



# Ethelbert Road Primary School

*Together We Thrive*

## Newsletter (2) Term 1 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The start of the year has been filled with energy and enthusiasm, and it's been wonderful to see the children so eager to learn and reconnect with their friends.

It was lovely to see so many of you in school, for our meet the teacher event and we hope you found the sessions helpful and informative. Please do not worry if you could not make the event as all the PowerPoint slides are on the class pages of the website. Building strong relationships between home and school is incredibly important, and we really value your ongoing support.

The children have settled into their new classes brilliantly and are already enjoying a wide range of exciting enrichment activities. From creative arts to outdoor learning, it's been fantastic to see them so engaged and enthusiastic across all areas of school life.

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

Michele Kirkbride  
Headteacher

### Parent/Carer Questionnaire

To help us make sure we're providing the best standard of education for your children, we would like to know how you feel about our school. We have sent an email with a link to our annual Parent/Carer questionnaire and would like as many families to complete this short survey as possible.

Your responses will help us to:

- Find out what we're doing well and where we could do better
- Make sure we're meeting your needs and the needs of your child(ren)
- Help us to make decisions about school improvement



**Please take the time to complete this survey to help us make Ethelbert Road Primary School the best it can be. It will only take a few minutes of your time, but will make a HUGE difference to our school!**

Your feedback is very important to us, so don't forget to explain any reasons for your answer so we can improve our practices. The Parent/Carer questionnaire will close on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

### Reception Starters 2025:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLpsIVIZNYTmizusQWzT-oZ5DU-VXVqDJqm6Ue3Uqc-ml1Iq/viewform?usp=header>

### Parental consultation survey Autumn 2025:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWaFnzhESt-iHvJxv9BySqc12x2734OzK2ruPwowl075YInQ/viewform?usp=dialog>

## Voluntary Contributions for trips and events

School trips and enrichment opportunities are an important part of school life. We would like to say a big thank you to our families for their voluntary contributions which allow our children to attend these important events. We understand we are in difficult times and wanted to let you know there is no obligation for parents to make a contribution, as no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents are unable to pay. However, if the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then we will have to make the decision to cancel the trip or event.

**If you need support with paying for a trip, event, or enrichment opportunity, or you are in receipt of pupil premium, please speak to Mrs Kirkbride who will be more than happy to support where she can.**

## Languages Day

We would like to say a huge thank you to our wonderful families who came into school to work alongside the teaching team during languages day. It was a wonderful event and the children had so much fun learning about other cultures. The theme for languages day was “languages open heart and minds” and the school highlighted the power of languages to connect us, inspire new ideas and to broaden horizons.



## Pre-loved Uniform

If you have any good quality used uniform that your child has grown out of, we are now asking that it is donated directly to The Community Wardrobe in Faversham, who are now dealing with this for us.

The Community Wardrobe  
4 Court Street,  
Faversham  
ME13 7AW



## Year 4 trip to Maidstone

Year 4 went to Maidstone Museum to visit their Mummy! The children learnt all about the mummification process and got to handle artefacts from the Ancient Egyptian time period. They then mummified their own orange before heading to see the Mummy itself! It was an amazing day!



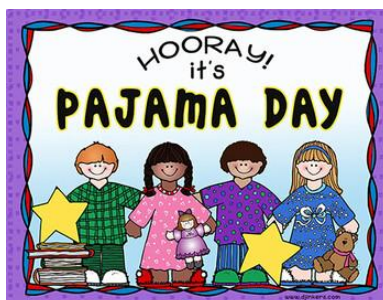
## Pyjama Disco

On Friday 10th October, our School Council will be holding our first Pyjama Disco!

The EYFS and KS1 disco runs straight after school until 4pm, and the KS2 disco from 4:15pm until 5:15pm.

Children are invited to wear their pyjamas to school all day on this day. If your child has PE on Friday, this session will be pyjama friendly!"

Tickets are £4 each and payment can be made into the office in a named envelope or into our bank account clearly referenced.



## National Curriculum Assessment Information

Information for parents is available to read online or to download as a PDF leaflet in the government collection of [national curriculum assessments information for parents](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-information-for-parents), covering the:

- reception baseline assessment (RBA)
- phonics screening check
- optional key stage 1 (KS1) national curriculum tests
- multiplication tables check (MTC)
- key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests, results and teacher assessment
- pre-key stage standards
- engagement model

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-information-for-parents>



## PGL

Our Year 6 are back from your PGL adventure! The children had the most amazing experiences and we learnt a lot about them all. A huge thank you to the staff who went with the children, giving up their time and sleep!



## Year 3 at Kent Life

Year 3 enjoyed a Stone Age Day at the Kent Life Museum. This was a fantastic way to bring their learning to life and for the children to experience life in the Stone Age.



## Harvest Festival

On Monday 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 all donations into school on Thursday 9th or Friday 10th 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/> .



## Year R Harvest Celebration

Reception will be holding their Harvest celebration on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm.

We would like to invite our Year R families to share in their celebration, but please could we ask that we only have two adults per child due to our hall size.



## Secondary School Applications for Year 6

Applications to apply for a secondary school place opened on Monday 1 September 2025. 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 Friday 31 October 2025.**

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://www.ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk/secondary-transition-1/>

If you book a tour in school time you will need to fill in a leave of absence form and return it to the school office before you attend.

## Wraparound care

Due to increase in numbers and limited spaces, we would like to remind all parents of the importance of booking your child in as soon as possible. If you receive an email to say that WAC is fully booked on the date you have requested, you are more than welcome to phone in the morning to see if we have had a cancellation.



## Safeguarding and mobil phones

We know that deciding whether your child is ready for a mobile phone is a challenging decision and one families want to get right. There is no one size fits all approach, but there are some key factors that can help you make a decision that feels right for your family.

A tool has been created by NSPCC experts to help you think through those factors. It includes 8 short questions and should take around 10 minutes to complete. The tool is designed to help you reflect on what is right for your family - whether you're ready to decide now or just starting to think it through. <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/family/childs-first-phone>

**To be clear about the expectations for a child bringing a phone to school, the school has a new phone contract which must be read and signed by parents and their child and returned to school before the child can bring a phone to school.**

## New Intake 2026 Tour Dates

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](mailto:office@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk) to book a place. Alternatively, you could view our virtual tour.

### Tour dates and times:

Monday 6th October -tour and open afternoon 1:30

Wednesday 8th October - tour 09:30

Tuesday 14th October - tour 09:30

Wednesday 5th November -tour and open afternoon 1:30



Please take a look at our amazing website, including our Year R starters page 2026. 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.

## Attendance

A big thank you to all our families for ensuring your child attends regularly. You may be aware from press coverage that fines for time out of school, especially holidays in term time have changed. All state funded schools must consider whether a penalty notice for absence is appropriate in each individual case where one of their pupils reaches the national threshold for considering a penalty notice.

Ethelbert Road would like to advise parents/carers that holidays in term time will not be authorised and the school may request that a penalty notice is issued. Penalty notices can be escalated and so parents can make informed decisions regarding term time leave of absences the details are below:

*Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each child and the amount will be £160 if paid within 28 days, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.*

*If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling 3-year period, then the charge will be a flat rate of £160 per parent per child if paid within 28 days.*

*In both instances failure to pay the penalty in full at the end of the 28 days period may result in prosecution by the Kent PRU and Attendance Service.*

*In the event of three or more periods of unauthorised absence within a 3 rolling year period, a penalty notice will not be issued. A referral will be made to Kent PRU and Attendance Service Courts Team who will consider the case for prosecution*



## 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.

All our school pre-loved uniform is available at the Faversham Community wardrobe, if you need any items, please contact them direct. There details are enclosed in this newsletter.

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

## 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](mailto:office@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Year 6 (Onyx): [y6@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk](mailto: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 **£2.97 per day.**

The cost for term 1 will be £95.04

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**



## Dates for the academic year 2025-2026

**Please note:** these dates could be subject to change

<b>Academic Year 2025/2026</b>	
<b>Term 1</b>	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu Vaccination
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Pyjama Disco
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival – Years 1 – 6 St Mary's Church
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Celebration – Year R – in school at 2.30pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day – school closed to children
<b>Term 2</b>	
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Children return to school
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Year R and Year 6 Kent Health – NCMP
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual Photos
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Non Uniform – in return for a fair prize Film Night
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 and 2 Parent and Teacher Consultation
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Late Parent and Teacher Consultation
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Year R (am), Year 5 and Year 6 (pm) Parent and Teacher Consultation
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 and 4 Parent and Teacher Consultation
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 and 4 Production
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	End of Term
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	INSET Day – school closed to children
<b>Term 3</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term
<b>Term 4</b>	
Monday 23 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Last day of term
<b>Term 5</b>	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Children return to school
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Trip
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Last day of term
<b>Term 6</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Children return to school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	End of school Year 2025/2026
Happy Summer Holidays Everyone!	

### **INSET DAYs 2025/2026**

INSET DAY 1 – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

INSET DAY 2 – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

INSET DAY 3 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

INSET DAY 4 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

INSET DAY 5 – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

### **Term Dates**

TERM 1 = Wednesday 3rd September – Thursday 16th October 2025.

TERM 2 = Monday 27th October – Thursday 18th December 2025.

TERM 3 = Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February 2026.

TERM 4 = Monday 23rd February – Thursday 2nd April 2026.

TERM 5 = Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May 2026.

TERM 6 = Tuesday 2nd June 2026 - Tuesday 21st July 2026.