



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a joyful and peaceful Christmas. As we step into 2026, I would like to wish you and your family God's blessings for the year ahead. January is a time for new beginnings and positive change, and we are excited for the opportunities that await us at St. Benedict's.

Over the Advent season, our Chaplaincy Team, in partnership with our parish, collected gifts for the Catholic Children's Society. These donations support local disadvantaged children and families. We were proud to present all our gifts at the St. Simon Stock Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday 4th January. Thank you for your kindness and generosity - your support brings comfort and hope to children in crisis.

It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Tuesday. We gathered as a community to celebrate 'The Feast of the Epiphany' - a special moment in the Christmas Story marking the visit of the Three Wise Men to the Christ Child. This Feast closes the Christmas season and reminds us of the joy and hope that Jesus' birth brings.



We hope many of you will be able to join our first Coffee Morning of the year on Wednesday from 9am to 10:30am. Fortis Trust SEN Outreach and Mrs. Stuart will be available during the session to answer your questions and provide support. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other parents too.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord



Matthew 3: 13-17
"This is my beloved Son, with
whom I am well pleased."

Prayer of the Month – January

Let us pray that the Word of God may be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 14th January

9-10.30 am SEND Coffee Morning

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

New Ofsted Report Cards and Grades: A Guide for Parents

[New Ofsted report cards and grades: a guide for parents](#)

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 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.

Superstars and Learners of the Week



Year R



Learner: Macey for fabulous progress with oral blending – even blending digraphs! We are so proud of you!

Superstar: Skylar for contributing to class discussions beautifully and having lots to say about our topic of winter!



Year 1

Learner: Sophia for trying really hard to focus on our new book character this week and for being able to explain your ideas well.

Superstar: Reuben. Thank you, Reuben, for showing your integrity by always trying to do the right thing.



Year 2

Learner: Zakai has really blown me away this week with his excellent use of vocabulary, his super neat handwriting and his focus in maths. A superb effort!

Superstar: Zayne has been incredibly kind, considerate and honest this week, as he always is. Thank you for being consistently wonderful, Zayne!



Year 3

Learner: Matthew for working really hard in all areas of the curriculum this week. He has had super ideas and had been keen to write them down! Keep it up!

Superstar: Joshua showed great integrity this week. He found a lost special prize and made sure he gave it back to that person straight away! The distressed owner was happy again! Thank you, Joshua!



Year 4

Learner: Isa was so quick and accurate in maths this week when we were identifying and using factor pairs. Great job, keep it up!

Superstar: Nancy – you have been so determined this week with your English tasks. You have used resources to help you and listened carefully to adult support – well done!

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Daniel for his focus and enthusiasm in Maths solving practical multiplication questions.

Superstar: Our superstar of this week is Korede for always showing our value of integrity. Korede always makes positive choices, making him a trustworthy member of our class.



Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Euan for his excellent engagement and enthusiasm in English. He has shown a real appreciation for Shakespeare, demonstrating a strong understanding of the language and confidently inferring meaning from the text. His thoughtful contributions have enriched our lessons and deepened class discussions. Well done, Euan!

Superstar: Our Superstar of the week is Sofia. She has completed an impressive volume of reading, consistently choosing high-quality texts and demonstrating a thorough and in-depth understanding of the novels she explores. Her thoughtful insights, strong comprehension, and enthusiasm for reading are truly commendable. Well done, Sofia — you are a reading superstar!



Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Caring for God's gifts
Stewardship

Attendance Winners Last Week of Term

1st
Year 3 - 99.33%

2nd
Year 4 - 97.5%

Value of the week Next week



*We are kind and listen to
others.*

Applications for Primary School September 2026

For children born between
1st September 2021-31st August 2022

The application deadline to apply for a primary school place for September 2026 is
5pm Thursday 15th January.

Medway residents apply:

<https://tinyurl.com/Medway-Primary-Application>

Kent County Council residents apply:

<https://tinyurl.com/KCC-Apply-Primary>

SEND Coffee Morning

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to our SEND coffee morning on Wednesday 14th January from 9-10.30 a.m. This event is open to all families. It is a relaxed opportunity to enjoy a hot drink, meet other parents and speak with our Outreach Team from Fortis Trust. Mrs Stuart, our school SENCO, will also be available throughout the morning too. We would love as many parents and carers as possible to attend so please feel free to bring family members. There will be an opportunity for a Question-and-Answer session with our visitors from Fortis Trust who are able to talk about any areas of SEND and how to support our young people at home. If you have any questions ahead of the event which you would like answered on the day or if there is a specific area of SEND you would like to be discussed, please let us know by sending this information for the attention of Mrs Stuart via our post-box in the mornings or via the office email or form in ParentMail.

Mass

On Tuesday, we celebrated the Feast of Epiphany.



St. Simon Stock Parish Epiphany Carol Service

Over the Advent season, St. Benedict's Chaplaincy Team collected gifts for the Catholic Children's Society to support local disadvantaged children and families. At St. Simon Stock Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday 4th January, St. Benedict's and St. Thomas More children took part in a dramatised procession of the Wise Men and read a reflective poem. A representative from our Chaplaincy Team presented the gifts donated by our school to the Catholic Children's Society. Thank you once again for your generosity and supporting local families in need.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

School and future **success**
starts with good **attendance!**



100%

Your attendance is
excellent!

OUR TARGET FOR
ALL STUDENTS



DAILY LATENESS EQUATES TO...

3

DAYS
LOST

5 MINUTES LATE
15 hours lost to learning

6

DAYS
LOST

10 MINUTES LATE
30 hours lost to learning

10

DAYS
LOST

15 MINUTES LATE
50 hours lost to learning

REMEMBER

Your education is important - don't miss out!

97%

Well done!

6 DAYS ABSENCE

30 hours lost to learning

You're on the right path for
success, keep it up!

95%

We're concerned

10 DAYS ABSENCE

50 hours lost to learning

A poor attendance gives you
less chance of success.

90%

Seriously worried

19 DAYS ABSENCE

95 hours lost to learning

Very poor attendance has a
serious impact on your
education and may reduce
your life choices.

PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

5 MINUTES

late each day

= 3

days off
in total



Forest School Year R



Forest School Year 1



Special Menu – Please order on the weekly form in ParentMail.

A yellow rectangular menu card with a playful, food-themed illustration. It features four frying pans, each containing a sunny-side-up egg and a smiling face. Surrounding the pans are various food items: sausages, hash browns, and bean patties. Red splatters are scattered across the background. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

**ALL DAY
BREAKFAST**

**THURSDAY
15TH JANUARY 2026**

BREAKFAST ITEMS
Chipolata Sausage - Meat
or Veggie
Omelette
Mini Hash Browns
Baked Beans
Slice of Homemade Bread

DESSERT BREAKFAST
Chocolate & Banana Oaty
Square
or
Yoghurt
Or
Fresh Fruit

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Well done to Year 3, who collected the most bags. Their prize is an extra break session.

A colorful certificate with a recycling theme. It features a smiling sun in the top left, a large green recycling symbol in the top right, and a circular logo for 'THE LITTLE RECYCLERS' in the center. The background is decorated with green bushes, pink flowers, and two children riding bicycles. The text is centered and uses a mix of green and brown colors.

THE LITTLE RECYCLERS

C E R T I F I C A T E

This certificate is presented to:

St Benedict's Association

for participating in The Little Recyclers school fundraising programme.
Through clothing donations, you helped to divert textile waste ending up in
landfills.

Date: 8th January 2026
KG collected: 234
Funds raised: £105.30

THE LITTLE RECYCLERS TEAM

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



Parish Of St Simon Stock



4th January 2026

2nd Sunday of Christmas Yr A

Happy New Year to all parishioners and their families. We extend a special welcome to all who have recently joined our parish and advise that they take a parish registration form to complete and then return to the parish office. I hope to see everyone at our Epiphany Carol Service this afternoon.

Fr Joseph Donkor

Epiphany Carol Service 4th January at 3pm

Please come and celebrate the manifestation of the Lord to the nations this afternoon at our carol service. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and light refreshments in the parish hall and a chance to enjoy a chat with friends.

NEXT TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY IS THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD AND IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. THERE WILL BE MASS AT 10AM AND 8PM

Young Adult Training Seminar

Interested in starting a young adult group or enhancing your current group? Join us on Saturday 17 January (2-6pm) at St. George's Cathedral for a training seminar. Hear from Fr John Church, Fr Royston Price and a number of representatives from young adult groups in London. A great opportunity to network and share best practice. Register your free place:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/yatraininh1>

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