



Ethelbert Road Primary School

Together We Thrive

Newsletter (1) Term 1 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another exciting year at Ethelbert Road Primary School. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and are feeling rested and ready for the term ahead. I am really looking forward to working with you and your children as Headteacher to make sure your child/children enjoy learning in our exciting, creative and nurturing environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to the parents and children starting with us this year. We are looking forward to getting to know you all. I know you are going to have the most amazing learning journey at our school.

As always if you have any worries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your class teacher.

Michele Kirkbride

Headteacher



This newsletter contains information to help you and your child settle back into the school routine; however, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff, email your class team, or speak to Mrs Vitello or myself.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

We are holding 'Meet the teacher Meetings' in September. Please see below the date of your child's class meeting.

Class	Date	Times
Green Class Year 5	Monday 14 th September	3:30pm
Yellow Class Year 2	Tuesday 15 th September	3:30pm
Red Class Year 4	Wednesday 16 th September	3:30pm
Onyx Class Year 6	Thursday 17 th September	3:30pm

Please try and attend these meetings as the Class Teacher will be discussing a number of different topics which will support your child across the year. It will also give you a chance to ask any questions you may have.

If you cannot make the meeting, please do not worry as the information will be placed on the Class Pages.

Meet the Governors

Ethelbert Road would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful governors who give up their time to support our school.



Attendance

A big thank you to all our families for ensuring your child attends regularly. Our end of year attendance was an amazing 97.4% and this was reflected in the children's attainment, progress and wellbeing.

Year 6 parents/carers – please could we ask that when you take your child to a secondary school open morning that, where possible, your child comes into school first to get their registration mark. This will support your child's attendance record.

Cleaning Job Vacancy

Ethelbert Road is looking for a cleaner. If you know anyone who might be interested in the post, please pass on our advert.

Post: Cleaner

Hours: Monday – Friday 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Pay: Kent Scheme A

Interviews: to be arranged

Start Date: ASAP (subject to DBS check)

If you are interested, please email the school office with your CV, or relevant experience. Please note: there is additional training involved with this post including Child Protection, COSH, Manual Handling and Health and Safety.

For more information, please contact the school office:

Email - office@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Tel – 01795 533124



Tour Dates for New Intake 2027

Ethelbert Road are offering small group tours and open afternoons in September, October and November. Tours will take place on either the morning or afternoon, and be limited to 5 families per tour. Open afternoons will be open to more families and start with a talk in the hall, before a tour of the school by some of our older children.

Please phone the school office on 01795 533124, or email our office staff on office@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk to book a place. Alternatively, you could view our virtual tour.

Tour dates and times:

Tuesday 29th September, 09:15 - School Tour ***(NOW FULL)***

Thursday 1st October, 13:15 - Open Afternoon

Monday 5th October, 13:15 - Open Afternoon

Wednesday 7th October, 09:15 - School Tour ***(NOW FULL)***

Tuesday 13th October, 13:15 - Open Afternoon

Wednesday 4th November, 09:15 - School Tour ***(NOW FULL)***

Please take a look at our amazing website, including our Year R starters page 2027. This can be found on our website, in the Class Pages. You will find some useful information on this page and gain a sense of our school provision.



On line Safety for Parents

Children's experiences online are unique and constantly changing, so it can be hard to keep up. If you are wondering how, you could support your child to navigate everything on line, please take a look at our e-safety page on our website: <https://www.ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk/e-safety/>. On line resources are forever changing and therefore it is important for parents to have the tools they need to support their child stay safe and happy on line. You can find information on our school website on how we keep your child safe, as well as information for yourself. A super site is Internet Matters where parents can find information and safety settings for your child's devices and apps, along with guidance to tackle online issues they may face <https://www.internetmatters.org/>.

By working together, we can teach our children how to be safe and kind to others on line, but most importantly teach them what to do when things go wrong.

**ONLINE
SAFETY**

Reception Class Reading and Tapestry Meeting

Mrs Rix will be holding a Reading Meeting on **Friday 18th September at 9am** for all Year R parents/carers.

During this meeting we will explain how we teach reading through phonics, and give ideas of how you can support your child at home. Working in partnership is the best start your child can have when learning to read and we really hope that you can all attend.

All YR parents should have received an email regarding this, but please do contact the office if you have not received it.



Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding our children is a very important part of our practice and it is important that parents are confident and knowledgeable about the school's arrangements to keep their child safe. Information for parents can be found on our website under the Our School tab:

<https://www.ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk/safeguarding/>

If you would like any further information, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead:

headteacher@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk



Secondary School Applications for Year 6

Applications to apply for a secondary school place opened on Thursday 1 September 2026. You must apply for a secondary school place for your child to start year 7 at secondary school. You will need to do this when your child is in year 6 at primary school.

You must apply before Monday 2nd November 2026.

Information on how to apply can be found here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places>

Information about secondary school open days and evenings can be found on the secondary school website, or on the Year 6 page of the Ethelbert Road website.

If you book a tour for a secondary school visit, in school time, you will need to fill in a leave of absence form and return it to the school office before you attend. Where possible, please ensure your child comes into school first to get their registration mark.

Harvest Festival

On Tuesday 13th October years 1 to 6 will be celebrating our Harvest Festival Service at St Mary of Charity Church in Faversham. The service will start at 9:30am and children should be dropped off at school at the usual time.

There is plenty of room in the church so please do come along to join us. We will be singing harvest songs, thinking about why we celebrate harvest and donating much needed food and necessities to Faversham Food bank.

Please send tin and dry goods donations into school from Thursday 8th October and fresh goods on Monday 12th October, in order for us to take them to the church via the minibus on Monday afternoon. There is an up to date list of what is most needed at this site: <https://faversham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the foodbank please follow this link: <https://faversham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> .

If you are able to walk with the school to the Church on the day of the harvest festival, please do let us know by Wednesday 1st October, in order ensure there is enough seating reserved for parent helpers.

Year R will be holding their own Harvest celebration in school on Tuesday 13th October at 2.30pm.



Kent Fire and Rescue Service

Kent Fire and Rescue Service has launched a brand-new YouTube Kids mini-series, '*Be Safe with Us*'.

We know children love watching their favourite programmes and videos, so we've created something that's both fun and educational!

Our short videos are designed to help teach children important safety skills including understanding fire engines, what to do in an emergency, and the importance of smoke alarms.

They're a great way for the family to learn together about staying safe at home. We hope you enjoy them!

You can watch the videos here: <https://www.kent.fire-uk.org/besafewithus>



Swimming Lesson Year 4

Year 4 will be starting their swimming lessons on Wednesday 16th September and what a great time they will have! They will be going for a total of 6 weeks.

If you have not already done so, please ensure your completed form and payment of £28 has been returned to school.



Faversham Gym

The **year 5** children will be started their gym lessons on 10th September at Faversham Gym. They walk to the gym and return before the end of the school day. There will be a total of six sessions. We would be grateful if you could make a contribution of **£12** to go towards the cost, which can be paid into the office or into our bank account clearly stating what payment is for.



We have had to make the difficult decision to increase the parental contribution for this activity. The school has absorbed rising costs for many years and continues to subsidise the activity significantly. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Year 6 PGL residential trip

It is not long now until our year 6 children will be on their way to Grosvenor Hall for their residential trip.

The children (and staff) are very excited about this adventure. They will certainly be kept very busy taking part in lots of wonderful activities.



All details can be found on our website under the year 6 class page.

Hat, Hats

We are excited to announce Hat hats have asked our pupils to design their Christmas cups this year.

Attached to this newsletter is the template. If your child wants to take part, please follow these simple guidelines: *use colouring pencils only, try to colour all the background as much as possible so your design stands out, don't draw in the circles just colour as this will contain the Hathats logo, and make your design as Christmassy as you can.*

You haven't got long so be quick as all entries need to be back in school by **Friday September 18th** for Hathats to judge the winners.

The lucky winners will not only see their design in print on Hathats cup but will also win a fabulous Art Box. Good luck!



Playtime Snack

Morning play is at 10.30am. All year groups play together. This is an opportunity for each class to mix and for siblings to see each other. The Reception, Year 1 & 2 children have fruit (provided by the 'Fruit for Schools' scheme) which they eat at morning break.

The Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 children can bring in a healthy snack from home to eat at morning play if they wish to. Please remember that we do not allow nuts in school.

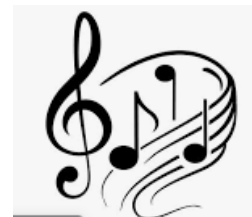


Music Lessons

Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano lessons are available to sign up for at Ethelbert Road. These sessions are held during the school day by professional music teachers.

If you would like to ask any further questions, book lessons for your child, or would like to request you child is added to the waiting list then please email the music teachers at:

music@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk



If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium and need support for your child to access music lessons, please speak to Mrs Kirkbride

Shakespeare Club

Shakespeare Club will be starting in Term 2.

Mrs Jago will be sending out further information later this term regarding this very popular club.



School uniform Reminder

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the student body. These factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

School Uniform reminders:

- **Skirts, dresses and shorts must sit just above the knee.** Your child will be undertaking activities throughout the day that make short skirts, dress and shorts inappropriate to wear.
- **All long hair** (to the shoulders) must be tied up
- No jewellery and **earrings must be small plain studs. Earrings MUST be removed for PE sessions** (please speak to the class team if your child has had their ears pierced during the summer)
- Children must only wear PE kit on PE days, or if told by the teacher. We have spare jumpers and cardigans if you need them, so please ask.
- No PE kit to be worn on club days. Children can do clubs in their uniform or change into PE kit.
- Children must wear sensible black shoes. **No open toe sandals or crocs.** All shoes must have a back or ankle strap.

The school has a bank of school uniform if you would like some. Please come and ask the school office or your class teaching team if there is anything you need. We are always able to help.

If your child needs adjustment to the uniform due to religious, SEND, medical or other reasons please speak to Mrs Kirkbride or Mrs Vitello.

Equality

As part of our continuing work on equality for all our stakeholders, we would like to remind parents to come and talk to their child's class teacher, the SENCo or Headteacher if they require any reasonable adjustments. The school is passionate about working closely with all our stakeholders and we will continue to work with everyone to meet all needs.

You can read our Equality Objective Statement on our website <https://www.ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk/equality-objectives-statement/>

Fundraising

What amazing events we held last year to raise funds for our school and children.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us with these.

Please keep an eye out for dates of this year's events which we will notify you of shortly.



Payments

A reminder of how to pay for the following:

Clubs/Trips/PGL/Swimming:	Account name: Ethelbert Road Primary School Bank name: Natwest Account number: 81845782 Sort code: 51-70-55
Breakfast & after school club:	Account name: KCC Re Ethelbert Road Primary School Bank name: Natwest Account number: 83294880 Sort code: 60-60-08
School lunches:	Cash or cheque made payable to Chartwells

Email

Please note that emails sent to the class inbox should only be used for curriculum related queries.

All attendance, medical and any other enquiries should go to the office:

Office: office@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Reception (Orange): yr@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Year 1(Purple): y1@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Year 2 (Yellow): y2@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Year 3 (Blue): y3@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Year 4 (Red): y4@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Year 5 (Green): y5@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Year 6 (Onyx): y6@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk



Dogs on Site

This is a polite reminder that we do not allow dogs on the school site. **Please tie your dog up on the garden fence if you bring your dog to school and not the front playground gate.** This is because some children are scared of dogs and will find it difficult to leave the site if there is a dog present.

Thank you for supporting us with this.



Chartwells lunches – price increase

Please be advised that from September the price of a school lunch will increase to **£3.18 per day**.
The cost for term 1 will be £120.84

Please make payment to the office by cash or cheque made payable to Chartwells.

The current menu will still be in place in term 1 and can be found on our website.

Please note that all lunches must be paid for in advance

Wrap around Care

At Ethelbert Road we offer Breakfast Club and/or After School Care to parents and will require parents to pre-book their child's place and pay before the first session starts. Places will be allocated on a weekly basis. Please book sessions, via the WAC email address, **no later than the Thursday before you require them unless you have booked sessions for the whole term.**

Children will not be able to attend any wraparound care unless it has been booked and paid for in advance due to booking staff. The details for making payments to the bank for after school care and breakfast club **only** is via bank transfer:

Please send all requests to wac@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk

Bookings need to be emailed no later than 3pm on Thursdays for the forthcoming week, this is to ensure we have the correct number of staff ratio.

Account name: **KCC Re Ethelbert Road Primary School**
Account number: **83294880**
Sort code: **60-60-08**

Please use your child's full name as a reference for us to allocate this to the correct child.

Prices

Breakfast club 7.55am – 8.45 am = £3

After School Care 3.15pm – 4.30pm = £5
 4.30pm – 5.30pm = £4
 3.15pm – 5.30pm = £9

If your child does not attend a booked session without prior notice or if a session is cancelled on the day of that session, then the full amount is still payable.

When dropping off or collecting your child please could you ring the bell and a member of WAC staff will collect or drop off your child at the gate. If no one answers the bell please phone the WAC mobile (number is displayed in the window) and a member of WAC staff will bring your child to the gate.

If you need to contact the WAC staff after 4pm to let them know that another adult is collecting your child, then please call the after school mobile on **07716137238**.

PLEASE REMEMBER: If you are going to be late to collect your child for either collection time please call the WAC mobile number, this is to ensure staffing numbers are adhered to.

Dates for Academic Year 2026/2027

Please note: these dates could be subject to change

Academic Year 2026/2027	
Term 1	
Wednesday 9 th September	Year 4 trip to Maidstone
Monday 14 th September	Year 3 trip to Knole Park
Monday 14 th September	Year 5 meet the teacher
Tuesday 15 th September	Year 2 meet the teacher
Wednesday 16 th September	Year 4 start swimming lessons
Wednesday 16 th September	Year 4 meet the teacher
Thursday 17 th September	Year 6 meet the teacher
Friday 18 th September	YR - Reading and Tapestry Meeting
Tuesday 13 th October years	Harvest Festival
Thursday 22 nd October	End of term 1
Friday 23 rd October	Inset Day – school closed for children
Term 2	
Monday 2 nd November	Children return to school
Thursday 17 th December	End of term 2 – there will be no WAC on this day
Friday 18 th December	Inset Day – school closed for children
Term 3	
Monday 4 th January	Children return to school
Friday 12 th February	End of term 3
Term 4	
Monday 22 nd February	Children return to school
Thursday 25 th March	End of term 4 – there will be no WAC on this day
Term 5	
Monday 12 th April	Children return to school
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Thursday 27 th May	End of term 5
Friday 28 th May	Inset Day – school closed for children
Term 6	
Monday 7 th June	Inset Day – school closed for children
Tuesday 8 th June	Children return to school
Wednesday 21 st July	End of school Year 2026/2027 School closes at 1:30pm and no wrap around care on this day