



What a wonderful end to our Autumn term!

Our Annual Junior Carol Concert was a truly magical moment—our children shone brightly, filling the hall with beautiful singing and festive cheer. A huge well done to all our juniors for their incredible performances! A special thank you to our past headteacher, Mrs. Salamonczyk, for accompanying the children on the piano. Thank you also to our dedicated staff for preparing the children so well and to all of our families for attending and supporting our school events. Together, we make St. Benedict's a very special place to be.



The Christmas festivities continued throughout this week with our family reading café, Christmas campfires, pre-schooler craft and play, a whole school pantomime, Christmas dinner and parties, our Crib Service and even a surprise visit from Father Christmas!

The staff and I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas filled with peace and hope. May this holy season renew our joy and inspire us to bear Christ's light to all we meet.

School will reopen for the Spring term on Tuesday 6th January.

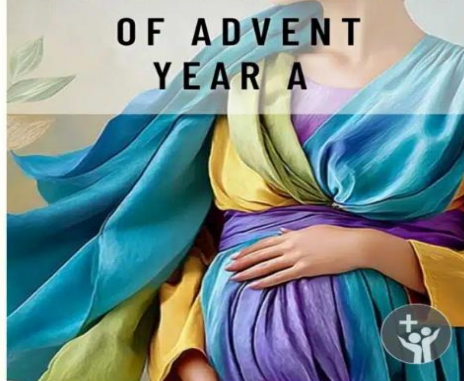
See you in 2026!

Mrs. McAlpine



Sunday 21st December 2025

**4TH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
YEAR A**



Matthew 1:18-24

They shall name him Emmanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'

**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 5th January 2026

INSET Day (No children to attend school)

Tuesday 6th January

Children return to school for Term 3

2pm Mass

Thursday 8th January

Used Clothing Collection

Friday 16th January

Mini Youth Games Swimming (invited pupils)

Wednesday 21st January

Cross Country (invited pupils)

Friday 23rd January

Young Voices Concert O2 Year 6

Wednesday 28th January

9.10 am Year 5 Assembly

Wednesday 11th February

Cross Country Swingate

Thursday 12th February

9.10 am Year 2 Assembly

February Break

Monday 16th February to Monday 23rd February

Monday 23rd February

INSET Day (No children Attend School)

Tuesday 24th February

Children return to school

Wednesday 25th February

9.10 am Year 1 Assembly

Monday 9th March

Recorder/Ukulele Ensemble

Thursday 12th March

9.10 am Year R Assembly

KS1/KS2 Music Festival

Friday 13th March

Mother's Day Shop

SBA Race Night

Monday 30th March

9.10am Year 6 Assembly

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.

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

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.



St. Benedict's Catholic Primary

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN



Our school is committed to safeguarding all members of our community

We have a detailed Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and work hard to ensure that this is followed.

If you have a concern about a young person in school and believe that they may be suffering or are at risk of harm or abuse you should report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):

Sarah McAlpine (Headteacher)



DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DDSL):

Becky Howell



Assistant Headteacher

Claire Read



Assistant Headteacher

Jayne Stuart



SENDCO



SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:

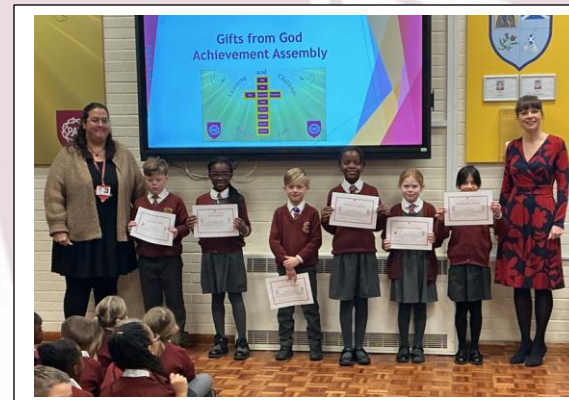
Lisa Brett



**Worried about something you have seen or heard?
Not sure what to do?**

Please come and talk to us.

Gifts from God Assembly

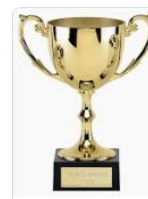


Times Table Rockstars

Fastest	Frankie Y5
Highest	Audrielle Y4
Most Improved	Finn Year 4
Star of the week	Adam Year Y5



House Team Autumn Winners



St. George's House
557 Points

Reading Café



Junior Carol Concert



Campfires





Thank you

Thank you to the SBA and all volunteers, staff, governors and parents, for helping with our Christmas events.

The Grandparents Tea Party raffle raised: £407.00

The Christmas Market raised: £801.50

The SBA raffle raised: £645.00

Pantomime - Aladdin





SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes -
more funds for
your organisation.

1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS ARRANGED ON:

Clear out all your
unwanted clothing
over Christmas

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

Pre-Schooler Craft and Play

Thank you to our Pupil Chaplains who led a lovely range of activities for our Advent pre-schooler craft and play session.



Christmas Dinner

Thank you to
the cooks for
a lovely
Christmas
Dinner.



Christmas Parties



DISCOVER 100's OF FREE ACTIVITIES DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



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



MedwayGo
FREE ACTIVITIES DURING
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

**A BETTER
MEDWAY**
Easier ways to be healthy

Medway
Serving You

LEAGUE 1	P	GD	PTS
PARKWOOD	3	17	7
ST MARGRET'S JUNIORS	2	10	6
WOODLANDS	2	5	4
MAUNDENE	1	12	3
ST BENEDICTS	2	-1	3
SAXON WAY	3	-2	3
TWYDALL	1	-7	0
NAPIER	2	-10	0
BYRON	2	-24	0

MEDWAY PRIMARY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

LEAGUE 2	P	GD	PTS
HORSTED	2	11	4
WARREN WOOD	3	2	4
SWINGATE	2	2	4
OAKLANDS	3	1	4
CLIFFE WOODS	1	6	3
LORDSWOOD	1	5	3
CEDAR	1	0	1
HOO ST WERBURGH	2	-3	1
PENINSULA EAST	3	-23	0



CONTACT DETAILS:

EMAIL:
INFO@HOOSPORTACADEMY.CO.UK

WHATSAPP:
07753693737

Santa Visit



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 7 th 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

£25 PER DAY

5-11 YEARS

STRIVE-MAS

CHRISTMAS MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER

SWINGATE PRIMARY
8:30AM-4PM

CHRISTMAS DRESS/JUMPER DAY
CHRISTMAS SPORTS
CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFTS
CHRISTMAS CARD MAKING
SNOW BALL FIGHT
CHRISTMAS PARTY (DANCING, MUSIC,
CANDY CANE HUNT &
BEST DRESSED WINNER)
MEET OUR ELF MASCOT

 16 FREE FSM PLACES
VIA MEDWAY GO <https://go.medway.gov.uk/book/>
BOOK NOW - EVENT LIKELY TO BE FULLY BOOKED

 **CONTACT US!** 07378 951411 www.strivepeandsport.co.uk
@strivepeandsport





STRIVE TO BE CIC
YOURSELF BETTER HEALTHY

FREE

FAMILY PICKLEBALL

ON SATURDAYS

CONTINUED THROUGHOUT JANUARY 2026

11AM TO 12-MIDDAY



USE THIS QR CODE TO BOOK!

 **KING'S ROCHESTER SPORTS CENTRE**



Click on this link for information



Christmas Support in Medway 2025/26

Feeling lonely?

Feeling stressed?

Feeling depressed or anxious?

Need someone to talk to?

Spending Christmas Day alone?

Going hungry over Christmas?

Look inside for local services and support available over the Christmas period

For further information, please contact us on:

Tel: 01634 402077

Email: enquiries@megancic.org.uk

Website: www.megancic.org.uk

Facebook: MEGAN CIC

Twitter: @MeganCic

Instagram: [megan_cic](https://www.instagram.com/megan_cic) Tik Tok: [@megan.cic](https://www.tiktok.com/@megan.cic)

Christmas 2025 – Medway Foodbank

Office and Warehouse – Last day is 24th December and reopens on Tuesday 6th January.

Open Doors (Chatham Evangelical Church) – Last session – Wednesday 17th December. Reopens Wednesday 7th January.

St Nicholas (Strood) – Last session – Tuesday 23rd December. Reopens Tuesday 6th January.

All Saints (Chatham) – Last session – Friday 19th December. Reopens Monday 5th January.

St Justus (Rochester) – Last session – Tuesday 16th December. Reopens Tuesday 6th January.

St Mark's (Gillingham) – Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Open on Saturday 27th December and 3rd January as usual.

Twydall – Last session – Tuesday 23rd December. Reopens Friday 2nd January.

Mid Kent College – Last session – Wednesday 17th December. Reopens Wednesday 7th January.

The Net – Last session – Thursday 18th December. Reopens Thursday 8th January.

The Harvest Centre – Last session – Thursday 18th December. Reopens Thursday 8th January.

Parish News



Advent 2025: Year of Hope

Tuesday 9th December
1pm - Parish Christmas Lunch at Aylesford Priory

Tuesday 16th December
7pm - Advent Reflections with Fr Joseph

Friday 19th December
7-8pm - Parish Advent Penitential Service followed by Mass at 8pm

Christmas 2025

Wednesday 24 December - Christmas Eve
6.00 pm - Family Mass with the Christmas story children's play
11.15 pm - Carol Service
12.00 - Midnight Mass

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day
9am - Mass at St Simon Stock
11.00 am - Mass at St Simon Stock

* Friday 26 December - 10 am Mass Feast of St Stephen, the first Martyr
Saturday 27th December - Mass at 6pm

Sunday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Family
9am Mass
11am Mass - Altar Servers to receive Medals of St Stephen

* Wednesday 31 December
10am - Mass
8.00 pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9pm Mass to celebrate the end of the Year 2025

Sunday 4 January - Second Sunday after Christmas
9am and 11am Masses as usual
Epiphany Carol Service at 3pm

Tuesday 6th January - Feast of the Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation)
10am - Mass
8pm - Mass