



At the end of the last academic year, we said farewell and good luck to Fr. Pawel as he moves to Clapham Parish. We thank him for his dedicated service to our school and parish community and we wish him every success and blessing in his new role.

We are delighted to welcome our new Parish Priest, Fr. Joseph Donkor, who arrived on Monday. We offer our prayers for Fr. Joseph in his new position and all of our support for his future service to our school, our church and our community. May God bless him as he begins this new chapter with us.



It was wonderful to see our school family back together again on Tuesday – we have truly missed our St. Benedict's children. We are delighted to welcome both familiar and new faces, all ready to embark on another exciting year of learning and growth. Everyone looked so smart and ready for the year ahead!

Yesterday, our Year 6 children had a fantastic opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament in London. This trip supports our curriculum focus on British Values, giving pupils a first-hand look at how laws are made and how Parliament operates. During the visit, the children toured the historic building, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Year 6 saw both Houses in debate and took part in a workshop exploring how citizens can engage with the democratic process. The children's curiosity was inspiring as they asked thoughtful questions about voting, leadership and the roles of MPs and Lords. We hope experiences like these help nurture future leaders amongst our pupils.

Across the year groups, children have been eager to put themselves forward for leadership roles within our school. They are currently preparing speeches and classes will soon be voting for this year's pupil leadership team. We look forward to announcing the successful candidates soon!

This week, we have been praying for and thinking of last year's Year 6 pupils as they begin their secondary school journey. We hope their first few days have gone well and wish them all the best in this next step of their education. Starting secondary school is a big milestone and we are confident they will continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we start another exciting term together. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine



Sunday 7th September 2025



Luke 14: 25-33

'If you really want to be my disciple, you must be willing to carry your cross and follow me.'

Prayer of the Month – September



For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 8th September

3.30 pm Meet the Teacher Year 5

Tuesday 9th September

3.30 pm Meet the Teacher Year 4

Wednesday 10th September

3.30 pm Meet the Teacher Year 1

Thursday 11th September

3.30 pm Meet the Teacher Year 2

Monday 15th September

3.30 pm Meet the Teacher Year 6

Wednesday 17th September

3.30pm Meet the Teacher Year 3

Monday 22nd September

Individual School Photographs

Tuesday 23rd September

3.30pm Meet the Teacher Year R

Friday 26th September

Aylesford Priory Year 4 (Beginning of Year Mass)
Macmillan Cake Sale

Wednesday 1st October

Kent Life Class Trip Year 3

Friday 17th October

INSET DAY (No children to attend school)

Monday 20th October- Friday 25th

Half-Term

Please see a list of term dates for Academic Year 2025-2026 at the end of this newsletter.

Please do not book holidays in term time.

Welcome to St. Benedict's

We welcome all the children and their families who started at St. Benedict's this week:

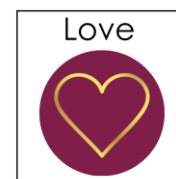
Ada, Aiden, Amelia, Anabel, Ara, Chester, Eliora, Fred, Gabrielle, Henry, Joe, Joey, Josiah, Kairo, Kyomi, Lawrence-Junior, Louise, Lucrece, Luna, Molly, Olivia, Reggie, Rory, Rosie, Skylar, Winnie, Zion.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week

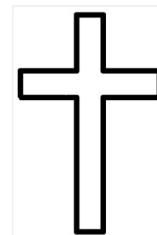


Taking part
Participation

Value of the Week Next Week



We love one another and we look after our school.



Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Superstars: The whole class for settling in to school so well.

Year 2

Superstar: Flo has started the school year being a fantastic role model, a wonderful friend and a peacemaker at all times.

Learner: Jacob has made a fantastic start to the school year and he has wowed us with his hard work, particularly in English.

Year 4

Superstar : Evie shared such thoughtful and compassionate ideas when we were discussing how to show our Catholic Social Teaching Principles in our daily lives. Well done!

Learner: Jayson has worked so hard this week and is showing confidence and independence in all his learning – great job!

Year 6

Superstar: Our Superstar this week is Moyin for representing our school impeccably at the Houses of Parliament and for her fantastic explanation of how a bill becomes a law. Super job Moyin!

Learner: Our Learner this week is Sofia for showing superb work ethic and for her progress in our daily Arithmetic challenges. Keep it up Sofia!

Year 1

Superstar: Abigail for quickly learning and following our class rules. Thank you for being a brilliant role model Abigail.

Learner: Lucas for great Maths work this week counting and grouping objects. Well Done Lucas!

Year 3

Superstar: Joshua has impressed me this week with his contributions in class and his efforts to do the right thing. Keep it up!

Learner: Noku has settled into the Juniors beautifully and has been working really hard in all her lessons. We are very impressed!

Year 5

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Segun for having a super start to Year 5. He has been an excellent role model in class by always being ready to learn.

Our learner of the week is Nife for her excellent contributions to class discussions and for taking ownership of her learning.

Uniform

Full school uniform including smart school shoes (not trainers) must be worn without exception.

All uniform must be clearly named.

No jewellery is allowed for health and safety reasons. This includes earrings.

No nail varnish.

All hair that can be tied back, should be tied back. Fancy bands, large or numerous bows, clips or beads should not be worn. Small hair accessories should match school colours.

Gel should not be worn.

No hair dye or indentations.

Hair extensions should match the child's hair colour exactly.

Please ensure your child brings a coat to school.

Thank you for your support.

Mary, Our Lady's Birthday – 8th September

On Monday, we celebrate Mary's birthday.

We would be very grateful for donations of flowers from your garden to decorate class prayer tables.



Donations

Thank you to all those families who have donated:

- tissues
- kitchen roll

Donations are welcomed throughout the year.



Summer Reading Challenge Finishes Saturday 13th!

This year, Medway Libraries has had our *best ever* response to the Summer Reading Challenge! If your child would like to finish their Challenge, you have until the end of the day on **Saturday 13th September** to pop into a library to collect their prizes.

Prizes include stickers, a poster, bookmark, pop badge, certificate and medal.

You can find the location and opening times of your nearest library [here](#).

If your child took part in this challenge, please could they bring in their certificate and medal on Monday 15th September.



Meet the Teacher

Parents of children in Years R - 6 can informally meet with their child's new teacher after school on the following evenings:

Date	Year Group	Start time
Monday 8 th September	Y5	3:30pm
Tuesday 9 th September	Y4	3:30pm
Wednesday 10 th September	Y1	3:30pm
Thursday 11 th September	Y2	3:30pm
Monday 15 th September	Y6	3:30pm
Wednesday 17 th September	Y3	3:30pm
Tuesday 23 rd September	YR	3:30pm

Each session will last approximately 20 minutes and will cover curriculum and class information. The sessions will take place in the classroom and we would prefer only adults to attend where possible please.

Application dates:
Mon, 1 Sept
2025 to Thu, 15
Jan 2026

Admission to primary school **September 2026**

apply online

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

If the answer is yes, then now is the time to apply for a school place.

Online admissions for Medway residents

The quickest, easiest and safest way to apply for your primary school place.

Last year 99 per cent of applications were made online.

If you give us your email address when applying you will:

- receive confirmation your application has been received;
- receive details of the school offered on the offer day by email without having to wait for an offer letter.



[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



Admission to primary school **September 2026**

- You must apply to your home local authority (ie if you pay your council tax to Medway Council you must apply to Medway). If you pay your council tax to one of the district councils of Kent (for example, Swale or Maidstone) then you must apply to Kent County Council.
 - You can name schools in any area but you must apply to your home local authority.
 - Medway residents can apply from **9am on Monday, 1 September 2025**.
 - Please make sure that you have submitted your application by **5pm on Thursday, 15 January 2026**.
 - If you do not want to apply online and would prefer to complete a paper application form, please contact the School Admissions and Transport Team. **Please note:** Medway Council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications in writing or over the phone.
 - Please read primary admissions 2026 information available at **[Medway.gov.uk/PrimaryAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/PrimaryAdmissions)** to find out more about the admission process and Medway's primary schools.
- If you would like any further advice you can speak to School Admissions and Transport Team, who will be happy to assist you.

Medway Council School Admissions and Transport Team

Phone: **01634 331110**

Email: **admissions@medway.gov.uk**

[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



Application dates:
Mon, 1 Sept
2025 to Fri, 31
Oct 2025

Admission to secondary school **September 2026**

apply online

Online admissions for Medway residents

Was your child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015?

The quickest, easiest and safest way to apply for your secondary school place.

Last year 99 per cent of applications were made online.

If you give us your email address when applying you will:

- receive confirmation your application has been received;
- receive details of the school offered on the offer day by email without having to wait for an offer letter.



[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)



Admission to secondary school **September 2026**

- You must apply to your home local authority (ie if you pay your council tax to Medway Council you must apply to Medway). If you pay your council tax to one of the district councils of Kent (for example, Swale or Maidstone) then you must apply to Kent County Council.
 - You can name schools in any area but you must apply to your home local authority.
 - Medway residents can apply from **9am on Monday, 1 September 2025**.
 - Please make sure that you have submitted your application by **5pm on Friday, 31 October 2025**.
 - If you do not want to apply online and would prefer to complete a paper application form, please contact the School Services Admissions Team. **Please note:** Medway Council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications in writing or over the phone.
 - Please read the secondary admissions 2026 information available at **[Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions)** to find out more about the process and Medway's secondary schools.
 - If you would like to request details of your nearest qualifying school(s) for the purposes of home to school transport please complete and submit the request form, which can be found at **[Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions)**. Any request for information must be received by **Wednesday, 1 October 2025**.
- If you would like any further advice you can speak to School Services Admissions, who will be happy to assist you.

Medway Council School Services Admissions

Phone: **01634 331110**

Email: **admissions@medway.gov.uk**

[Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions](https://www.Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions)





St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith.

2025/2026

School Tours for September 2026

for children born between 1st September
2021 and 31st August 2022

Parents of children of all faiths are invited
to visit the school for a tour with the
headteacher.



Dates and Times of Tours:

Thursday 2 nd October 2025	9:30am
Friday 10 th October 2025	2:15pm
Thursday 16 th October 2025	9:30am
Thursday 6 th November 2025	9:30am
Thursday 13 th November 2025	9:30am
Thursday 4 th December 2025	9:30am

Please book via the office:

01634 699700

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk



NEW

WRAPAROUND CARE PROVISION



THE FOXES' DEN



TO ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



A fun and exciting after school club! Children have access to a huge variety of games, craft activities and toys, as well as being able to play in our extensive field and playground.



A light dinner, healthy snack and a drink included.

Year 6 Class trip to the Houses of Parliament



Yesterday, Year 6 went on our first school trip to the Houses of Parliament. It was a very interesting day and we were especially privileged to see the House of Lords and the House of Commons, where MPs were debating changes to laws regarding Early Education. We spent time in Westminster Hall, where we learnt that Henry VIII played tennis and enjoyed sumptuous feasts. During a workshop, we discussed how bills became laws, learning what is meant by 'Parliamentary Ping-Pong'. Also, our guide told us that monarchs were only allowed in the House of Lords and that they did not actually have a say in which laws were passed. We certainly have more of an idea about what democracy is after our educational trip.

By William and Moyin, Year 6

September 2025 to July 2026

Term 1

Monday 1 September 2025 INSET DAY

Start: Tuesday 2 September 2025

Finish: Thursday 16 October

Friday 17 October 2025 INSET DAY

Autumn break: Monday 20 October 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025

Term 2

Start: Monday 27 October 2025

Finish: Friday 19 December 2025

Christmas break: Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026

Term 3

Monday 5 January 2026 INSET DAY

Start: Tuesday 6 January 2026

Finish: Friday 13 February 2026

February break: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23 February 2026 INSET DAY

Start: Tuesday 24 February 2026

Finish: Thursday 2 April 2026

Good Friday: 3 April 2026

Easter Monday: 6 April 2026

Easter break: Monday 6 April 2026 to Friday 17 April 2026

Term 5

Start: Monday 20 April 2026

Finish: Friday 22 May 2026

Early May bank holiday: Monday 4 May 2026

Spring bank holiday: Monday 25 May 2026

Late spring break: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term 6

Start: Monday 1 June 2026

Monday 29th June INSET DAY

Finish: Tuesday 21 July 2026

Parish News



St Simon Stock Parish in Walderslade

Bleakwood Road
Walderslade
Kent, ME5 0NF
Tel: 01634 862 910 Mob: 07305 831 925
Email : walderslade@rcaos.org.uk



Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Southwark



31st August 2025

Parish Of St Simon Stock



22nd Sunday Year C

Newsletter

Dear Parishioners of St Simon's,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the wonderful farewell party last Sunday. Your warm wishes, thoughtful cards, kind messages, and personal expressions of support have deeply touched me. I am truly grateful for your prayers, kindness, and the many generous gifts I have received during this time of transition.

As I take my leave from Walderslade, I carry with me fond memories of our time together and the blessings of your companionship in faith. Thank you for all the goodness you have shown me throughout my ministry among you.

Please be assured of my prayers for each of you, both as individuals and as a parish community. I also pray that God will bless Fr Joseph in his pastoral ministry at St Simon's, guiding him as he serves you with dedication and care.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Fr Pawel Sobol

Parish notices:

1. There is no 2nd collection this weekend. Next weekend it is for the Catholic Education Service.
2. Fr Joseph Donkor will be joining us tomorrow. He can be contacted on the parish mobile number below as per usual. His Induction Mass will be held on Friday 26th September at 6.30pm and all parishioners are welcome.
3. **Our Adoration Anniversary Mass is on 17th September at 7pm.** Adoration will start as normal at 2pm, but at 7pm we will have 15 minutes of silent prayer and then our Adoration Anniversary Celebratory Mass which will be celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks. All adorers and parishioners are invited, and there will be light refreshments in the parish hall afterwards.

Priest: Fr Pawel Sobol, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent, ME5 0NF. Email: psobol@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Martin Smith: martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep Margaret Whitworth: waldersladesg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk tel: 07811 852267

Please note: Parish Office is located in the new church extension

Tel: 01634 862910. Mob: 07305 831925. Website: www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk

Email: walderslade@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder

Primary schools

St Benedict's

Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700

St Thomas More

Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme Mass of Commitment

2025-2026

Children and parents must attend one of the Masses of Commitment at either 6pm Saturday 13th September or 9am or 11am on Sunday 14th September at St. Simon Stock Parish.

