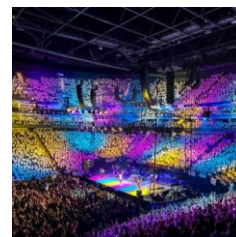




We were incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils who represented St Benedict's at Young Voices 2026 last Friday night, performing live at the O2 Arena. Young Voices is the largest school choir concert series in the world, uniting thousands of primary-aged children from across the UK to sing as one enormous choir. Leading up to the event, our pupils learnt a variety of songs covering a huge range of musical styles, from contemporary pop medleys and Wicked singalongs to songs from beloved musicals and uplifting anthems. They then performed alongside a live band and guest artists. It was a truly unforgettable experience and one that I am sure will stay with our children for years to come.



Year 5 led a beautiful assembly this week, reflecting on how Jesus inspires us all to be disciples, showing kindness and patience. The children shared stories of inspirational figures throughout history as well as those closer to home. With many Year 5 pupils fulfilling leadership roles in school, they are already wonderful role models for our younger children.

Thank you to everyone who attended our SBA meeting on Wednesday. There was lots of exciting planning for future fundraising events, including Crafternoon (after school on Friday 27th February) and Race Night – our hugely popular event from last year which is fast approaching! If you haven't booked your tickets yet, please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for details. A heartfelt thank you to all our parent volunteers – your support means so much.

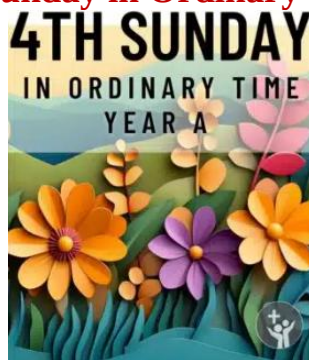
Yesterday, our Year 5 play leaders began their Sports Young Leader training and the School Council met to discuss Spring term projects.

Next week, we're excited to celebrate National Storytelling Week! We'll be immersing ourselves in telling, sharing and listening to stories, helping develop oracy skills and celebrating tales in all their forms. Mystery Readers will visit classrooms daily at 3pm for story time. The Travelling Book Fair will be open on Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the school hall. We can't wait to see our children enjoy the wisdom and wonder of stories!

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 1st February 2026 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Matthew 5: 1- 12

'Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons 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

Monday 2nd February – Friday 6th February

National Storytelling Week

Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th February

Travelling Book Fair (School Hall)

Thursday 5th February

Eco Steward Trip to Tovil Waste Site

Friday 6th February

Sponsored Walk Year R (No spectators)

Monday 9th February

School Football Team Away Match (Woodlands)

Wednesday 11th February

Cross Country Swingate School

Wednesday 11th February

2.30-6pm Year R, St. Joseph's Parents Evening

Thursday 12th February

9.10 am Year 2 Assembly

2.40 pm Year R Pancake Race

(YR parents invited)

Friday 13th February

9.10 am Gifts from God Assembly

(For invited parents only)

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

3.30pm-7pm Years 1-6 Parents Evening

Friday 27th February

3:20 – 4.20 pm SBA Crafternoon

(Bookable event)

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

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

9.10am Year 6 Assembly

Saturday 28th March

Easter Fayre

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



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: Skylar for showing great resilience when writing her name and new words – we are so proud of you!

Superstar: Zion for being consistently fabulous- always! Zion is such a helpful, thoughtful and conscientious member of the class and we are lucky to have you!



Year 1

Learner: Chloe A- Well done Chloe for showing great resilience with your work this week. Keep trying hard!

Superstar: Lucas- for showing super focus and trying really hard this week.

Year 3

Learner: Callum for being a super focused learner this week. He has participated well in lessons and shown resilience and confidence.

Superstar: Alissa for showing such bravery and resilience this week when she fell over and hurt herself quite badly. She was able to bounce back quicky and continue on with her learning.

Year 2

Learner: Muna has produced excellent Writing this week and has worked very hard to produce a set of instructions

Superstar: Grace has demonstrated amazing resilience and independence in all areas of her learning this week. Well done!

Year 4

Learner: Well done Anna for such wonderful multiplication and division work this week. You worked with determination and solved problems logically.

Superstar: Thank you Caris for your wonderful daily contributions to all class discussions. You are thoughtful and definitely an inspiration to year 4.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Henry for his excellent work in Maths where he multiplied a fraction by an integer and supported his peers with the method too!

Superstar: Our superstar is Lily H for her fantastic contributions to our Topical Talk session where she shared her opinions of technology in sport and responded to the views of others.

Year 6

Learner: Our learner of the week is Jason for showing great enthusiasm during our art lesson and producing a superb recreation of a section of Frida Kahlo's work. Jason captured her style and technique beautifully and should be very proud of his effort.

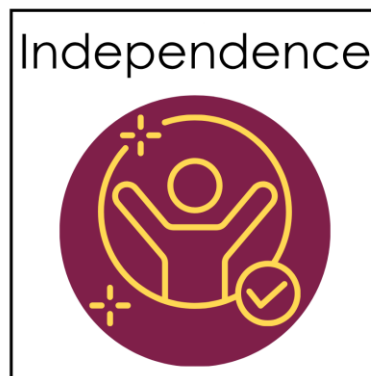
Superstar: Our superstar this week is Tiara for working incredibly hard during our Geography lesson. She showed super resilience to complete her work independently and with great detail. Well done, Tiara!

Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Everyone should have a say
Subsidiarity

Value of the week Next week



We are self-motivated.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st

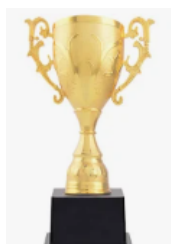
Year 3 - 99.33%

2nd

Year 4 - 99.06%

3rd

Year - 98.97%



Times Table Rock Stars

**Fastest
Highest
Most Improved
Star**

**Frankie Y5
Rocco Y5
Noelle Y4
Korede Y5**



Donate Your Unwanted Christmas Presents or Gift Bags

Do you have unwanted Christmas
presents?

If there are items that are going to sit in
drawers or cupboards, then why hang on
to them?

By supporting our fundraising, you can
pass on your unwanted items guilt free;
win-win!

Please donate and recycle:

- Sealed unwanted Christmas presents
- Gift bags



Crafternoon



Friday 27th February

3:20pm – 4.20pm

£5 includes a snack and take-home craft
creations.

Year 4 and 5 Learning Logs



Year 5 Class Assembly



Young Voices





Year 3 Soup Making



A Big **THANK YOU**



St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Thank you for your donations between July - December 25,
totaling 119.9 kg

Your donations make a **BIG** difference
to local people in crisis

Medway foodbank is part of the Trussell Trust's UK wide foodbank
Registered Charity Number: [1166505](#) | Registered in England and Wales



Empty Ink Cartridges

Please bring in any used ink cartridges from your home printer for recycling for a local charity, the Q-ship Society.

There is a collection box at the reception desk.

Thank you



Year 2 Forest School



Year R Forest School



Year 1 Forest School



A prayer by Sophia and Marley

 Birds

Dear God, I hope the birds have a good life. We will help them to eat the right food.

Amen



Year 1 created bird songs and Chinese New Year mud dough animals in forest school yesterday.

★ RACE NIGHT ★

ADULTS ONLY

IN AID OF
ST BENEDICTS ASSOCIATION



FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

Doors open 7pm - Bar closes 10pm

Races 7.30pm - 10.30

St Benedict's School Lambourn way ME5 8PU

Tickets on sale now VIA PTA events page or



via the qr code

£5 per person in advance only

We have our own licensed bar but please feel free to bring your own
snacks for your table!



Rainham Mark
Grammar School

ALL
ABILITIES
WELCOME

EASTER MUSIC COURSES APRIL 2026

2- Day Instrumental Course
Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th

KSI Music Course
Tuesday 7th

Beginner Music Course
Wednesday 8th

Online
Music Tech Courses
Thursday 9th

APPLY NOW

www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk

**SWINGATE
PRIMARY**
FEBRUARY 2026

8:30AM - 4PM
8AM EARLY
DROP OFF
fees apply

MULTI-ACTIVITY AND SPORTS CAMP

DAYS	THEMES
TUESDAY 17 TH	Laser Tag
WEDNESDAY 18 TH	New Glow In The Dark Dodgeball
THURSDAY 19 TH	Didi Car Racing

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

COSTUME SWAP SHOP FOR WORLD BOOK DAY



Running between **Monday
19 February-Tuesday 27
February, 2026** at
Lordswood Library,
Kestrel Road, ME5 8TH.

Pop in with your clean,
usable donations during
opening hours.

Swap your old costume for
a new(ish) one, helping
avoid unnecessary waste
and expense.

Please note, donating a costume doesn't mean you have to
take one, and it's fine to take a costume if you haven't
donated anything.

For more information:
phone: 01634 337 799
visit: www.medway.gov.uk/libraries
or speak to a member of staff at any Medway Library

Medway Libraries
@MedwayLibraries
@MedwayLibraries

MEDWAY
LIBRARIES

Medway
Serving You

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 I 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