



Thank you to our parents and carers who came to this week's SEN coffee morning. It was wonderful to see you and we hope you found the discussions both valuable and supportive. A special thank you to Fortis Trust for their time and insights and to Mrs Stuart for organising the event.

World Religion Day takes place every January on the third Sunday of the month—this year, it falls on Sunday 18th January. The purpose of this day is to promote understanding, peace and tolerance between people of all religions and backgrounds.



To mark this important occasion and enrich our 'Other Faiths' curriculum, we have organised a series of visits and guest speakers throughout the start of this year. Our aim is to give children first-hand opportunities to learn about and appreciate the rich diversity of faiths in our community and world.

On Wednesday, St. Francis Class (Year 6) kick-started this with a fascinating talk about Islam and had fun practising writing their names in Arabic.

Today, some of our Year 6 pupils proudly represented St Benedict's at the Medway Mini Youth Games Swimming Festival, held at Medway Park. Well done to everyone who took part!

This afternoon saw our very first Rock Steady concert—a fantastic celebration of the children's learning in music. It was a joy to see pupils perform so confidently in front of the whole school and their parents. We look forward to many more concerts in the future!

Next week, Year 4 will be visiting a local Gurdwara, Year 5's Topical Talk Launch lesson takes place, our Cross-Country runners will be competing and Year 6 will be performing at the O2.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 18th January 2026 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



John 1:29-34
'He is the chosen one of God.'

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 21st January

Cross Country (invited pupils)

Thursday 22nd January

Guitar Lessons cancelled for this week only.
Year 4 Trip Gurdwara.

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.

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



SENCO



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: Louise for working hard on her letter formation this week, showing great resilience! Stay fabulous!

Superstar: Chester for making the right choices, helping others when they are in need and having a mature attitude! We are so proud of you!

Year 1

Learner: Well Done Isaac for sharing your great ideas about our book character, Traction Man, throughout the week.

Superstar: Thank you Rafferty for being a compassionate and caring member of St Michael's Class. You are thoughtful and always do your best to look after all of your friends.

Year 2

Learner: Marco has worked incredibly hard this week and he has amazed me with his ability to calculate when working with money. Well done, Marco!

Superstar: Jack has been an incredibly hardworking, kind and compassionate member of the class this week and he has tried so hard to complete his work to a high standard. Well done, Jack!

Year 3

Learner: Rae for working hard in English this week to use descriptive language for a wintery setting! Well done, Rae!

Superstar: Sonny for showing our school value of Compassion by being one of the most kindest and caring members of our class. He is so thoughtful and helpful Thank you Sonny!

Year 4

Learner: Gracie – you worked so hard when writing your diary entry this week. You ensured you included all the features and used key phrases and vocabulary from our book.

Superstar: Malakai – thank you for having such a compassionate nature and ensuring your friends are supported and encouraged. We value you in our year 4 team.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Henry for writing an effective diary entry in English. He adopted the personality of the character from our narrative and edited his work independently.

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Jasmine for showing compassion by consistently asking if she can help in any way. Jasmine is eager to carry out jobs and have extra responsibilities

Year 6

Learner: Our learner of the week is Lucca for showing a more focused and improved attitude to learning and working very hard across the curriculum. He has made super progress in his daily arithmetic scores and has been regularly offering valuable contributions in lessons. Keep it up Lucca!

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Éva for consistently being a compassionate and respectful pupil who shows great care for our school environment, her peers and younger students. Éva is a wonderful role model for others. Thank you, Éva!

Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Thinking of everyone
The Common Good

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st

Year 1 98.71%

2nd

Year 3 98.33 %

3rd

Year 4 97.27%

Value of the week Next week

Forgiveness



We forgive others when they have made a mistake.



[Submission Guidelines](#)

Children aged 4-18 may enter the Young Artists Competition.

Please bring in any submissions to Mrs Pierce by 1st March.

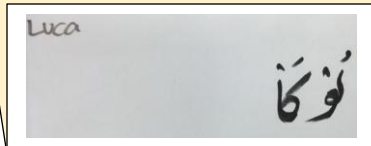
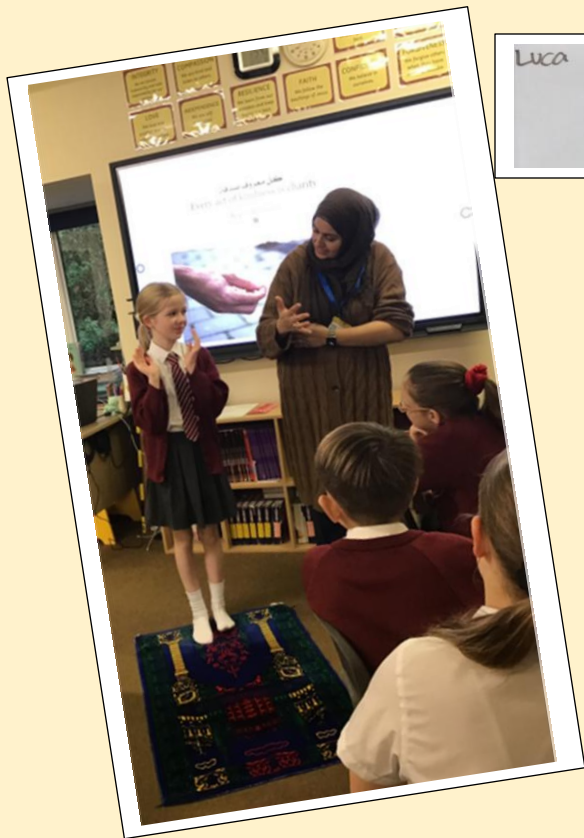
Prizes

Prizes are awarded each year for inspiring artworks. You can also vote for your favourite artwork in our annual People's Choice Award.

What kind of artworks do you accept?

We've written some guidance on the kinds of artwork the judges are looking for when they review submissions. The artwork can be made using any material; it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination. There is no theme so artworks can be of any subject and we don't mind when you made the artwork as long as you are between 4-18 years old when you submit it. We also welcome collaborative pieces made by more than one student, a whole class, a whole year group or even a whole school! If you're submitting as or for a student at GCSE, A Level or BTEC level, we suggest submitting artwork that is not being assessed for exams.

Year 6 Talk on Islam



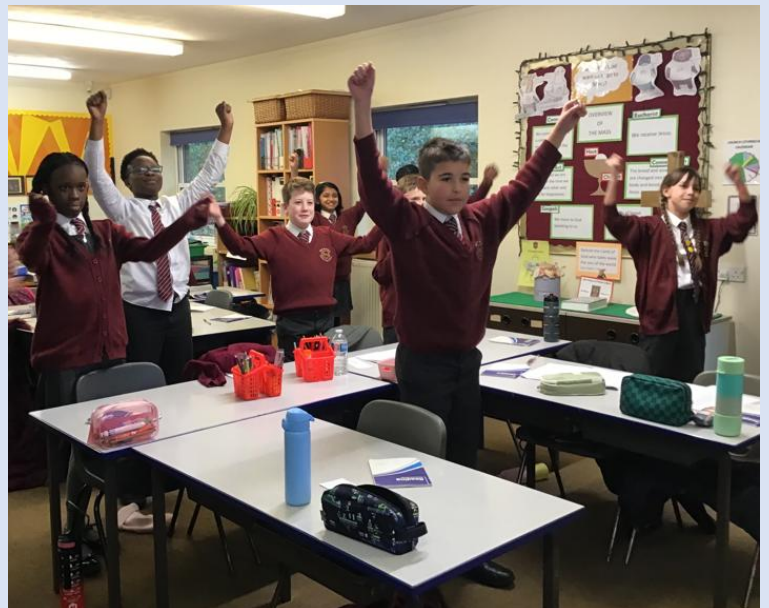
No Guitar Lesson Next Week

There will be no guitar lessons next Thursday. They will resume the following week.



Year 6 Young Voices

Children in Year 6 are busy practising for the O2 concert next week.



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



ROCK STEADY

Rocksteady Concert



Forest School Year 1

ST BENEDICT'S WOOD



MEDWAY MUSIC ASSOCIATION'S

KS1 SATURDAY MUSIC GROUP



RAINHAM MARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL



09:15 - 10:00AM

For children in Year 1 and 2

Our KS1 group is designed to introduce children to music through some exciting and engaging musical activities.

SIGN UP NOW

[WWW.MEDWAYMUSICASSOCIATION.CO.UK
/SATURDAY-MUSIC-CENTRE](http://WWW.MEDWAYMUSICASSOCIATION.CO.UK/SATURDAY-MUSIC-CENTRE)

ENQUIRIES
INFO@MEDWAYMUSICASSOCIATION.CO.UK



TERM TIME
ONLY

JOIN OUR SATURDAY MUSIC CENTRE

AGES 5 - 18

EVERYONE WELCOME

COMPLETE BEGINNERS TO
ADVANCED MUSICIANS

RAINHAM MARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL



DISCOVER MORE

www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk

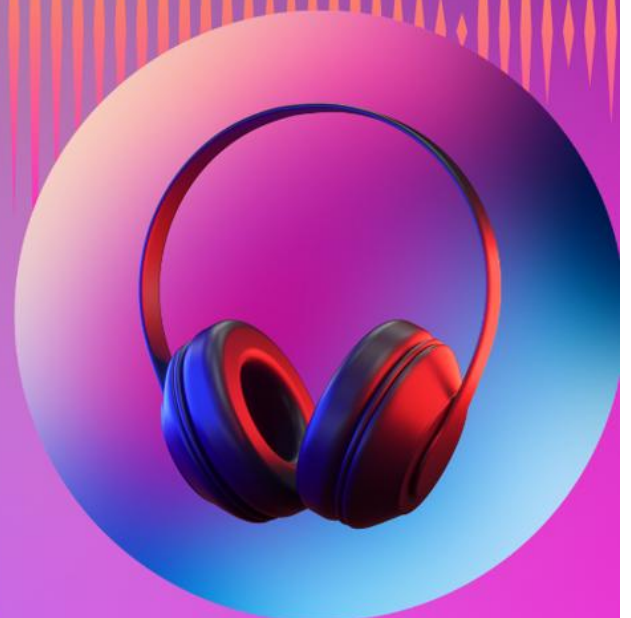
FREE

Online Music Technology Sessions

- Open to pupils in Year 5 - 13
- Tuesdays 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- Term time only

SIGN UP NOW

www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk



HOO SPORT ACADEMY PRESENTS FEBRUARY CAMP

AGES
5-11

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY -
FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

VARIOUS VENUES
ACROSS MEDWAY

9AM TO 3PM

£19.95 A DAY

FIVE DAY DISCOUNT
FOR £89.95

ACTIVITIES:

RANGE OF SPORTS	BOUNCY CASTLES
ARTS AND CRAFTS	GO-KARTS
DANCE AND DRAMA	ANIMAL WORKSHOP
NERF WARS	SWEET TREATS



scan to book

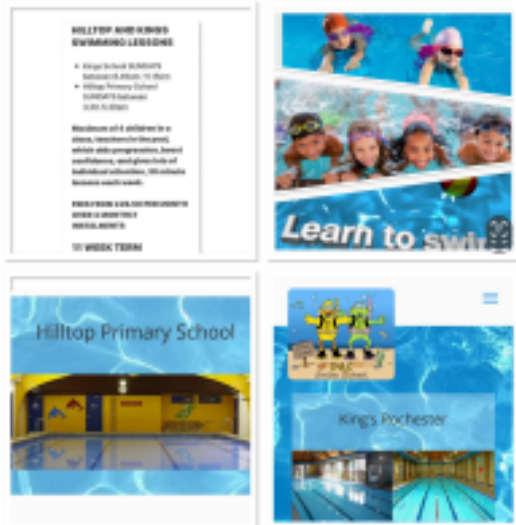


OR VISIT US AT:

EEQU.ORG/HOOSPORTACADEMY



KINGS SCHOOL & HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEKLY SWIMMING LESSONS



11 WEEK SWIMMING COURSE ** INTRODUCTORY OFFER ** WE ONLY CHARGE
FROM £26.50 A MONTH OVER 4 MONTHLY INSTALMENTS
WE HAVE SWIMMING LESSON 30 MINUTES EVERY WEEK

REALLY SMALL MAX OF 4 CHILDREN AND YOU REALLY WILL NOTICE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN
CONFIDENCE AND ABILITY, AS TEACHERS ARE IN THE POOL WITH THE CHILDREN, UP TO THE
LENGTH SWIMMERS, WHICH AIDS PROGRESSION, BOOSTS CONFIDENCE AND GIVES A LOT OF
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

WE TEACH AT KINGS SCHOOL ROCHESTER ME1

SUNDAY'S- BETWEEN 8.45-11.15AM

WE TEACH AT HILLTOP PRIMARY SCHOOL ME2 4QN

SUNDAY'S- BETWEEN 3.30-5.30PM

We also Teach & Help Children with Additional needs

Please email dandsswimschool@gmail.com
for more details

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

11th January 2026



Baptism of the Lord Yr A

Congratulations to our children doing the Reconciliation Communion programme who made their First Confessions this weekend. We thank their parents, teachers and catechists for their support and also the visiting priests who gave their time to help hear their confessions.

We also thank our 2 primary schools for their Epiphany Masses this week. The children were all very well prepared and read and sang beautifully. I would also like to thank all those who took part in our Epiphany Carol Service, those who served the drinks and prepared the food and for all of you who came to enjoy the service.

We therefore end the season of Christmas today with the Baptism of the Lord. In Christ, we realise "that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him". Henceforth, it is all people that the Lord will bless with peace as resounds in the antiphon to the Responsorial Psalm. May the baptism of the Lord teach us the way to holiness as we follow in the footsteps of him who went to the Jordan to show his obedience to God's will. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

There will be a short talk after the post Communion prayer about the Legion of Mary at all Masses this weekend.

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