and eat before playing, helping them enjoy their snacks calmly and safely.

[Thanet Family Hubs](#)

Below are details of some upcoming courses taking place at Thanet Family Hubs

Autism Awareness - 3-week course

Explore, recognise and celebrate the unique strengths and abilities of autistic individuals in this empowering course.

- **Newington Family Hub**, Thursdays 11th June - 2nd July: 10am - 12pm





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- **Northdown Road Family Hub**, Fridays 3rd July - 17th July: 10am-12pm

First Aid for Babies

Join in our practical and supportive workshop to learn vital first aid techniques to confidently care for your baby in an emergency.

- **Cliftonville Family Hub** - Monday 8th June: 9.30am-11.30am
- **Priory Family Hub** - Tuesday 21st July: 12.30pm - 2.30pm

Please note that these sessions are **delivered by Kent Adult Education (KAE)** and are **not run by the Family Hubs**, however they are being held within our premises. These courses provide valuable information and support for families and professionals, and we encourage you to share them with anyone who may benefit. Further details, including **dates, times, and booking information**, can be found in the **attached leaflets**.

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	Victor	Inclusion	Showing fantastic teamwork in the construction area and sharing with his friends
		Uthra	Knowledge	Making huge progress with her communication and language skills!
Reception	Poland	Jozef	Inclusion	Working together with his peers in the construction





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	Saint Jadwiga			area and showing good teamwork skills
		Arthur	Knowledge	Remembering the different sounds the '-ed' suffix can make
Year 1	Romania Saint Andrew	Year 1	Knowledge	Using excellent phonics skills to complete the check
Year 2	Hungary Elizabeth of Hungary	Gracie	Knowledge	Working hard to write a story using fully punctuated sentences
		Ralph	Knowledge	His good understanding of direction and describing turns in maths
Year 3	Japan Paulo Miki	Jennifer	Knowledge	Performing a poem from memory to the whole class
		Ella	Knowledge	Performing a poem from memory to the whole class
Year 4	Italy Catherine of Siena	Maymunah	Knowledge	Applying her calculation skills to real life problems involving money
		Zuzanna	Knowledge	Working hard to include fronted adverbials in her alternative ending
Year 5	India Saint Mother of Teresa	Henry	Inclusion	Showing an increasingly mature attitude! Well done Henry!





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		Noah	Knowledge	Sharing information in RE about the Muslim faith
Year 6	France Saint Vincent de Paul & Saint Therese of Lisieux	Tommy	Inclusion	Wanting to encourage and include other children in lunchtime games, setting a mature example to others
		Nikolas	Inclusion	Wanting to encourage and include other children in lunchtime games, setting a mature example to others all week
		Phoenix	Inclusion	Wanting to encourage and include other children in lunchtime games, setting a mature example to others all week
		Frank	Thoughtfulness	Wanting to donate a gift to another child to make them feel welcome
		Aislin	Thoughtfulness	Helping Mr Miles practise for Sports Day and by making amazing props for the Y6 production.





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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
25th June	Year 4
2nd July	Year 3
9th July	Year 2
16th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass





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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	82.5%
Year 1	93.3%
Year 2	93.6%
Year 3	95%
Year 4	97.8%
Year 5	94.2%
Year 6	94.2%
Whole School this week	93%
Whole School academic year to date	95.1%
National Average academic year to date	94.85%





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**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

June 2026

w/c 22nd Sports Week

22nd - Nursery Sports Afternoon 2.15pm

23rd - Reception and Year 1 Sports Afternoon - 1.15pm

24th - Year 2 and Year 3 Sports Afternoon - 1.15pm

25th - Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Afternoon - 1.15pm

24th Feast of St John

25th New YN and YR play and stay 4-5pm

26th/29th/30th Bikeability

July 2026

2nd TRANSITION DAY

3rd SUMMER FAIR 3-5pm

9th Year 6 dress rehearsal to school - 1:00pm

9th Year 6 Production to parents - 7:00pm

15th End of Year Reports to parents

15th Year 6 Disco -6.00pm - 7.30pm

16th Year 6 Leavers Mass, Graduation and Afternoon Tea - 1.00pm

17th Benediction 1.15pm

17th Nursery Graduation 2.30pm

17th End of Term 6 for children

20th INSET day (4 of 5)

21st INSET day (5 of 5)

21st END OF TERM 6

***PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
OR WRAPAROUND CARE ON FRIDAY 17TH JULY***





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