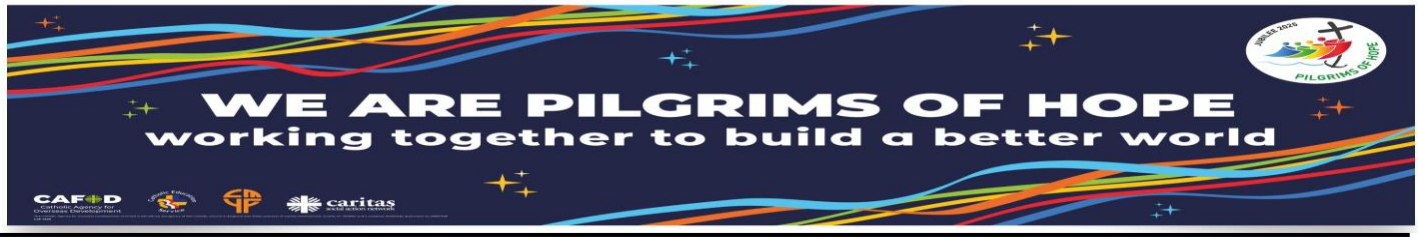
St. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter



To our Year 6 Parents

Walk your child to school one last time this week. Even if they don't want you to. Laugh about the sticks they used to collect or the paintings they so carefully carried. Reminisce about their sports days and how funny they were in their nativity.
Tell them how proud you are of them and how you are excited to see them grow.
Remember how little their hand was when you held it on their first day of reception.
Hold that hand again as you walk with them one last time.
You've done a great job!

We will miss you!

Year 6 are sadly leaving our St Richard's family and moving on to their secondary schools in September.

We are all incredibly proud of them and everything they have achieved over their time here. We wish them all the best of luck in their new schools - and know they will all be amazing.
We're sending them off with this message from Dr Seuss:

You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So…. get on your way!

Go be brilliant Year 6!

Saying a sad farewell

We are sadly saying goodbye to some of our staff members this term.

We want to wish the very best wishes of luck and love to Miss Drage, Mrs Walker and Mr Walker.

Miss Drage is moving on after 8 years of keeping our Year 6 classes in check.

Mrs Walker is retiring after many years of helping our children and always making them feel cared for.

Mr Walker is retiring after years of being our go-to man. He has kept the school running and supported our sports teams and events and we will be lost without him!

As a School Family, we are going to miss them terribly. We hope that your time with us has been memorable and that your future roles and retirements are everything you wish them to be.

After School Club Cancellation

A reminder that there will be no after school clubs running on Monday 21st July and that school will be closing at 2.30pm for the Summer Holidays.

Please make sure you have arrangements in place to collect your children promptly at 2.30pm

After School Club Collection

Parents collecting children from after school clubs need to use the small gate where morning drop off takes place.
The main gates and office will remain closed and the small gates will be open to collect from after school club. Teachers leading after school activities will dismiss the children from this gate.

Social Media

We would just like to respectfully remind parents to be mindful of posts on social media. WhatsApp groups that evolve to support parental communication should not use school badges or logos as they are not managed or endorsed by the school. Occasionally parents throughout the year have brought some posts to our attention and which we have had to deal with. These forums can be useful to help support each other with communication and reminders and we do not feel it is necessary to ask you to not use these groups.

However, if you have any concerns relating to your children or issues in school, staff are very approachable. We are on the gate every morning and evening. Do come and talk to us, as in the vast majority of cases issues or misunderstandings can be dealt with more efficiently by coming direct.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge 2025 has launched! This is the UK's biggest reading for pleasure initiative for primary school children in libraries - in 2024 close to 700,000 children took part and read over 13 million books. St Richard's came 2nd out of over 30 schools in the Dover District, which was an incredible achievement.

This year we are aiming to get to the top spot by encouraging our families to take part in this fantastic FREE challenge. Research consistently tells us that reading by choice is the single biggest indicator of a child's opportunity and future success. When children and young people enjoy reading, they read more often, helping to build vital reading skills and bringing wider benefits for mental wellbeing, self-confidence and learning.

This year the theme is the Story Garden: a reading challenge full of enchanting worlds, all kinds of creatures and plants, outdoor adventures and fascinating facts. We have introduced the Summer Reading Challenge to the children in a special assembly this week and let them know how to get involved, but in case they need a reminder - families can sign up at any time during the challenge period, either at the library or on this website: https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/

In Kent libraries the challenge started Saturday, 5 July and runs throughout the summer until Saturday, 6 September. There are lots of free events and activities for families around the theme of gardens and the outdoors running throughout the summer - please do have a look at the poster sent in the email, which explains how to sign up.

Uniform

When we return to school in September, we are hoping we will still be enjoying some lovely weather. Therefore, the children can return to school in September 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. T-shirts can be purchased from Channel Uniforms or the children can wear a plain red-collared t-shirt.

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.

Please note that from 1st October we will change from summer uniform to full school uniform.

Price Increase

Breakfast Club fees are increasing from September by 20p.
The new price of £2.20 has been updated on ParentPay ready for the new school year.

Please remember that you must pre-book Breakfast Club and After School Club so we know how many children are attending. We need to ensure we have the correct provisions for the number attending.

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.

Teaching Structure

The staff for next year are as follows:

- *Year R Mrs O'Callaghan with Mrs Hussey- King and Mrs Gavin*
- *Year 1 Miss Seager with Mrs Barnes, Miss Lydon and Mrs Gavin*
- *Year 2 Miss Dobbins with Mrs Jacobson and Mrs Williams*
- *Year 3 Miss Bates and Mrs Quansah-Brown with Mrs Reidy*
- *Year 4 Mr Kinnear with Miss Holder*
- *Year 5 Mrs Ciantar with Mrs Graham*
- *Year 6 Miss Maddison and Mrs Quansah-Brown with Mrs Spencer*

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/

Term dates for next school year- 2025/2026

Term 1

Tues 2nd Sept – Fri 17th Oct

Term 2

Tues 28th Oct – Fri 19th Dec

Term 3

Mon 5th Jan – Fri 13th Feb

Term 4

Tues 24th Feb – Thurs 2nd April

Term 5

Mon 20th April – Fri 22nd May

Term 6

Mon 1st June – Fri 17th July

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.

These and the dates for the remainder of this school year are available on our School Website.

https://st-richards-catholic-primary.secure-primarysite.net/term-dates/

We wish all of our families a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing you all in September!