



Ethelbert Road Primary School

Together We Thrive

Newsletter (3) Term 1 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of this term and it has been a very busy time at Ethelbert Road. The children have enjoyed taking part in a variety of activities and trips and it has been lovely seeing so many of you attend our Meet the Teacher, Reading Meeting for Year R and Harvest celebrations.

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

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 31st 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>

Important Safeguarding Notice

Important Safeguarding Notice – Spy Dog, Spy Pup & Spy Cat Books

We've been made aware that some Spy Dog, Spy Pup and Spy Cat books by Andrew Cope include a web link at the back. If this link is typed into a web browser, it no longer leads to book-related content but instead to inappropriate material.

We're removing these books from school and wanted to make families aware so you can check at home too.



Harvest Celebrations

Thank you to our wonderful families who came to celebrate our Harvest Festival Assembly with us on Monday at St Mary's Church. All food donations will be going to the Faversham Foodbank.



Year R Harvest Assembly

Our reception class held their Harvest Assembly and play and stay session on Tuesday. The children had great fun singing harvest songs and doing harvest activities with their families



Year 2 have a fabulous time at Chatham Dockyard

Year 2 enjoyed a brilliant trip to Chatham Dockyard. They went on a submarine, made a very long rope in the ropery, explored the lifeboats and acted out the Grace Darling story. We are so proud of them for embracing every single opportunity.



Meet our Digital Leaders!

Our Code Crew are central to Computing and Online Safety provision at Ethelbert Road. We are skilled, confident technological learners who are able to support children and staff alike, in a range of ways.

We work together with our collaboration schools (Hernhill Primary, Ospringe Primary, Davington Primary and Boughton Under Blean Primary) on an annual basis, ensuring that we receive up-to-date training and knowledge which we can then share with our peers.

We meet to plan events and learning, discuss issues around online safety and maintain the school's hardware, including our laptops and iPads.

Our priorities are to further enhance the profile of online safety at Ethelbert Road and to plan and organise Safer Internet Day, as well as focusing on their every day job of supporting and modelling exceptional Computing practice!



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 six sessions. We would be grateful if you could make a contribution of **£6** to go towards the cost, which can be paid into the office or into our bank account clearly stating what payment is for.



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 mobile phones

We know that deciding whether your child is ready for a mobile phone is a challenging decision and one that 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.

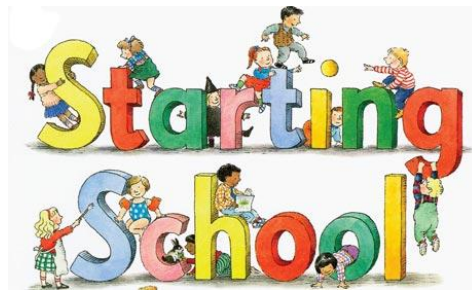
Please phone the school office on 01795 533124, or email our office staff on office@ethelbert-road.kent.sch.uk to book a place. Alternatively, you could view our virtual tour.

Tour dates and times remaining:

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

Tuesday 25th November - tour 1.30pm

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.



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.

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



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 **£2.97 per day**. The cost for term 2 will be £115.83

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

We have emailed you our new menu for term 2 this can also 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

Academic Year 2025/2026	
Term 1	
Friday 17 th October	INSET Day – school closed to children
Term 2	
Monday 27 th October	Children return to school
Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October	Bike ability for year 6 children
Wednesday 5 th November	Year R and Year 6 Kent Health – NCMP
Monday 10 th November	Individual Photos
Friday 14 th November	Non Uniform – in return for a fair prize Film Night
Monday 17 th November	Year 1 and 2 Parent and Teacher Consultation
Tuesday 18 th November	Late Parent and Teacher Consultation
Wednesday 19 th November	Year R (am), Year 5 and Year 6 (pm) Parent and Teacher Consultation
Thursday 20 th November	Year 3 and 4 Parent and Teacher Consultation
Friday 28 th November	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 16 th December	Year 3 and 4 Production
Thursday 18 th December	End of Term
Friday 19 th December	INSET Day – school closed to children
Term 3	
Monday 5 th January	Children return to school
Friday 13 th February	Last day of term
Term 4	
Monday 23 th February	Children return to school
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term
Term 5	
Monday 20 th April	Children return to school
Monday 11 th – Thursday 14 th May	Year 6 SATS
Friday 15 th May	Year 6 Trip
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term
Term 6	
Monday 1 st June	INSET Day – school closed to children
Tuesday 2 nd June	Children return to school
Tuesday 21 st July	End of school Year 2025/2026
Happy Summer Holidays Everyone!	

INSET DAYS 2025/2026

INSET DAY 1 – Monday 1st September 2025
 INSET DAY 2 – Tuesday 2nd September 2025
 INSET DAY 3 – Friday 17th October 2025
 INSET DAY 4 – Friday 19th December 2025
 INSET DAY 5 – Monday 1st June 2026