



This week, we began by reflecting on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Jesus is recognised as 'The Light of the World'. It's a wonderful reminder that each of us is also called to be a 'light'—an inspiration to those around us in school, at home and in our community.

We've had an exciting time celebrating National Storytelling Week at St. Benedict's! Stories teach us about the world, allow us to step into someone else's shoes, help us to relax and escape and develop essential literacy skills. If you were one of our mystery readers, thank you so much. It was a delight to welcome you into our classrooms. As well as parent and relative visits, children enjoyed a teacher swap and heard stories from past staff members who shared their favourites. We hope these experiences have inspired a love of reading at home as well.

Yesterday, our Eco Stewards had an educational trip to the Tovil Waste Management Site in Maidstone. The children and their families found out about sustainability, recycling and our environmental responsibility. They discovered how the site operates, how different machines work and enjoyed a birds of prey demonstration. Despite the rain, everyone enjoyed a fun and informative afternoon and even received goodie bags to take home! Thank you to Mrs Hunt, our school governor, for attending and everyone who participated and supported this hands-on learning opportunity.

Our juniors have been working hard in the online times table competition, NSPCC Rocks, to mark Number Day. We're currently twelfth out of thirty-five schools in the Medway TTRS (Times Table Rock Star) Leaderboard—well done to everyone taking part! Let's keep practising and see if we can climb even higher.

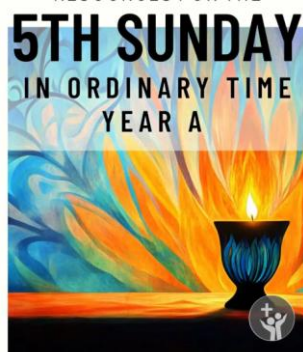
This week, St. Joseph's Class started their 'World Tour', exploring Kenya, Poland, Spain and Australia investigating different currencies, foods, flags, art and dancing. The week ended with a fantastic sponsored walk—thank you to everyone who supported and sponsored the children.

Next week, St. Joseph's will continue their travels! The whole school will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week, focusing on the theme 'This is my Place'. Activities will help children reflect on their strengths and the importance of belonging. For our sports enthusiasts, running club and the penultimate cross-country tournament will be taking place as well as our next school football match.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 8th February 2026 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Matthew 5: 13- 16
Let your light shine bright.

Prayer of the Month – February

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



Dates for your Diary

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: Amelia for writing super sentences and remembering finger spaces this week!

Superstar: Ara for fully immersing herself in our world tour, embracing new cultures and learning some Spanish words!



Year 1

Learner: Marley- well done for working much more independently. Keep it up!

Superstar: Tabitha- thank you for being such a cheerful and helpful member of St Michael's Class. You always make us smile.



Year 2

Learner: – Luke O
Luke has amazed me this week with his independent learning in maths. He is working so hard to develop his multiplication skills. Well done!

Superstar – Amelia
Amelia is such a pleasure to have in the class. She is consistently kind, caring and very helpful. Thank you!



Year 3

Learner: Sam for showing an increased amount of independence in his learning especially with writing. Keep it up Sam!

Superstar: Florence impressed me with her learning in science and maths this week. Florence participates really well in class discussions and is always a pleasure to teach!



Year 5

Learner: Tise is our learner of the week for her fantastic resilience and determination to solve problems- especially in Maths!

Superstar: This week our superstar is Jasmine for demonstrating our value of the week, independence. Every morning she has been inspired by a picture and written some fantastic short stories for National Storytelling Week!



Year 4

Learner: Thank you Jayson for supporting your peers with their computing session this week – you were so patient and helpful.

Superstar: Noelle has been an amazing story teller this week. She read beautifully to the class, performed her freeze frame with super expression and made a detailed story cube.

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Willow due to her brilliant attitude in Maths Booster sessions. Willow confidently shared her ideas and was happy to help others, showing fantastic teamwork and understanding. Thank you, Willow!

Superstar: This week, our Superstar is Isla for showing fantastic enthusiasm for reading and discovering a real love for Malorie Blackman's stories. Isla read with passion and a brilliant storytelling voice — perfectly apt for National Storytelling Week! Great job, Isla!



Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Showing we care
Solidarity

Value of the week Next week



*We are determined
to always try our best.*

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st

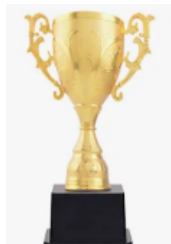
Y1- 99.66%

2nd

Y4 / Y6 - 98.13%

3rd

Y3 – 97.33



Times Table Rock Stars

**Fastest
Highest
Most Improved
Star**

**Frankie Y5
Mason Y5
Grace Y4
Bella 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.

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



100 % Attendance for Terms 1 & 2

Well done to the following
children.



Audrielle	Nellie
Janet	Rafferty
Bonnie	Karina
Amirah	Tamilore
Malakai	Reuben
Honor	Hudson
Caris	Jack
Evie	Ethan
Jayson	Ali
Zion	Marco
Anjola	Darcie
Elisha	Zakai
George	Isabella
Isa	Maison
Lilly	Emilia
Medeea	Stephanie
Bethany	Faith G
Jasmine	Joshua
Oliver G.	Elsie
Leontine	Audrielle
Lily G.	Janet
Frankie	Bonnie
Lily H.	Amirah
Carson	Malakai
Anabel	Honor
Femi	Caris
Oscar	Evie
Korede	Jayson
Yan	Zion
Isla	Anjola
Eva H.	Elisha
Somto	George
Alice	Isa
Sophia	Lilly
Luca	Medeea
William	Bethany
George	Jasmine
Euan	Oliver G.
Liam	Leontine
Zion	Lily G.
Divine	Frankie
Louise	Lily H.
Chester	Carson
Olivia	Anabel



Important Change to Next Week's Menu

Unfortunately, the menu options for the ParentMail form for Thursday of next week are incorrect.

On Thursday, there will be **no meatballs or chickpea curry** as the menu above will be served. Therefore, if you had ordered these options, **you will automatically be served the Pizza option.**

Please let the office know if you have already placed your order but your child does not want the pizza option in its place.

Year R Sponsored Walk



Thank you to Lordswood Under 5s for joining us for our sponsored walk.



Year R Round the World Trip



Children got their passports stamped for their trip around the world.



They boarded the plane.



Take off.



Handa's Surprise!



Poland

The children made Polish dumplings.



They were given Polish flags and learnt a Polish dance.



Spain



Spanish dancing.



Australia



On your birthday in Australia, you can eat bread and sprinkles. It is called fairy bread.



Eco Steward Trip to Tovil Waste Site



The Eco Team had a fantastic trip to Tovil Recycling Centre this week to see how waste is sorted and recycled. A big highlight was meeting four birds of prey, including Willow the hawk, who helps keep pigeons away from the site.

The children learned that garden waste becomes compost that is sold locally, wood is reused or chipped for animal bedding, and mixed glass is recycled into materials for road building.

They also enjoyed exploring the reuse shop, where good-quality items are given a new home instead of being thrown away.

The children were brilliant throughout and were even given a goodie bag and recycling books to bring back for the school library.

National Storytelling Week



Thank you to our mystery story tellers!



Click on the link below for the Year 1 Storybook presentation of *The Three Little Pigs*
[Year 1 Story Publisher](#)

Parent Storyteller's letter to the class

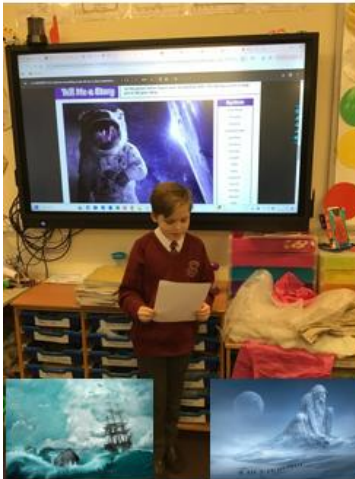
'You listened so carefully, that I almost felt like a famous story teller. You helped so much by being an amazing audience.'



National Story Telling Week



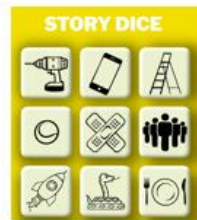
We had a live lesson from rapper Alim Kamara. Then we made our own raps about superpowers!



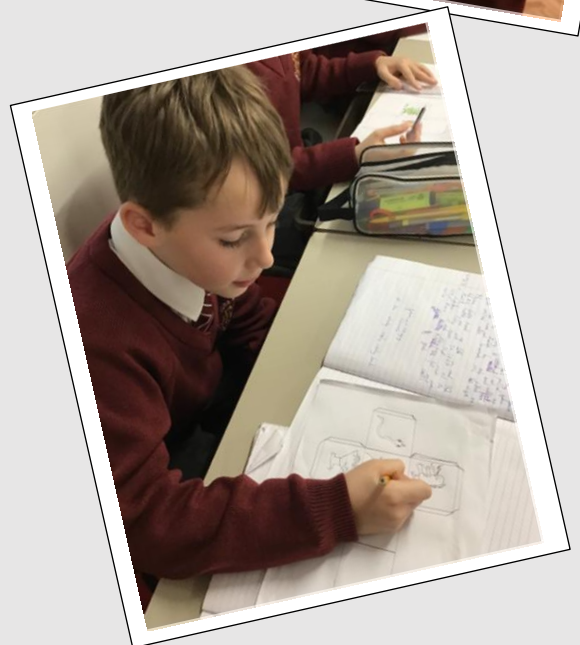
Each morning we were inspired by a different picture to write a story about. We then shared them with each other.



We played 'pass the story' where we made a story as a class but we could only contribute one word at a time!



We used story dice to tell our partner a story!



Book Fair



Well done Amelia!



Amelia in Year 2 took part in the Powerhouse Dance Festival in Essex over the weekend and was placed in all of her dances.

She received medals for coming first in modern and song and dance and second in character. Then she received a trophy for the highest mark for any solo performance across all genres of dance for her modern dance in the age 7-8 category.

Finally, she received a rosette for the Photographer's Choice Award (again for her modern dance routine) out of all performers in all categories and age groups across the weekend.

Fantastic!

Are you interested in becoming a Teacher?

Please see below for various routes in to teaching that are being supported by Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership (KCSP)

Degree offer – Online information evening – 02.03.26 (6:00 – 7:00pm)

KCSP is delighted to be partnering with the University of Buckingham to offer exciting and innovative work-based degrees especially designed for those who would like to take the first step on the pathway to a teaching career.

To find out more about these exciting opportunities, please join KCSP's online information session, taking place on the evening Monday, 2nd March at 6:00pm. For further details and a link to book – [please follow this link](#).

School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) – Online information evening – 10.03.26 (6:00 – 6:30pm)

Are you thinking of becoming a teacher and already hold a degree?

Join KCSP's online information evening where you will be able to find out more about our Teacher Training Programme, including fees, funding and how to apply. Register [here](#).

Early Years Initial Teacher Training Programme

Through KCSP's partnership with the Best Practice Network, we would like to share an opportunity to access a fully funded Graduate Entry route into Teacher training to become a qualified Early Years Teacher. The 12-month programme comprises of monthly training days, placements and building an e-Portfolio of evidence for assessment. Please follow [this link](#) for further information, including entry requirements.

Year 2 Forest School



Dear God,

We pray for all our plants that
give us oxygen. We hope that
everyone takes care of them and
waters them.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our
prayer.

By LaRosa and Zayne

Year R Forest School



Year 1 Forest School



★ 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!

Click below to [order your tickets](#)

TICKETS



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

Bikeability

Levels 1 & 2 Sessions!

For Year 6 Students Who Missed Out at School

Led by our experienced instructors



Choose your location and date...

Ashford Rugby Club
TN24 9QB

- Tuesday 17th February
- Wednesday 18th February
- Thursday 19th February

Cyclopark
Gravesend DA11 7NP

- Tuesday 17th February
- Wednesday 18th February
- Thursday 19th February

Just a **£5** booking fee required

Visit **Eventbrite** to sign up

Come and join this exciting opportunity –
see you there!



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

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