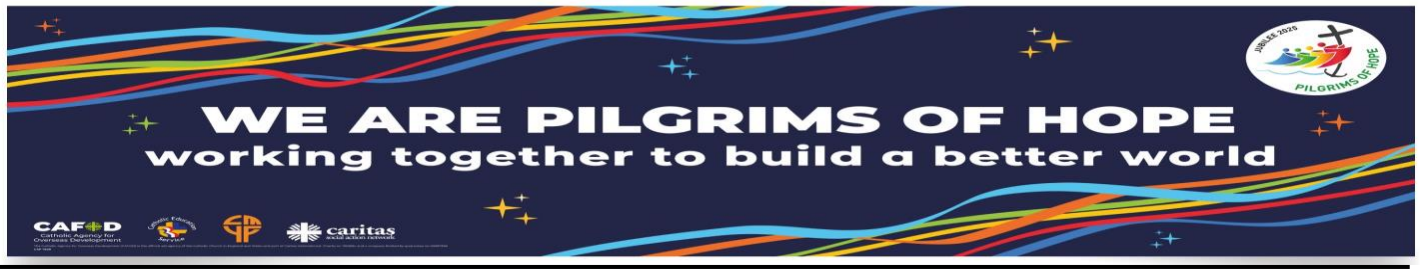
St. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

After School Club Cancellation

Please note that due to an early school closure there will be no after school clubs running on the last day of term, Friday 4th April. Please make sure you make alternative arrangements for your children on this day

Message from Mr Taylor

Dear Parent and Carers,

As you know we have recently had our Catholic School's Inspection and now the report from this inspection can be published and shared. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to those families who came into school to speak with Inspectors or spent time completing the parent questionnaire. The time and effort you spent on that task was appreciated and the lovely comments which were shared with the Inspection team helped make this a special report.

So what is a Catholic School's Inspection? When an inspector carries out an inspection they are acting on behalf of the Bishop in whose diocese the school is situated. The inspector will evaluate the accuracy of the school's self-evaluation which is a good indicator of the school's self-knowledge and its capacity to improve. Inspectors will observed lessons, talk to pupils and review a range of work to see what the school is doing. The Inspectors will look at everything to do with the Catholic character of the school including leadership, religious education, worship and the children's moral and spiritual development. This process enables the Diocese to celebrate with a school their sense of identity and strength as a Catholic school.

https://www.st-richards.kent.sch.uk/catholic-schools-inspection/

The report really captures what the school, with the community by its side, is able to achieve locally, in order to make a difference to the lives of others. The report also reflects how hard the children work in RE lessons and the impact of worship in school on their lives and those around them. It was amazing to have the school's mission of 'bringing our gifts from God to help others and bring joy and peace to our world' recognised by the Inspectors as having such a great impact.

The children's amazing attitude to prayer and worship was reflected in the report to show how much that means to them on a daily basis.

If you would a like a copy of the report please go onto our website and look at the tab Catholic School's Inspection, the full report is attached to that page. I would urge you to take the time and read the report to see where the School is rated as Good and where the school is rated as Outstanding.
Yours sincerely
Mr Taylor
Head teacher

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.

School Uniform

When we return to school in April, we are hoping we may start to enjoy some nicer weather. Therefore, the children can return to school wearing their summer uniform.

Our summer uniform is a red polo shirt to be worn with either shorts or trousers for the boys, and the usual school kilt for the girls. Tshirts can be purchased from Channel Uniforms or the children can wear a plain red-collared tshirt.

Please remember to adhere to the uniform guidance on our website. Recently we have noticed lots of jewellery and branded t-shirts. Comments are often made about how smart our children look and we want to keep this positive reputation. If you need any help please come and see us in the office.

https://st-richards-catholicprimary.secureprimarysite.net/school-uniform/

Term dates for next year

The term dates for next year are now available on our School Website. Please note that the staff development days, where the school is closed to children are:

Monday 1st September 2025,
Monday 27th October 2025,
Monday 23rd February 2026,
Monday 20th July 2026,
Tuesday 21st July 2026.

What our children say:

Year R

We have been learning lots and lots of our phonics. I have worked hard to learn my sounds and my tricky words. They are hard to spell. Tricky words are words like 'is', 'I' and 'put'. In Maths we have been singing songs all about our numbers and the months of the year like January. When we are writing Mrs O'Callaghan tells us a sentences and we remember it and then write it down correctly.

Year 1 – Elliot

In Maths, we have been learning about scales and mass. Here is a good example… so when the apple is down on the scales and the banana is up it is clear the apple is heavier so it has a bigger mass. We also learnt about how something fits inside a container so we looked at how many cubes fit into a container as this shows how much space is in the container. In English, we learnt about the book Rapunzel. We wrote a story where we changed the name and made it our own story. It was like writing a new version. I loved the bit in my story when I used the phrase 'snip, snip' and it was then the witch fell out of the tower. We have also been learning about Dover Castle. I really enjoyed making moving pictures about the castle. Sometimes we got paper and straws with pens to make it so we could pull sticks and pull things up and down to make it move. I thought it was pretty cool. We also learnt about the first two bits of the castle which were built. One of those bits was the lighthouse, it is one of the oldest parts.

Year 2 – Sofia

This term we have been learning all about Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth I. I have learnt that Queen Victoria was born in 1819 and she died in 1901. She was queen for over 63 years. Queen Elizabeth was born in 1533 and died in 1603. When she was queen the country became richer and more powerful. Her father was King Henry VIII. In English, we continued to learn about the monarchs. We wrote letters to the King and we created a set of instructions to make an Eton Mess. This is a dessert and it is the King's favourite dessert. Afterwards we ate it! In Maths we have been learning a lot. Today was out first day learning all about temperature. We went outside with thermometers and we measured the shade and the places with no shade in the sunlight. Before today we have been learning about volume and capacity. Capacity means how much there is inside an object.

Year 3 –Orla

In Maths, we were learning about mass and capacity. In lessons we compared weight and we used scales to help figure out the weight. We are really good at comparing weights now in questions and with scales. In our English lessons we have read the book 'The boy who biked the world'. To begin with we had a bag which Miss Ayling bought in and inside that bag was a helmet, torches, sleeping bags and all the things you would need to survive when hiking. When I saw the bag, I guessed what the book might be and I was happy that I was right about it, we loved the book and I think we have created some great writing from it. In Geography, we have learnt all about time zones and the compass points. The compass points show us the direction we need to go in. We have written lots of facts down about time zones as you cannot see them but they split up the world so we can tell the time in different countries.

Year 4 – Ethan

In Maths, we have worked really hard on learning all about fractions. This has covered mixed fractions, fractions walls and that was interesting. A fraction wall is when a picture shows how all the whole numbers are split up into fractions. A fraction is also made up of a denominator and a numerator. In English, we have written a non-chronological report all about plate tectonics. A report like this has facts about how the earth's plates move, we have written an opening paragraph, clear titles to direct people to facts which are written up in paragraphs so they are easy to read. This was linked to our geographical learning where we created posters about the plate tectonics, made experiments up which showed how they would collide and move around the earth.

Year 5 Amber

In Maths, we have learnt about decimals. These are parts of a number, not the whole number. In lessons, we have been adding and subtracting decimals, moving decimals places when their value change and using number lines. The number lines include whole numbers and decimals and where to put the different values. In English, we have focused on the Harry Potter book 'The Philosopher's Stone.' We did a fact finding mission about the places

named in the book. We have just written a letter to the family which look after Harry, they were called the Dursleys. We explained about how unkind they were to Harry especially when they made him sleep under the stairs. In History, we have focused on the Vikings and how some were invaders and some were called settlers. We also learnt about the different types of Viking such as a King, or a Thrall and Jarls. We spent a lot of time studying their houses, food and clothes.

Year 6 –Noah

Well in Maths we have been learning all about algebra and the first thing I learnt was this… it is hard! Now algebra is when you replace numbers for letters! For example if you take the number 5 and replace that for the letter f in a calculation the following happens. 2F + F becomes 3f. Now 3f (when you work it out) is 3 lots of 5 so that is 15. In English we have been writing a Non-Chronological report all about the moon Pandora. This moon is in the system Alpha-Centauri. We have created our own creatures and then written a report all about them. My creature has wings and I decided to put skulls on those wings so it could show it dominance over other creatures. Finally, in our topic we have been talking about the question 'How do we affect our planet?' We do this in lots of ways. Firstly, we take lots of resources out of the ground such as Uranium or gold. This cannot be replaced so once it is gone that's it. We have also learnt about our carbon foot print and minerals.

Dates for your diary:

Tues 22nd April – Start of Term
Weds 23rd April – YR1 trip to Dover Castle
Tues 29th April – YR R Hearing and Vision Screening
Thurs 1st May – YR1 trip to Dover Transport Museum
Fri 2nd May – Mass for Mary
Mon 5th May – School Closed for Bank Holiday
Tues 6th May – YR2 Beach Trip
Weds 7th May – YR5 Bikeability
Weds 7th May – YR3 trip to Dover Castle
Thurs 8th May – Whole School Reading Adventure Day
Mon 12th – Fri 16th May – KS2 SATS
Fri 16th May – PTFA Race Night
Mon 19th May – Yoga Day
Weds 21st May – YR5 rip to Big Local
Thurs 22nd May – YR2 trip to Folkestone Museum
Fri 23rd May – End of Term

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

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 Easter Break. Please remember that School is closed on Monday 21st April for Easter Monday Bank Holiday. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 22nd April.