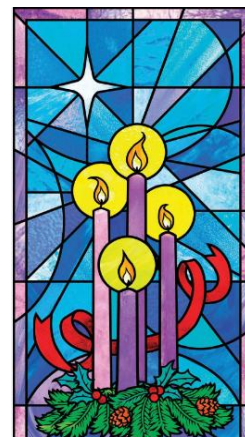




This weekend, we joyfully celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. This special season marks a time of hope, preparation and reflection. Advent calls us to live in the light, to open our hearts to God and to remember that Christ is near. Let us prepare for His coming together with faith and hope.

On Wednesday, St. Joseph's Class enjoyed a local walk to post their letters to Father Christmas. It was a fun adventure and the excitement on their faces reminded us all of the simple joys of the season.

A huge well done to everyone who entered the KCSP Christmas Card Competition – the creativity shown by our children was fantastic! We are especially proud of Lilly, whose beautiful design was chosen as the KS2 winner out of all twenty-seven KCSP primary schools and Ashley whose design was shortlisted. Both girls received their certificates in today's assembly and Lilly was awarded a prize. Congratulations, Lilly and Ashley!



Thank you so much for the evergreen donations – our Advent wreaths are now ready and looking lovely! We very much look forward to welcoming you on Monday afternoon for our special Advent Wreath Service, a wonderful way to begin this holy season together.

Starting Tuesday, we invite families to participate in our Advent Meditation sessions. If you are able to join your junior child on this spiritual journey, please complete the ParentMail form to confirm your attendance.

Have a blessed weekend.

Mrs. McAlpine



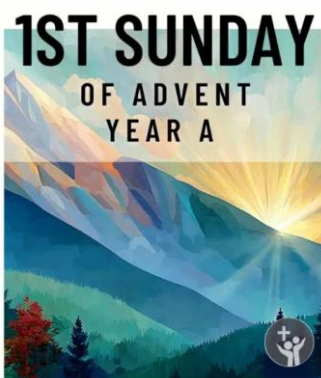
Prayer of the Month - Eternal Rest

As November is the month of remembrance, all children have been set a challenge to learn the Eternal Rest prayer. Can you help them at home?

Eternal Rest
grant unto them,
O LORD,
and let
perpetual light
shine upon them.
MAY THEY
Rest in Peace
Amen



Sunday 30th November 2025



Matthew 24:37-44

"You too must stand ready because you do not know when the Son of Man is coming."

Prayer of the Month – November



Let us pray that those who are struggling might find the support, care and love they need in their community and be open to the beauty of life.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 1st December

2.30pm Advent Wreath Service

Tuesday 2nd December

TAG day

(KS1 – Chocolates KS2 -Bottles)
Advent Family Meditation Session

Thursday 4th December

Year 3 Carol Concert Rochester Cathedral

Monday 8th December

2pm Infant Nativity

Tuesday 9th December

10am Infant Nativity
Advent Family Meditation Session

Wednesday 10th December

3.20 pm Christmas Market

Thursday 11th December

2 pm Grandparent Tea Party

Monday 15th December

Advent Family Meditation Session

Tuesday 16th December

2pm Junior Carol Concert
6pm Junior Carol Concert

Wednesday 17th December

Christmas Reading Café
1.30pm Children's Pantomime -Aladdin
Christmas campfires

Thursday 18th December

9.10 am Pre-Schooler Advent Craft and Play
Christmas Dinner and Parties

Friday 19th December

9.10 am Achievement Assembly (for invited parents)
Last Day of Term

2 pm Finish



Monday 5th January 2026

INSET Day (No children to attend school)

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Children return to school for Term 3

School Term Dates Holiday Booking

Schools are not permitted to authorise holidays in school time.

Please see the term dates below to help you plan your holiday.

Christmas Break

Monday 22nd December to Monday 5th January

February Break

Monday 16th February to Monday 23rd February

Easter Break

Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April

Late Spring Break

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Summer Term Ends

Tuesday 22nd July

Future Inset Days

Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 23rd February 2026
Monday 29th June 2026

Class Assembly Dates

All assemblies will begin at 9:10am.

Year 4: Took place in October

Year 3: Took place in November

Year 5: Wednesday 28th January

Year 2: Thursday 12th February

Year 1: Wednesday 25th February

Year R: Thursday 12th March

Year 6: Monday 30th March

Key Assessment Dates

Key stage 2 tests (Year 6)

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026.

Multiplication tables check (Year 4)

Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 1 June 2026 – Friday 12th June 2026.

Phonics screening check (Year 1)

Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 8 June 2026 – Friday 12th June 2026.

★ Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Learner: Molly-for working hard on her letter formation to write great sentences.

Superstar: Luna – for beautiful art work and sharing her creative ideas with her friends.

Year 1

Learner: Well done Rafferty, for trying really hard to improve your handwriting and working so hard independently with your number bonds game!

Superstar: Deborah, thank you for being such a wonderfully caring and compassionate member of St Michael's class. You really do take such good care of us all.

Year 2

Learner: Luke O has wowed me with his excellent writing in English this week and his accurate maths! Keep up the good work, Luke O.

Superstar: Luke C is consistently kind and compassionate to everyone he meets and is such a pleasure to teach on a day to day basis. Thank you, Luke C.

Year 3

Learner: Matthew, for working so hard with his writing this week in English and thinking about interesting words he could use to improve it.

Superstar: Amelia.C, for showing our school value of Compassion by always being such a loving, kind and caring member of our class to everyone.

Year 4

Learner: Freddie: you have excelled in maths sessions this week with your work on arrays and solving multiplication and division problems – well done!

Superstar: Thank you Elisha for sharing your compassionate nature this week, by supporting your peers and being helpful without being asked. We appreciate you!

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Yan who has showed his resilience and focus during our Maths lessons where he has explained his reasoning when comparing fractions.

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Oscar for his excellent book review of our class book- Floodland. He is always striving to include powerful vocabulary.

Year 6

Learner: William has shown great reflection and spiritual insight this week. He has thought deeply about what gives meaning to our lives and how aid agencies work to overcome injustice. He supported his thoughtful responses with scripture and Catholic Social Teaching principles, demonstrating real maturity and understanding. Well done, William!

Superstar: Nancy has shown wonderful compassion this week, offering thoughtful support to her peers and kindness to everyone around her. Her considerate nature is truly appreciated by both her classmates and teachers. Well done, Nancy — you brighten our classroom with your care and empathy!

Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Showing we care
Solidarity

Value of the Week Next Week



*We are determined to
always try our best.*

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 5 **98.75%**
2nd Year 4 **97.50%**
3rd Year 3 **97.33%**

Times Table Rockstar

Fastest Rocco Y5
Highest Audrielle Y4
Most Improved Finn Year 4
Star Nife Year Y5



Attendance

Well done to all the children listed below who achieved 100% attendance last term.

Term 1 - 100% Attendance

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Zion	Lucas	Hudson	Noku	Elsie	Medeea	Willow
Fred	Abigail	Jack	Isabella	Audrielle	Bethany	Joe
Lawrence	Nellie	Aiden	Maison	Janet	Jasmine	Isla
Ara	Myla	Zayne	Emilia	Bonnie	Cameron	Eva
Louise	Sophia	Ethan	Sonny	Isaiah	Oliver	Jacob
Winnie	Raphael	Ali	Stephanie	Amirah	Leontine	Sienna
Chester	Henry	Marco	Faith	Malakai	Lily	Euan
Molly	Rafferty	Luke	Thomas	Honor	Frankie	Roman
Olivia	Aria		Callum	Caris	Lily	Somto
Luna	Karina		Joshua	John	Carson	Tiara
	Tami		Rayelle	Jayson	Segun	Moyin
	Chloe		Maryam	Eliana	Anabel	Alice
	Momore			Zion	Nife	Sofia
	Oscar			Anjola	Rocco	Nancy
	Tabitha			Noelle	Oscar	Heavenly
	Tonia			Lily P	Dylan	Luca
	Isaac			Vanessa	Korede	William
	Kiara			Evie	Adam	Kinga
	Ruben			George		George
				Elisha		Liam

KCSP Christmas Card Competition



Congratulations to both Lilly and Ashley. Lilly won the KCSP design a Christmas card competition with her beautiful depiction of the Three Wise Men and Ashley's card was shortlisted.



Advent

As we light the candles one by one,
Lord, help us think what can be done
to bring hope to others.

We could donate both clothes and toys
spreading joy to girls and boys,
who are running out of hope.

Lord, help us to be kind and love,
when others push and sometimes shove.
Help us remain a symbol of Your peace.

Faith G. Year 3

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner is on **Thursday 18th December**. Please see the menu below.

You must pre-order your child's Christmas meal via Parentmail by 8am on Monday 8th December.

If you do not wish to pre-order the Christmas Dinner, you must provide your child with a home packed lunch as there will be no packed lunch/jacket potatoes served from the school kitchen on this day.



Letters to Santa



St. Margaret's V St Benedict's Football Match

Well done to St. Benedict's football team for their first match of this academic year. St. Margaret's won 5:2 but we were proud that our team showed great determination right to the end of the match. Thank you to our SBA for purchasing our new kits.



Infant Nativity Tickets



Infant parents received their two tickets (one for each performance) for the Infant Nativity today. If you do not require your ticket, please return it to the office so it can be distributed to other parents. If you would like to go on the waiting list for returned tickets, please let the office know.

England Rocks – Most valuable Players Times Table Rockstars

Well done to Nancy, Elyas and Jayson!



Neighbour Complaints

Again, this week, we have had complaints from neighbours about parents inconsiderately parking and children and carers using neighbour's driveways as a short cut to walk to their parked car.

Please be considerate to our neighbours and remind children to walk with the adult who is collecting or dropping them off. Thank you.

Mini Youth Games Badminton

Selected children from Year 5 took part in the Mini Youth Games badminton competition. They had a fantastic day and all enjoyed the competition, winning a couple of the matches. The children received their certificates in assembly this morning.



DISCOVER 100's OF FREE ACTIVITIES DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



MedwayGo
FREE ACTIVITIES DURING
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

- Free places available for children eligible for benefit related free school meals
- Free places available for children that are in care, from military families or children with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities)
- Plus paid places on selected activities

FOLLOW THESE 3 EASY STEPS TO ACCESS MEDWAYGO ACTIVITIES

STEP 1

Check you are eligible. If you are receiving benefit related free school meals this makes you automatically eligible. If you are not in receipt of benefit related free school meals but think you may be eligible for them, please apply via the medway.gov.uk website. If you believe you are eligible for any other reason please email go@medway.gov.uk.

STEP 2

Once you have confirmed your eligibility, you can explore activities and book your place via the website (during booking periods).

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:
football, tennis, karate, trampolining, dance, theatre, swimming, outdoor pursuits, arts and crafts and so much more

STEP 3

If eligibility is confirmed your booking will be approved. Paid places may also be available to book for non-eligible children.

All staff and volunteers are experienced and DBS checked, providing peace of mind for you and lots of fun for your kids!

MedwayGo
FREE ACTIVITIES DURING
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

READY WHEN YOU ARE!
GO.MEDWAY.GOV.UK

go@medway.gov.uk

Medway
Serving You

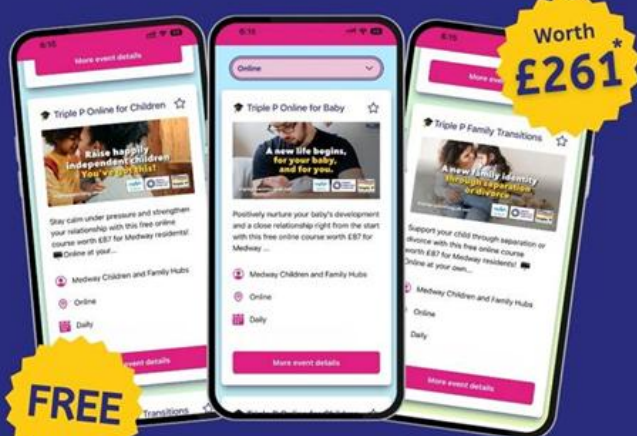
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Free for Medway Families

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and Family Hubs**

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Children and
Family Hubs

Medway
Serving You

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**



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:			
Thurs	FULL	yr 2025	9:30am
Friday	FULL	2025	2:15pm
Thursday	FULL		9:30am
Thursday	FULL		9:30am
Thursday	FULL		9:30am
Thursday	FULL		9:30am
Wednesday 7 th January			

Apply for a school place
for September 2026
Medway Residents
<https://admissions.medway.gov.uk/Synergy/Admissions.aspx>
Now Open

Apply for a school place
for September 2026
Kent Residents
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>
Now Open

Please book via the office:
01634 669700
office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk

ST BENEDICT'S WOOD



Year 2 Forest School



ST BENEDICT'S WOOD





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



23rd November 2025

Parish Of St Simon Stock



Christ The King Yr C



The other criminal hanging there said to Jesus "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." "Indeed, I promise you," he replied. "Today you will be with me in paradise". Established in 1925 by Pope Pious XI the feast of Christ the King reminds Catholics and all Christians that our vision has to be on Christ and our priorities must be to serve and build a kingdom of forgiveness, peace, justice, kindness, mercy and love. Also, today is World Youth Sunday and the 2nd coll will support the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service providing a variety of activities for youth and young adults. For more info go to www.tinyurl.com/scys1 Fr Joseph Donkor

Called to Bear Fruit consultation response published.

We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The response is available at rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. It revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, working together to help people encounter His love. Further updates will be provided in due course.

Representatives of the Legion of Mary will be speaking at our Masses today with the hope that a unit of the Legion called a Praesidium can be established here at St Simon Stock. You can also find out more at: legionofmary.ie If you would like to register interest before or after the w/e of the 22nd & 23rd please do get in touch with me. Thank you: David Redding, 07735 957271, davidredding1000@gmail.com

Our Epiphany Carol Service will be on 3rd January 2026. Last year we asked for our different parish communities to sing a carol in their own language and we had Italian, Polish and Ghanaian carols, but it would be great to have more communities represented. If you would like to take part please contact Josie on 07915601076.

Priest: Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Martin Smith: martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk

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

Children's Liturgy will be held every Sunday during 11am Mass during Advent.

As usual the children will be acting out the Nativity during the Gospel at the Christmas Eve 6pm Mass. If your child would like to take part there will be rehearsals from 10.30am to 10.50am every Sunday during Advent so please come along on 30th November and sign up.