Ethelbert Road Primary School

Together We Thrive

Newsletter (2) Term 1 2026/27

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of another busy and successful term at Ethelbert Road. The children have enjoyed taking part in a wide variety of activities, events and educational visits, and it has been wonderful to see so many of you joining us for our Meet the Teacher sessions, Year R Reading Meeting and Harvest celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. The partnership between home and school plays such an important role in helping our children thrive, and we greatly value your involvement in school life.

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

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.



Kind regards,

Michele Kirkbride

Headteacher

Parent and Teacher Consultations

We look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming parent and teacher consultations.

At Ethelbert Road Primary School, we feel it is extremely important for staff and parents to work together in a respectful, courteous and supportive manner. We all have the same goal: for the children to be happy, confident and reach their true potential. **At your appointment you will be asked to complete the Home/School agreement for your child's currant class.**

Monday 16th November - Year 1 - 12:30pm – 5:30pm
Tuesday 17th November - Year 3 - 8am – 12.30pm
Wednesday 18th November – Year R – 8am – 12.30pm
Year 5 - 12.30pm – 5:30pm
Thursday 19th November – Year 2 and year 4 - 8:30pm – 12:30pm



Tuesday 17th November – all year groups 3:30pm – 7pm

Details of how to book will be sent out nearer the time.



Christmas Activities



Christmas Tree Assembly

We will be holding our Christmas Tree Assembly on Friday 27th November.



Our children always enjoy making decorations to hang on the tree, while we sign festive songs.

Class Christmas Parties and Jumper Day

Class Christmas parties will take place on Thursday 17th December



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Children can wear a Christmas jumper on this day.

Here are the dates for the Christmas shows and Nativities. Please note: If any of our shows are cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, we will video the performances and share these with parents.

Year R Nativity

The children will be performing their Nativity on Monday 7th December in the school hall at 2.15pm

Due to the size of our hall, please could we ask that only 2 adults attend per child.



Year 1 & Year 2

The Year 1 and 2 Christmas show will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 9th December.

Year 2 parents to watch 9.30am
Year 1 parents to watch 2.15pm



Due to the size of our hall, please could we ask that only 2 adults attend per child.

Year 5 &6

Year 5 and 6's Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 8th December at St Catherine's Church.

The start time is 11am and we look forward to seeing you there.



Year 3 and Year 4 show

Year 3 and 4 will be performing **'Peter Pan'** at the Assembly Rooms on Wednesday 16th December.

The performance times are:

1.30pm – 2.30pm and 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Please note: As the second performance takes place out of school hours, it is not compulsory for children to attend. However, we would very much appreciate advanced warning of this so that we can prepare and reallocate roles accordingly.



🎄 Christmas Dinner is Coming! 🎄

Get your party clothes and crackers at the ready... our **School Christmas Dinner** will be on Thursday **10th December**!

We're just waiting for **Chartwells** to send us this year's festive menu. As soon as it arrives, we'll send out an email with details on how to book and choose your child's Christmas feast.

Children can wear their party clothes or Christmas outfits.



🎄 Christmas Tree Appeal 🎄

Christmas may still be a little way off, but we're already dreaming of a beautifully decorated hall filled with festive cheer!

We are looking for a **7- 8 foot Christmas tree** for our school hall, big enough to showcase all the wonderful decorations our children will be making in the run-up to Christmas.

If you are able to donate a tree, or know of a local business that might like to support our school by donating one, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office if you can help.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity and support. It is the kindness of our school community that helps make this time of year so special for our children.



Term 2 Fundraising Events

Whole school Non-uniform Day Thursday 19th November
Non-uniform day please bring in an item for the Christmas Fair in exchange for non-uniform.

Our tombola is always hugely successful and we are hoping this year is the same, if you are able to send in a donation of wine, sweets, toiletries or any other item that we can use as a tombola prize your donations will really help us to maximise the money. If you have any unopened children's games, new children's books or puzzles or any items suitable these will also be gratefully received.



Christmas Film Night Thursday 19th November
(Film to be confirmed - this film may be a PG)
EYFS and KS1 collection at 4.45pm
KS2 collection at 5pm

The film will be shown in the hall as a whole school event and when **collecting your child please note the different finishing times, these will be EYFS, year 1 and 2 normal classroom doors at 4.45pm, KS2 from the back door at 5pm.** Money will need to be paid in advance by Wednesday 18th so we can purchase enough refreshments for the children, please send a named envelope to the office, the cost will be £4.00. If you're child attends out of hours' provision (after school care) until 5.30pm they will automatically be included, unless you state otherwise.
If you're child has an allergy, please let the office know.



Christmas Fair Friday 27th November
2.30pm – 4.00pm

We will be sending out a letter with more information nearer the time.
Father Christmas will be visiting us at our Christmas Fair again this year and we will be creating a magical Santa's Grotto where the children will be able to visit Father Christmas and listen to his festive stories



Christmas Disco Thursday 10th December

The annual **Christmas Disco** will be taking place on **Thursday 10th December**. Expect festive tunes, lots of dancing and plenty of Christmas fun! More information will follow closer to the event.



Fundraising

My School Lottery

Congratulations to everyone who has won on the School Lottery and thank you to those of you who have donated your winnings back to the school.
Your School Lottery creates and runs lotteries for schools across the UK to raise money through local communities to improve educational facilities and the school environment for thousands of pupils. Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week with 40p going back to our school, 36p towards the prize fund and 24p in admin fees. There is a guaranteed cash winner for tickets sold through our school every week and the chance to win a £25,000 jackpot. The draw takes place every Saturday, and winners will be notified by email. Match all 6 numbers to win the JACKPOT! It's a fantastic way to bring Parents, Carers, Teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment as well as run extra-curricular activities such as music, art and sport. Your support is greatly appreciated. Good luck!

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ethelbert-road-primary-school

Easy Fundraising

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those parents who are using the easy fundraising app to purchase their shopping, for every purchase you make through the easy fundraising address or app this is a donation for the school. You can find our easy fundraising page at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ethelbertroadprimary/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=cpl or download the app

My Name Tags

Another way to raise funds for our school is for parents to order all their name tags online, by going to www.MyNametags.com
24% of every order will be donated to our School! Just use our school ID at the checkout.
Ethelbert Road school ID is **104981**

Secondary School Appliplications for Year 6

Applications to apply for a secondary school place opened on Monday 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.

The closing date is 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.
https://ethelbertroad.web12.juniperwebsites.co.uk/page/?title=Secondary+Transition&pid=3325

Important information about wraparound care

Please be reminded that if your child is booked into a wraparound care session and does not attend, the fee for that session will still be charged and must be paid.

The only exception to this is when a child is absent from school due to illness on the day of the session. In these circumstances, the fee will be waived.

A minimum of **one full day's notice** is required for any cancellation. If this notice is not provided, the full fee for the session will remain payable.

Our wraparound care is extremely popular and is regularly oversubscribed. When a booked place is not used, another child may have missed the opportunity to attend because our capacity had already been reached. For this reason, it is important that cancellations are notified within the required timeframe.

We would also like to remind all parents that when booking wraparound care, charges are based on the session that has been reserved, regardless of the collection time.

If you have booked your child to attend until **5:30pm** but collect them earlier, including before **4:30pm**, the full **£9.00** charge for the 5:30pm session will still apply and must be paid.

Similarly, if you have booked your child for a **4:30pm** collection but arrive after **4:30pm**, your child will be deemed to have attended the later session and the charge will be adjusted to the **5:30pm session rate of £9.00**.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us to manage our wraparound care provision effectively.

Poppy Appeal

This year we will be supporting the **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** by selling poppies and other associated items from the school office.

As well as paying with cash, this year we have been provided with a QR code, allowing parents and carers to make donations electronically.

Items will be on sale from the Monday we return to school after half term until **11th November**. We hope you will join us in supporting this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you for your support.



School Trips term

During term 1 some of our children had the opportunity to take part in some amazing trips that really helped enrich their learning. Please have a look at our School Website and Facebook page where you will find lots more photos of all our trips and events.

Year 3 Knole Park

Year 3 had a fantastic day at **Knole Park**, where they stepped back in time to learn all about the **Stone Age**! They enjoyed exploring, discovering new facts, and bringing their topic learning to life through hands-on experiences.

What a wonderful start to their new topic!





Year 2 Chatham Dockyard

Year 2 had a fantastic day at **Chatham Dockyard**! They explored a real submarine, visited the historic ropery to discover how rope was made, and learnt about life and work at the dockyard.

In the afternoon, the children studied **Turner-inspired paintings** and even stepped back in time by dressing up and acting out the story of **Grace Darling**. It was a fun-filled day of history, art and hands-on learning that everyone thoroughly enjoyed!



Year 4 Maidstone Museum

Year 4 had an exciting visit to Maidstone Museum to learn all about the Ancient Egyptians and meet the museum's very own mummy! During the day, the children discovered the fascinating process of mummification, learning about each stage and why it was so important to the Ancient Egyptians. They then put their new knowledge into practice by mummifying their own oranges!

The children were fully engaged throughout the visit and came away with a wealth of new knowledge. What a fantastic way to bring their learning to life.



Year 5 Digital leaders

Our newly appointed **Digital Leaders** recently joined children from other schools for a special training event to develop their skills and learn more about their important role in school.

They shared ideas, explored new technology, and discovered ways to help others use digital tools safely and effectively. We can't wait to see their creativity, enthusiasm and brilliant ideas come to life across our school!



Year 6 PGL

🎉 **What a week Year 6 have had at PGL!** 🎉

Our Year 6 children had an unforgettable adventure, packed full of excitement, challenge and fun from start to finish! From soaring high on the **Giant Swing** and tackling the **Trapeze**, to testing their teamwork with **Buggy Building** and trying their hand at **Fencing**, every day brought new opportunities to learn, grow and shine.

It was incredible to watch the children's confidence soar as they stepped out of their comfort zones, encouraged one another and embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and determination. They truly flourished throughout the week and made memories that will last a lifetime.

We were especially proud to receive so many compliments from the PGL staff about our children's **exceptional behaviour, fantastic manners and positive attitudes**. They were wonderful ambassadors for our school and represented us brilliantly.

A special mention must also go to the staff, who threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm! It was wonderful to see the children cheering them on, creating lots of laughter, excitement and unforgettable moments along the way.

Well done, Year 6! You have made us all incredibly proud and shown just how amazing you are.






Appeal for buckets!

Mrs Haylor and Miss Clark would love to enhance our music curriculum by delivering bucket drumming sessions. To make this possible, we are looking for clean, sturdy buckets that are in good condition and free from cracks or damage. If you have any spare buckets that you no longer need, we would be very grateful if you could donate them to school to support this exciting opportunity for our children.





Amazing visitors and events in school

Hats Hats Assembly

A huge thank you to the children and families of **Ethelbert Road School** who generously donated play equipment for a school in Uganda.

Volunteers from the **HatsHat Foundation** collected our suitcase of donations and flew it out to Uganda, where our wonderful gifts were gratefully received by the children. It was heart warming to know that our school community could help make a difference to others across the world.

One of the highlights for our children was taking part in a **live-link assembly** with the school that received our donations. They were excited to see the children enjoying the equipment and loved having the opportunity to connect with them directly.

We are incredibly proud of the kindness, generosity and global citizenship shown by our Ethelbert Road families. Together, we have helped create smiles, friendships and lasting memories thousands of miles away. ❤️ 🌎 ✨



Languages Day

We had a fantastic **Languages Day** at Ethelbert Road and would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful families who volunteered their time to deliver workshops and share their languages and cultures with us.

The children loved learning about different traditions from around the world and gained a greater understanding of the rich diversity within our school community. It was a fun, inspiring day filled with curiosity, learning and celebration.

A special thank you to **Mrs Salt**, our Spanish teacher, for organising this amazing experience and making the day such a success!









Amazing visitors and events in school

Robin's Dad

A big thank you to Robin's dad, **Roy**, for visiting Year 1 to talk about his exciting job as an architect and building surveyor, and to teach us all about fire safety!

The children loved hearing about how buildings are designed and kept safe. They asked lots of great questions and enjoyed sharing their own ideas and knowledge too. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the world of work in a fun and engaging way. Thank you, Roy, for taking the time to inspire our young learners!



Guinness World Record Attempt

Year 3 took part in a very special reading event with children from around the world! They listened to author **Rashmi Sirdeshpande** read her fantastic story *Super Uma* and joined illustrator **Nakul P** for a fun draw-along session, where we learnt how to draw the unicorn character.

To top it all off, they took part in a **Guinness World Record attempt** to have the most people reading together for 10 minutes across the globe! What an exciting and inspiring way to celebrate the joy of reading.



Harvest Festival

A huge thank you to all our families and friends who joined us at **St Mary's Church** to celebrate our Harvest Festival.
We are incredibly grateful for your generous food donations, which have now been delivered to the **Faversham Foodbank** to support those in our local community. Thank you also to **Rev Simon** for his support and for helping to make the service so special.



New music instruments

Year 4 were delighted to receive the musical instruments they won for the school after taking part in the Frozen competition last year! The children were so excited to see all the new instruments and thoroughly enjoyed exploring the different sounds they could make.
A huge thank you to Mrs Constantine and Mrs Jago for entering the class and helping secure this fantastic prize for our school.



A visit from the RNLA

Year 2 were delighted to welcome Gerry from the RNLI this week. He shared lots of important information about water safety and explained the important role of the RNLI in
helping to keep people safe at sea. Some of us were lucky enough to dress up in RNLI clothing and we enjoyed learning how to identify different beach safety flags.
It was a fun and informative visit and the children learned some valuable safety messages.



Reception Harvest Stay and Play

Reception Class had a wonderful time celebrating Harvest with their families!

The children proudly performed a Harvest song for their parents before taking part in a range of exciting Harvest and Autumn activities. They enjoyed vegetable printing, creating beautiful autumn wreaths, matching numbers with conkers and even making their own delicious vegetable soup.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to explore the season, develop new skills and have lots of fun. Well done, Reception!



Faversham Gym

The **year 6** children will be starting their gym lessons at Faversham Gym in term 2. They walk to the gym and return before the end of the school day. There will be a total of five sessions. We would be grateful if you could make a contribution of **£10** to go towards the cost, which can be paid into the office or into our bank account clearly stating what payment is for.



Chartwells lunches – PRICE INCREASE IN SEPTEMBER

As we have previously advised, the price of a school lunch increased to **£3.18 per day.**
The cost for term 2 will be **£108.12**
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.

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



Head Lice

Could we please request that you check your child's head regularly for head lice as we have had a parent report a case recently. Please see the link below for further information.

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/



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**

Please note: these dates could be subject to change.

Academic Year 2026/2027	
Term 1	
Friday 23rd October	Inset Day – school closed for children
Term 2	
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
Monday 9th November	Individual school photos
Thursday 12th November	Whole School Flu Vaccination
Monday 16th November	Year 1 PTC 12.30pm – 5.30pm
Tuesday 17th November	Year 3 PTC 8am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 17th November	All year groups PTC 3.30pm – 7pm
Wednesday 18th November	Reception PTC 8am – 12.30pm
Wednesday 18th November	Year 5 PTC 12.30 – 5.30pm
Thursday 19th November	Year 4 PTC 8am – 12.30pm
Thursday 19th November	Year 2 PTC 8am – 12.30pm
Thursday 19th November	Year 6 PTC 12.30pm – 5.30pm
Thursday 19th November	Whole school non uniform day
Thursday 19th November	Christmas film night
Friday 27th November	Christmas Fair
Friday 27th November	Christmas tree assembly
Wednesday 2nd December	Year 4 Peter Pan trip - The Marlowe
Monday 7th December	Reception Class Nativity
Tuesday 8th December	Year 5 & 6 Carol service at St Catherine's Church
Wednesday 9th December	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Show
Thursday 10th December	School Christmas lunch
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Disco
Wednesday 16th December	Year 3 & 4 Peter Pan at The Assembly Rooms
Thursday 17th December	Class Christmas parties
Thursday 17th December	End of term 2 – there will be no WAC on this day
Friday 18th December	Inset Day – school closed for children
Term 3	
Monday 4th January	Children return to school
Friday 12th February	End of term 3
Term 4	
Monday 22nd February	Children return to school
Thursday 25th March	End of term 4 – there will be no WAC on this day
Term 5	
Monday 12th April	Children return to school
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Thursday 27th May	End of term 5
Friday 28th May	Inset Day – school closed for children
Term 6	
Monday 7th June	Inset Day – school closed for children
Tuesday 8th June	Children return to school
Wednesday 21st July	End of school Year 2026/2027 **School closes at 1:30pm and no wrap around care on this day**