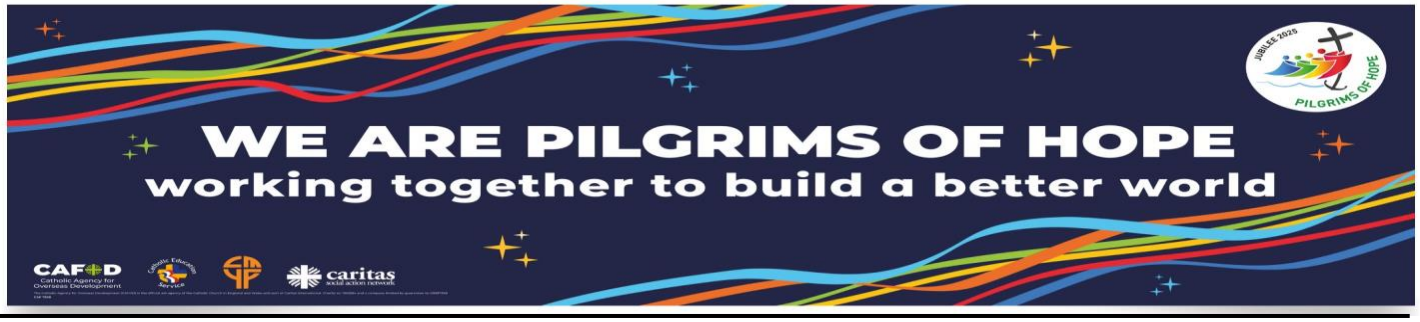
St. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the *faith* you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame
of *charity* enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years.

A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

What is the Biblical background for the Jubilee Year?

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9).

In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour:

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go

free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19)

After reading, Jesus announces: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us join him in making it a reality.

How has this been started at St Richard's Catholic Primary School?

We had the honour of starting the pilgrimage process for all of the primary schools! Our CEO Annemarie Whittle visited ST Edmund's School and with children from Year 6 carried the Jubilee Candle to St Richard's where she joined in on our special assembly to mark the beginning of the pilgrimage year. Please visit our website for pictures and further information.

Great Athletes

Thank you to all our families for your huge support in sponsoring the children to take part in our Great Athletes Event this term.

The children all had a fantastic time working out with Sam Mostowfi and were very impressed with his back flips over Miss Seager and Miss Holder.

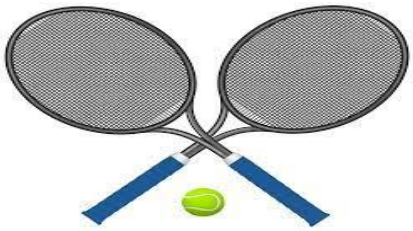
We raised over £3500 to help buy some new sports equipment in School.

A massive thanks to Miss Seager for arranging the event for us!

Lawn Tennis Association Awards

We have been very fortunate to have been nominated for The Lawn Tennis Association Awards for contribution to Tennis in School.

We have been working with a local tennis coach Karen Hodgson to run a KS1 Tennis club, Mr Walker has been running a KS2 Tennis Club and Miss Seager has secured some great new tennis equipment for PE lessons and playtimes.
We have made it to the last 3 finalists in Kent and Miss Seager and Mr Walker will be attending the Awards Ceremony on Saturday 15th February.
We wish them lots of luck!



World Book Week!

Miss Drage is working hard to organise a fantastic celebration for World Book Week.
World Book Week is Monday 3rd – Friday 7th March and has the theme "Read your own Way".

We have author Emma Rosen visiting School on Monday 3rd March to kick the week off in style.

After its previous success we will be holding our Book Swap event each day after school in the Hall. The children can all enjoy our bedtime stories in Booky Bedtime on Wednesday and Dress as a Word day on Thursday.

We also have the Schoolastic Book Fair visiting school Weds 19th – Tues 25th March.
More information will be coming out to parents soon.

School Trips

As we move into the warmer months, you will notice more outdoor learning and visits. While we do our best to keep the costs of these experiences low, there are some trips/visits/workshops that need some parental contributions to allow us run them.

When we set up a trip, you get a notification to pay for it on ParentPay. The majority of our trips are set up to allow multiple payments or a payment plan. Please use the payment plan where available. We do not want any of our families to feel under pressure when paying for trips and experiences.

If a trip/visit/workshop is allocated to your child's class and you do not feel you can contribute, please speak to the finance team. We can always look at payment options with you to find a way for your child to partake in the experience without any embarrassment or pressure to our families.

Attendance Reminder

This is just to remind you about the important changes made by the Government around attendance penalties, and the expectations of schools to act in this area. The most significant changes include:

1. Requesting schools to enforce per child penalty notices. Therefore, 3 siblings on an unauthorised holiday or absence will result in separate fines for each child.

2. Fines being applied for unauthorised absences of less than 5 days.

3. An increase in the standard fine from £60 to £160. This reduces to £80 if paid within 21 days.

4. For people who have been fined before this will be classed as a second offence and the fine will be £160 per parent per child; it will not reduce if paid on time, the full tariff applies.

5. A third offence will go straight to a magistrate's court where a fine of up to £2500 could apply per child. Importantly, this offence will appear on a parent's DBS certificates under the category of, 'Failure to Safeguard a Child's Education.' This of course could have an impact on future employment prospects.

6. Fines for 10 days of absence within a 10-week period.

It is important to note that the school does not receive the money from fines issued. It always remains our policy to work positively with parents to avoid fines wherever possible.

Ultimately, if you go on holiday during term time then you'll be fined. Please avoid those fines and go on holiday during the school holidays.

Links to Church websites:

Please find the links to our affiliated Churches for information about the Parish.

St Paul's Roman Catholic Church: https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/

Our Lady of Dover Church: http://ourladyofdover.cloudaccess.net/

Dates for your diary:

Mon 24th Feb – Inset Day - School closed
Tues 25th Feb – First day of term
Mon 3rd – Fri 7th Mar – World Book Week
Mon 3rd Mar – Author Visit
Tues 4th March – School Photos
Weds 5th March – Ash Wednesday Mass
Weds 5th Mar – Booky Bedtime
Thurs 6th Mar – World Book Day – Dress as a word!
Tues 11th March – Parents Evening
Thurs 13th March – Parents Evening
Tues 18th March – YR6 trip to Brockhill Country Park
Weds 19th – Tues 25th Mar – Book Fair in Hall after school
Fri 21st March – Lent Prayer Breakfast
Fri 28th March – Mothering Sunday Blessing
Tues 1st Apr – Early Years and KS1 Easter Assembly
Weds 2nd Apr – YR3&4 Easter Assembly
Thurs 3rd Apr – YR5&6 Easter Assembly
Fri 4th Apr – Last Day of Term – School closes at 2.30pm

Term Dates 2024/2025

Term 1

Tues 3rd Sept – Thurs 24th Oct

Term 2

Mon 4th Nov – Thurs 19th Dec

Term 3

Mon 6th Jan – Fri 14th Feb

Term 4

Tues 25th Feb – Fri 4th April

Term 5

Tues 22nd April – Fri 23rd May

Term 6

Mon 2nd June – Mon 21st July

Staff Development Days 24/25 – School closed to all pupils.

Monday 24th Feb
Tuesday 22nd July

St Richard's Prayer

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day.
Amen

We hope you have a lovely Half Term. Please remember that School is closed on Monday 24th February for staff training. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 25th February