



Last week ended with a splash as our Year 6 pupils competed at Medway Park for the Mini Youth Game Swimming Tournament. The children had a fantastic day, showing both superb teamwork and impeccable behaviour. The individual races were so exciting to watch and we were thrilled to achieve 7th place out of 35 teams in the freestyle relay! Well done to all who took part and a special thank you to Mrs Pastore, one of our governors, for supporting the team throughout the whole day.

This week, children in Years 5 and 6 represented our school at the Medway Primary Schools Cross Country Event, held at Cliffe Woods. Despite the rain and muddy conditions, the children gave their best effort and demonstrated amazing determination. We are so proud of your commitment and perseverance!

Year 5 have started their Topical Talk sessions, which are designed to develop critical thinking and communication skills by discussing current affairs. They connected with international peers sharing their perspectives on sports technology. We received a special shout out from The Economist Educational Foundation. Next week, the children will focus on The Winter Games exploring how engineering and digital innovation are reshaping the games we love.

Yesterday, St. Therese Class (Year 4) had the opportunity to visit a local Gurdwara. The children learnt about Sikh beliefs, history and values, and enjoyed a tour of the prayer hall and communal kitchen. It was a fantastic way to enrich their understanding of different faiths and cultures.

Tonight, St. Francis Class will have a once-in-a-lifetime experience performing at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices Choir 2026. We wish them a wonderful evening filled with music, song and dance! We look forward to sharing photos and highlights in next week's newsletter.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 25th January 2026
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Matthew 4: 12 - 23
'Follow me and I will make you
fishers of people.'

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

Tuesday 27th January

8.40 am Y4 & Y5 Learning Log Showcase

Wednesday 28th January

9.10 am Year 5 Assembly

6 pm SBA Meeting at school (All welcome)

Friday 6th February

Sponsored Walk Year R (No spectators)

Wednesday 11th February

Cross Country Swingate

Thursday 12th February

9.10 am Year 2 Assembly

2.40 pm Year R Pancake Race

(YR parents invited)

Friday 13th February

2.40pm Year R Chinese New Year Parade

(YR parents invited)

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

8.50 am Year 1 Phonic Check Talk

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

Message from SBA

Hi, we wanted to remind everyone of the SBA Meeting at the school next

Wednesday 28th January @ 6pm.

We have many events coming up, and things to plan and work on. Please feel free to come along and join in with ideas and plans 😊

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: Rory for super speedy subitising in maths this week! We are so proud of you!

Superstar: Reggie for writing beautiful sentences independently and focusing on your neat letter formation – well done Reggie!



Year 1

Learner: Oscar- Well done for your great ideas and use of adjectives when describing Traction Man.

SuperStar: Chloe F- Thank you for being a kind, caring and forgiving member of our class.



Year 2

Learner: I have been so impressed with Harry's writing this week. He produced a fantastic news report about the Lonely Beast. Well done, Harry!

Superstar: Roseanna has been a fantastic friend to everyone this week. She is always compassionate, forgiving and caring. Thank you, Roseanna.

Year 3

Learner: Callum for always giving 100% effort in all of his learning. I was particularly impressed with his Maths participation in lessons this week. Keep it up Callum.

Superstar: Cleo for showing our school value of forgiveness by being so kind hearted, caring and super! Thank you, Cleo.



Year 4

Learner: Amirah- you have shown great resilience and determination this week with column multiplication. You never gave up, kept practicing and are now an expert!

Superstar: Elena - just like Edward Tulane you are an 'exceptional specimen' – you show true kindness and have a forgiving nature to those around you. Thank you for being you!

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Cameron for impressing us all with his Geography skills! He was able to name, and spell, 169 countries by shape and only stopped when the time ran out!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Lily G for always thinking of others and helping out whenever she can. You are a real superstar for our class and our school!



Year 6

Learner: Heavenly is our Learner of the Week for her determination to improve her weekly reading comprehension score and for showing progress in her learning. Keep it up, Heavenly!

Superstar: Our Superstar this week is Jacob for showing resilience and a positive attitude towards overcoming personal challenges, being present in school, and working hard every day. Jacob has shown real strength of character and we are very proud of him.



Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Putting people most in need first

**Preferential Option
for the Poor**

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st

Y1 - 97.93%

2nd

YR - 97.55%

3rd

Y4 - 97.19%



Value of the week Next week

Resilience



*We learn from our
mistakes and keep trying
our best.*

Young Artists' Summer Show

[Submission Guidelines](#)

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

Caterlink Pupil Survey

Please help your child complete the
Caterlink survey using the link below.

We will provide feedback to schools
whose pupils complete the survey
once results have been analysed.

Survey closes on 27th March 2026

Primary Pupil Survey
Link –

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R3RTFTV>

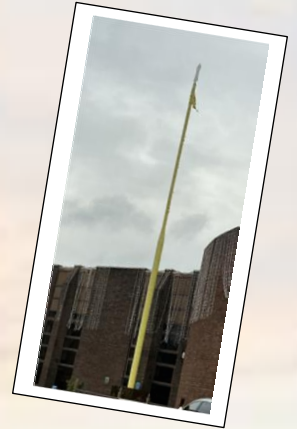


Competition Winners



Our school librarians, Leontine, Korede, Nife and Carson, held a competition to create a story book over Christmas. They judged the competition and picked their winners, Rocco, Stephanie and Eliana, who received a prize in assembly this morning.

Year 4 Trip to Gurdwara



On our trip to the Gurdwara, we went to meet a Sikh and he told us all about their turbans and the five k's. A kirpan, kachera, kara, kesh. A kirpan is a sword that shows they should fight for what is right. A kachera is short trousers worn as underwear. The kara is a small comb. It reminds Sikhs to be clean and they wear it under the turban. The kara is a narrow bracelet made of steel. The Kesh means hair; it also means to wear out your hair. During our time at the Gurdwara we went into the room of worship and had time to think about Sikh religion. To finish the morning of we all ate a biscuit and squash. The Sikh community was very welcoming.

Caris + Isa

'The coach driver told Mrs Read that the children were the most polite and friendly passengers he had ever had!'



Sporting Events



MYG Swimming Event Medway Park Leisure Centre Friday 16th January 2026



Boys Free Style (104)		Girls Free Style (105)	
20 th	Euan	58 th	Sienna
21 st	Ellyas	87 th	Alice
27 th	Jason	97 th	Moyin

Girls Breaststroke (102)		Boys Breaststroke (98)	
41 st	Sienna	35 th	Ellyas
52 nd	Nancy	47 th	Jason
95 th	Alice	55 th	William

Girls Butterfly (88)		Boys Butterfly (84)	
50 th	Nancy	11 th	Jason
52 nd	Sienna	29 th	Euan
66 th	Moyin	54 th	William

Girls Backstroke (101)		Boys Backstroke (98)	
40 th	Nancy	21 st	William
99 th	Alice	40 th	Ellyas
101 st	Moyin	44 th	Euan

Team Medley Race 20th out of 35

Freestyle relay 7th out of 35

Overall School position 20th out of 35



CROSS-COUNTRY

Wednesday 21st January 2026
Cliffe Woods Primary School

Year 5 Girls (38)

26 th	Jasmine	9 minutes 36 seconds
31 st	Tise	10 minutes 11 seconds
32 nd	Lily	10 minutes 23 seconds

Year 5 Boys (62)

8 th	Olly	6 minutes 36 seconds
31 st	Mason	7 minutes 48 seconds
33 rd	Segun	8 minutes 13 seconds
34 th	Frankie	8 minutes 17 seconds
53 rd	Yan	9 minutes 23 seconds
54 th	Dylan	9 minutes 38 seconds



Year 6 Girls (50)

24 th	Moyin	8 minutes 37 seconds
26 th	Nancy	8 minutes 39 seconds
31 st	Alice	9 minutes
45 th	Leontine	11 minutes 20 seconds

Year 6 Boys (49)

26 th	Ellyas	7 minutes 14 seconds
29 th	Euan	7 minutes 20 seconds
36 th	Luca W	7 minutes 56 seconds
45 th	Jason	10 minutes 9 seconds

Year R, St. Joseph's Road Survey



St Joseph's class enjoyed counting and identifying different vehicles that went past our school! We have been learning all about journeys and transport this 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



OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL APPROACH TO SAFE ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT



At Caterlink the safety of our pupils is our number one priority, and we take catering for customers with food allergies and intolerances very seriously. The below information details step by step our process, and the information required to enable us to produce a special diet menu for those with allergies & Intolerance.

STEP

1

You can request a special diet menu by completing and returning the our Allergy & Intolerance Form which can be found on our web site <https://caterlinktd.co.uk/school/caterlink-primary-division/>, along with supporting medical evidence from an NHS professional (a GP/consultant or registered dietitian). This can be a letter, copy of medical notes, an Allergy Action Plan signed by a medical professional or a screenshot from the NHS app. Medical evidence is an industry-wide requirement, recommended by the Lead Association for Catering in Education (LACA).

Until this information has been provided and a medical diet produced, any children with food allergies or intolerances will be provided with a jacket potato with baked beans, vegetables and fresh fruit salad, as long as the allergy does not include any of these foods.

STEP

2

The Caterlink team will then assess the risk for each request, using the LACA Special Diet Risk Analysis Process for Caterers where required. The risk analysis looks at the pupil's requirements, the capability of the kitchen facilities and the school environment to determine if the request is low, medium or high risk.

In the majority of cases the risk level is low or medium, and we are likely to be able to provide a special diet menu. If the risk level is high, we may be unable to provide a meal, and we will discuss this with you as soon as possible.

STEP

3

Our Caterlink nutrition team will then develop the special diet menu, with at least one suitable meal option daily. This can take up to four weeks from receiving the Allergy & Intolerance form and supporting medical evidence. The school will be advised once the menu is ready.

LACA
The Lead Association for Catering in Education

Risk Assessment Process Tool for the provision of Allergen-Managed Medical diets

Project:

The purpose of this risk analysis tool is to provide caterers with a structured way to assess a range of risk factors. It is not intended to replace the professional judgement of the caterer. It is a tool to be used in conjunction with the caterer's own risk assessment process. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for the caterer's own risk assessment process. It is a tool to be used in conjunction with the caterer's own risk assessment process. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for the caterer's own risk assessment process.

Completing the risk assessment process:

Complete the risk assessment process by completing the risk assessment process. The risk assessment process is a structured way to assess a range of risk factors. It is not intended to replace the professional judgement of the caterer. It is a tool to be used in conjunction with the caterer's own risk assessment process. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for the caterer's own risk assessment process.

Risk Factor	Low	Medium	High
1. Are the allergen requirements being met?			
2. Are the allergen requirements being met?			
3. Are the allergen requirements being met?			

Year 1 Forest School

ST BENEDICT'S WOOD



Year R Forest School



Year 2 Forest School





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fitness and friendship with DLJ Gymnastics!**



WWW.DLJGYM.COM

or search for DLJ Gymnastics on Facebook/Instagram/TikTok

**DLJ Gymnastics Club - dedicated facility at Victory Pier, Gillingham (ME7)
est. 15 years - British Gymnastics affiliated - 4.8/5 on Google Reviews**

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE START

All abilities welcome!

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



Parish Of St Simon Stock

18th January 2026



2nd Sunday of Yr A

Today's Mass we focus on our call, mission, and salvation. God said to Israel: "I will make you the light of the nations, so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." Like Israel and Jesus Christ, we also need to give our response to the call of God. The true light of the nations is Jesus Christ who leads us all to the Father and bestows on us a kingdom that is everlasting. We can share in this salvific grace if we heed the call of John the Baptist and follow the Lamb of God. Our response is given us in the antiphon to the Responsorial Psalm which says: "Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will". And finally, *if you would like your birthday/wedding anniversary etc to be acknowledged and celebrated at one of the weekend Masses please email the parish office and let us know by the Friday before the weekend.* *Fr Joseph Donkor*

St George's Cathedral Second Collection 25th January

St George's is the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark. For many living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's has been a beacon of light, proudly reflecting the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. It hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, concerts and charity events and has a rich musical tradition, and is the spiritual home and 'beehive' for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese.

It is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers as it does not receive Vatican or government funding. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. Thank you!

- Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral
- Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – please use the envelopes at the back of church.



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