



Thank you to all the families who joined our Advent Wreath Service on Monday. Our Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies did a wonderful job leading the service, explaining the meaning of Advent and the symbolism behind the Advent Wreath. Fr. Joseph blessed each class' wreath and reminded us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ child.

Throughout the Advent season, our Advent prayer boxes will be coming home with your child. some special family prayer time together. Please return the prayer box the following day so another family can share in this tradition.

At the beginning of the week, your child received an Advent 'Day by Day' book, kindly purchased for all pupils by the SBA. Thank you, SBA, for your support!

This year, all KCSP schools are focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle, 'The Common Good'—thinking of everyone. Each child has received a wooden snow globe to decorate for our school hall Christmas tree. We invite each child to write their Advent promise on the globe, sharing ways we can help others flourish. Once decorated, return your globe so we can display everyone's promises in our school hall and promote the wellbeing of all throughout our school family.

Congratulations to our football team who won 3:1 against Saxon Way with goals scored by Luca and Dylan!

Yesterday, St. Simon Stock Class represented our school beautifully at Rochester Cathedral Carol Concert. Well done – I am so proud of you all.

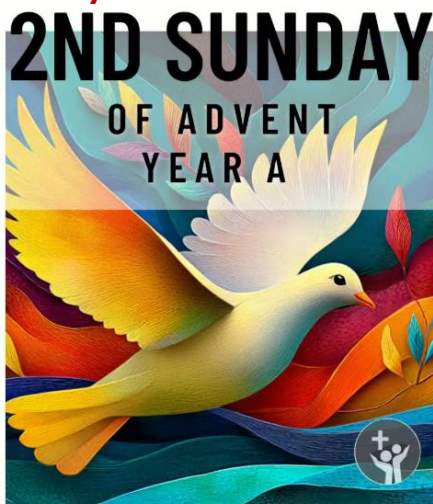
Next week, will be even busier with Infant Nativity performances, a Reconciliation Service, Family Advent Meditation sessions and our Annual Grandparents Tea Party! We are looking forward to seeing you at our events and at our Christmas Market after-school on Wednesday. Remember your pennies and mug for hot chocolate!

Have a blessed weekend.

Mrs McAlpine



Sunday 7th December 2025



Matthew 3: 1-12

"Repent, change your ways; for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

**Prayer of the Month –
December**



Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 8th December

2pm Infant Nativity
Last day to order Christmas Dinner via
ParentMail

Tuesday 9th December

10am Infant Nativity
Advent Family Meditation Session

Wednesday 10th December

3.20 pm Christmas Market

Thursday 11th December

Christmas Jumper Day
2 pm Grandparents 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

Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Taking part
Participation

Value of the Week Next Week



We follow the
teachings of Jesus.

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: Kyomi for amazing concentration and progress during her phonics sessions! We are so proud of you!

Superstar: Macey for being a caring and thoughtful friend and looking after her classmates when they are a little sad! We are lucky to have you in our class!

Year 1

Learner: Tami for doing some super blending in his phonics this week. Keep it up Tami!

Superstar: Natasha for joining in so enthusiastically with the songs for our nativity play.

Year 2

Learner: Henry.
I was so impressed with Henry's beautifully presented letter to Father Christmas this week. He's worked so hard to make it perfect. Well done, Henry.

Superstar: La Rosa
La Rosa has been an absolute star this week in our nativity play rehearsals. Her singing and dancing have been fantastic. Well done, La Rosa.

Year 3

Learner: Maison for being a fabulous learner in class. He always offers his ideas enthusiastically and applies himself 100% to all areas of the curriculum. Keep it up.

Superstar: Emilia.S
Emilia was a superstar at our carol concert at Rochester Cathedral this week. She was singing her heart out and enjoying herself to the maximum!

Year 5

Learner: Bella for being resilient and dedicated to her work. She applied her English skills in our History lesson where she produced an excellent plan for our big question.

Superstar: April has produced an amazing opener to her narrative in English this week where she used Year 5 techniques when describing the characters and setting description.

Year 4

Learner: Malakai, you have shown great resilience towards your learning this week. I was impressed with your commitment and dedication to English tasks this week. Well done!

Superstar: Francis, what superstar mathematician you have been this week. You applied your fantastic times table knowledge to reasoning and problem solving. Great job!

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Liam for making fantastic progress in Maths. Liam has shown great determination and growing confidence, especially in his understanding of multiplying and dividing fractions. His hard work is really paying off — well done, Liam!

Superstar: Our Superstar this week is George for showing wonderful perseverance in his writing. George has worked hard to produce accurate pieces and has made a great effort to up-level his vocabulary by choosing thoughtful and effective synonyms. Super job, George!

Attendance Winners Last Week

- 1st** **Year 4 100%**
- 2nd** **Year 5 98.13%**
- 3rd** **Year 3 97.33**



Play/ Carol Concert Tickets

If you have any tickets for either the Nativity play or the Junior Carol Concert that you do not need, please return them to the office so that they can be given to parents who have requested extra tickets.

Parents **MUST** bring their tickets for entry to the performances.

Advent Prayer Boxes



The Mini Vinnies prepared our Advent prayer boxes so families can enjoy some special prayer time together during this Advent season.

Advent Wreath Service



Thank you to Callum and his family for making and donating the beautiful Advent wreath for the hall.



Letters to Santa



Saxon Way Primary vs St. Benedict's Primary School Football Team



Well done to St. Benedict's who won their football match 3:1 at Saxon Way Primary School. They looked fantastic in their new kits sponsored by the SBA.

Hat/ Glove Collection for the Homeless

Thank you to the Mini Vinnies for organising a winter collection for the homeless. Also, thank you to the generosity of parents.

Mrs Read delivered them this afternoon.
Jess from One Big Family awarded us a certificate.



Christmas Jumper Swap Shop Thursday 11th December

Next Thursday, children will be able to wear their Christmas jumper with their normal uniform for Christmas Jumper Day.

Thank you for the donations of pre-loved Christmas jumpers. Please feel free to take a jumper from the rail on the playground. If you have one to donate, please add it to the rail by Wednesday.





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.



Grandparents Tea Party

There are still a few tickets left for our annual Grandparents Tea Party on Thursday 11th at 2pm.

If you would like a grandparent to attend, you can purchase up to two tickets per family for £2 in the ParentMail 'Shop'.



SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes - more funds for your organisation.
1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS
ARRANGED ON:

8 JANUARY
THURSDAY

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND
BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING
AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk • 0330 043 0550 • thelittlerecyclers.co.uk

Year 3 Carol Concert Rochester Cathedral



Year 3 had a fabulous day taking part in the Christmas carol service in Rochester Cathedral. It definitely got us all in the Christmassy mood!



Medway Parents and Carers Forum

We are delighted to invite you to our upcoming ***Embracing Neurodiversity for in Schools day*** for parents, a special event dedicated to raising awareness, sharing support, and celebrating the strengths of neurodivergent children and young people.

Join us for an inspiring and informative day featuring guest speakers from:

- **NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust)**
- **Autistic Girls Network**
- **Medway Council Child Health Team**
- **Medway Community Healthcare (MCH)**
- **Early Help – Medway Council**

This event will include:

- Talks from professionals on neurodiversity, masking, sleep and parenting
- Opportunities to ask questions and connect with services
- Information stalls and resources for families
- A welcoming space to share experiences and build community

Whether your child has a diagnosis, is awaiting assessment, or you simply want to learn more about neurodiversity, this day is for you.

When is the event?

Friday 23rd January 2026, 10:00-14:00

Where is the event?

St Margaret's Millenium Centre
Gatekeeper Chase
Rainham
Gillingham
Kent
ME8 9BH

Please sign up using the form or QR code below to confirm your attendance.

This will help us gauge expected numbers.

[Click here to sign up](#)

The poster features a purple header with the Medway Parents & Carers Forum logo and the event title. Below is a photograph of diverse children in a classroom. The bottom section contains event details, a smaller QR code, and the Medway Council logo.

medway
parents & carers
forum

Embracing Neurodiversity in Schools Day

Embracing Neurodiversity
for Parents
23rd January 2026
10am-2pm
Millenium Centre Rainham
Scan the QR code to
register

The Medway Council logo, featuring the word "Medway" in a stylized blue font with a wave-like graphic, and "COUNCIL" in smaller capital letters below it.



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	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 7th January

Please book via the office:

01634 669700

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk



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

E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's Illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's Illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent
Police**

Think before you buy:

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety

Recycling of Ink Cartridges

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges Here

and help us raise money!



Recycle 4 Charity

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges Here

and help us raise money!



If you would like to know more about the charity please click on the link. <https://q-shipsociety.co.uk/>

Aims of the Q-ship Society

1. Move
2. Moor
3. Restore

As a society we hope to obtain ownership of the ex-flower class sloop HMS Saxifrage from World War One from the current care takers in Chatham Working mans Docks, we would have to provide towage out of the docks and into a permanent home. The society would be then responsible for the mooring of the ship at the site, hoping that it would be at a discounted rate being that we are restoring one of the last three ships from World War Two.



If you would like to donate to the charity's Go Fund Me page, please do so here <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Move-Moore-Restore>



Parish Of St Simon Stock



30th November 2025



1st Sunday Advent Yr A

Today, we begin the new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent in preparation for the Feast of Christmas. Advent is a penitential time, though not so severe as Lent, and this is why there are no flowers in the Church. And we also refrain from using Gloria during Mass as another way of distinguishing the season. You will also see that the colour of the priest's vestment is now purple, like the purple worn in Lent. Last year we worked our way through St Luke's Gospel and this year we see the life of Christ from the perspective of Matthew the evangelist. This is a great enrichment for us. Congratulations to Fr Pawel Sobel for his induction as Parish Priest of St Bedes in Clapham Common.

Also a huge thank you to everyone who helped to make our Christmas Fayre such a success – the fund raising committee/organisers (especially Tanya) , stallholders, cake bakers, crafters, punch makers/servers, those who came and spent their hard-earned cash. Special thanks go to the St Thomas More school choir and teachers for the beautiful carol singing to entertain us all.

Fr Joseph Donkor

From Saturday 13th December we will start to have Communion under both kinds at all weekend Masses. We will therefore need Eucharistic Ministers so please contact the office to let Josie or Tanya know your availability.

Don't forget to buy your raffle tickets for our lovely Christmas hampers. Tickets will be on sale after every weekend Mass. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 14th December after 11am Mass.

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.