



What a wonderful week it's been here at St Benedict's! There has been so much to celebrate and so many proud moments.

Our infants truly shone, performing 'The Bethlehem Babe' with confidence and infectious enthusiasm. Despite their young age, they brought the Nativity story to life on stage, reminding us all of the joy and spirit of Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Christmas Market on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see our family community come together and your generosity was overwhelming. Every penny raised will be used to enrich our children's learning experiences and provide essential resources. Your support makes a real difference.

Fr. Joseph joined us for our Junior Reconciliation Service. The children reflected on themes of kindness and making good choices, with time for prayerful thought. This beautiful service helps us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus.

Yesterday, we hosted our Annual Grandparents' Tea Party. The school hall was filled with laughter, conversation and song as our grandparents enjoyed refreshments, a raffle and of course wonderful singing from their grandchildren. We are so grateful for the love and support our grandparents provide – they are an essential part of our school family.

A huge thank you to all parents who have supported us this week, whether by helping at events, attending performances or contributing to our fundraising. Your involvement is invaluable and very much appreciated.

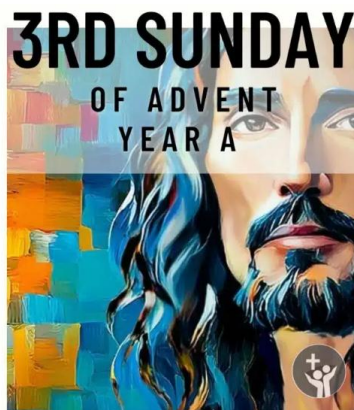
We are looking forward to the junior carol concert performances next week. A little reminder that each ticket admits one adult. If you are unable to make an event, please let the office know and return your ticket to allow another parent or grandparent enjoy the event.

Have a blessed weekend.

Mrs. McAlpine



Sunday 14th December 2025



Matthew 11: 2-11

The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

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 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

Children return to school for Term 3

Thursday 8th January

Used Clothing Collection

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

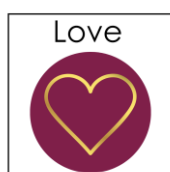
Year 6: Monday 30th March

Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Being peacemakers
Promoting peace

Value of the Week Next Week



*We love one another
and we look after
our school.*

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: Louise - for showing amazing resilience with letter formation and writing her name beautifully!

Superstar: Joe - for excellent number work this week and becoming increasingly confident to express his feelings.

Year 1

Learner: Raphael has tried really hard this week to focus during lessons. Keep trying, Raphael.

Superstar: Oscar for being a super donkey in our Nativity play. You always knew when it was your turn to be on stage, Well done!

Year 2

Learner: Ethan has worked so hard this week. He has been an excellent mathematician and a superstar reader. Amazing effort, Ethan! Keep up the good work.

Superstar: Adira was such a star during the nativity play. She said her words with such expression and was an absolute pleasure to watch up on the stage. Well done, Adira!

Year 3

Learner: Ralph - for really working hard this week. He has been an excellent writer especially in R.E. I am so impressed Ralph!

Superstar: Faith.G - for being our wonderful role model in class in all that she does. Her faith shines through and she writes the most reflective pieces of writing.

Year 4

Learner: Well done, Isaiah, for your resilience and determination to succeed in all things maths this week – especially times tables practice.

Superstar: Jessie, you have worked so hard on your editing and improving skills this week. Well done for showing resilience and confidence particularly in science and English tasks.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Mason. His resilience this term with fractions has enabled him to become a much more confident mathematician! Keep up the hard work!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Ella for always being kind, considerate and motivated. Thank you, Ella, for being a wonderful role model and showing all of our school values.

Year 6

Learner: Our learner of the week is Ellyas for creating a fantastic Christmas calligram, showcasing thoughtful creativity and sophisticated vocabulary choices. A wonderful piece of work — well done, Ellyas!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Willow for consistently demonstrating kindness and living out our school's values through both her actions and her words. Willow shines with a gentle faith that inspires others — a true role model. Well done, Willow!

Best Bin-spirational Name

The Eco team has decided on their final choice of a name, after many fantastic entries, to submit as their entry to the Medway Council name a truck competition for one of the 8 new cycling trucks.

The chosen entry name is: **Sir Benedict Collectortron.**

We will wait to see if this name is one of the chosen names.



Attendance Winners Last Week

1st

Year 4

98.13%



Times Table Rockstars

Fastest - Frankie Year 5

Highest Score - Audrielle Year 4

Most Improved - Anabel Year 5

Star of the Week – Korede Year 5



Reconciliation Service

Yesterday Fr Joseph came into school for Reconciliation with the children in KS2.



Infant Nativity



Christmas Market



Grandparents Tea Party



Thank you to all the parent helpers who gave up their time to help make the afternoon such a success.



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

HOPE

Handwritten letters below 'HOPE':
H: a, v, c, p, o, g
O: c, l, l
P: o, s, e, s, s, i, o, n
E: c, a, r, e, s, s



JOY

Handwritten letters below 'JOY':
J: e, s, s, s, f, i, r, s, t
O: a, c, t, i, v, e, n, e, s, s
Y: o, b, e, d, i, e, n, c, e, f, i, r, s, t



PEACE

Handwritten letters below 'PEACE':
P: e, n, d
E: a, c, t, i, v, e, n, e, s, s
A: t, o, l, e
C: a, c, t, i, v, e, n, e, s, s
E: c, o, n, f, i, d, e, n, c, e



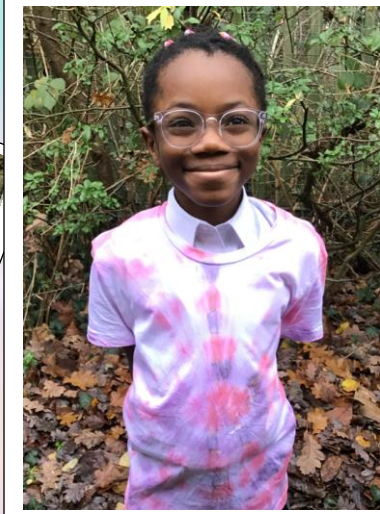
LOVE

Handwritten letters below 'LOVE':
L: e
O: e
V: o, b, e, d, i, e, n, c, e
E: c, o, n, f, i, d, e, n, c, e



Year 4 Tie-Dye

Year 4 have been learning about tie-dyeing. They tie-dyed their T-shirts and had a fashion parade once they were finished.



Forest School Year 2



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](#)



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

Medway
COUNCIL



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

Enjoy the magical festive experience of our screening of Raymond Briggs'

The Snowman™

with a full live soundtrack performed by



The Medway Band

'Kent's premier brass band'



Saturday 20th December

Brompton Academy, Gillingham

Doors open 16:30 for refreshments, 17:30 start

Adults £15

Children £10

Family £40

(Two adults, two children)

Tickets available now from www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-medway-band
Enquiries mail@medwaytownbands.uk



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www.thesnowman.com

Recycling of Ink Cartridges

Please bring empty ink cartridges to the office where there is a collection box.

Recycle Your Ink Cartridges Here

and help us raise money!



Recycle  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-shipociety.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



7th December 2025



2nd Sunday Advent Yr A

This Sunday's readings offer a clear Advent route. We learn from Isaiah to hope boldly, trusting that God brings new life from our deepest losses. From Paul, we learn to nurture this hope together, making it real through patient welcome and communal endurance shaped by scripture. From John the Baptist, we are summoned to personal honesty, to repent and produce the good fruit that proves our hearts are turned towards God. These readings call us away from passive waiting to active preparation: to believe in God's promise, to build up his community, and to cleanse our own lives, so that we may truly welcome the coming Lord. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

From next 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 next weekend Sunday 14th December after 11am Mass.

Message from Fr Pawel:

My heartfelt thanks to all of you who travelled last Saturday to London, to St Bede's Parish in Clapham Park, for my Induction as Parish Priest. Thank you for your prayers, your thoughtful gifts, and the wonderful testimony of faith and enthusiasm you shared. Many of my new parishioners have already expressed how deeply moved they were by your presence and joyful spirit. I am also very grateful for the kindness you showed to my parents—thank you for embracing them with such warmth. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity, friendship, and support. Last Tuesday I offered Holy Mass for all of you, and I continue to keep you in my prayers and in a special place in my heart.

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 10.15am to 10.50am every Sunday during Advent so please come along on 30th November and sign up.