



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

It's been a fantastic week at St. Benedict's filled with exciting learning and a number of wonderful opportunities that have really brought our curriculum to life. The children have approached every experience with enthusiasm, curiosity and great teamwork.

This week, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week, exploring the theme 'This is my Place'. Children reflected on what belonging means, how we can help others feel accepted and understood, and the positive impact this has on mental health. Selected pupils represented our school at the Medway Children's Mental Health Event at Lordwood Leisure Centre, hosted by Henry Molyneux from Chatham FC. Activities included NERF and a Silent Disco! To help families use the Five Ways to Wellbeing to build belonging every day, [click here for simple, practical tips](#).

To further support our children's health, wellbeing and sense of community, we have signed up to become a parkrun primary. Look out for details later in this newsletter on how families can get involved.

On Tuesday, children across the school took part in Safer Internet Day activities. Each class engaged in age-appropriate lessons focusing on making smart, safe choices online, thinking critically about digital content, how to use AI safely and what to do if they don't feel safe online. We encourage you to continue these important conversations at home.

Our school football team had an exciting away match. Congratulations to Woodlands for their 4:2 win and well done to our goal scorers, Euan and Olly!

Cross-country runners enjoyed this week's event—running club is really helping everyone improve their pace!

Well done to St. Bernadette's Class for a beautiful assembly on St. Valentine, highlighting the many ways we can show love and kindness.

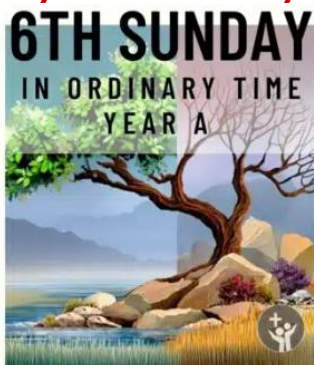
Congratulations to all the children who received certificates today for living out our school values. We are so proud of you.

It has been lovely to welcome St. Joseph's parents and carers for their Open Evening, Pancake Race and today's Lunar New Year parade.

Wishing all families, a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 15th February 2026



Matthew 5: 17 - 37

Jesus said, "Whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

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

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

TAG DAY KS1 Chocolates KS2 Bottles

3:20 – 4.20 pm SBA Crafternoon
(Bookable event)

Wednesday 4th March

Cross Country Event

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Children may dress up as a book character

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 16th March

Football Match Home V Byron Primary School

Saturday 28th March

Easter Fayre

Monday 30th March

9.10am Year 6 Stations of the Cross

**(Not on 13th March as on previous newsletter)*

Wednesday 1st April

Gifts from God Achievement Assembly

(for invited parents)

2pm Passion Play

6 pm Passion Play

Thursday 2nd April

2pm School Finishes

3rd April-17th April

Easter Break

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.

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.

TAG Day Friday 27th February

Children may wear their own clothes on Friday 27th February in return for items for the Easter Fayre.

Children in KS1 Infants -Chocolate items

Children in KS2 Juniors – Bottles of drink



'Gifts from God' Assembly

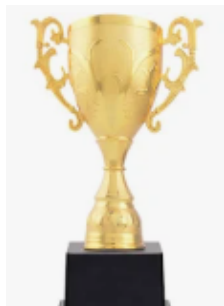


Attendance Winners Last Week

1st
97.81 % Year 6

2nd
97.5% Year 4

3rd
97% Year 3



Times Table Rock Stars

Fastest Frankie Year 5

Highest Audrielle Year 4

Most Improved Zion Year 4

Star Nife Year 5



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



School Council Competition

SCHOOL COUNCIL BUDDY BENCH competition



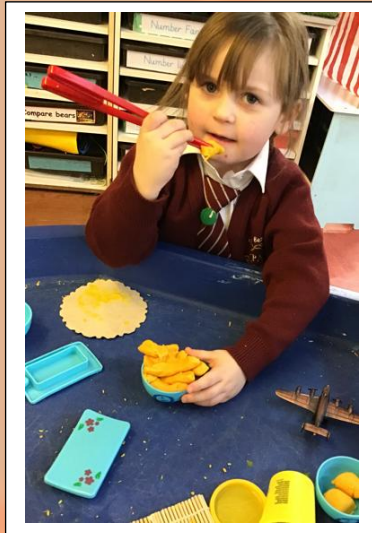
your slogan should
encourage friendship and
kindness closing date

* * Friday 27th February. * *

Year 2 Assembly



Luna New Year



Our Lunchtime Clubs

COLOURING CLUB



We had our first Geography club session yesterday and we were transported to the Caribbean! We learnt all the names of the islands, listened to tropical music and researched and coloured in different island flags.



The Recorder Club



Running Club



Cross-Country Results

CROSS-COUNTRY

Wednesday 12th February 2026

Swingate Primary School

Year 5 Girls (41)

31 st Jasmine	7 minutes 23 seconds
35 th Tise	7 minutes 46 seconds
37 th Leontine	7 minutes 56 seconds
38 th Lily	8 minutes 30 seconds
39 th Bella	8 minutes 33 seconds

Year 5 Boys (62)

4 th Olly	4 minutes 59 seconds
26 th Mason	5 minutes 46 seconds
30 th Segun	6 minutes 0 seconds
37 th Frankie	6 minutes 25 seconds
52 nd Dylan	7 minutes 34 seconds
54 th Yan	7 minutes 38 seconds
57 th Adam	8 minutes 03 seconds



Year 6 Girls (49)

13 th Nancy	6 minutes 17 seconds
23 rd Alice	6 minutes 44 seconds
29 th Moyin	7 minutes 09 seconds

Year 6 Boys (49)

29 th Euan	5 minutes 40 seconds
32 nd Ellyas	5 minutes 49 seconds
37 th Luca	5 minutes 59 seconds
52 nd Jason	8 minutes 18 seconds

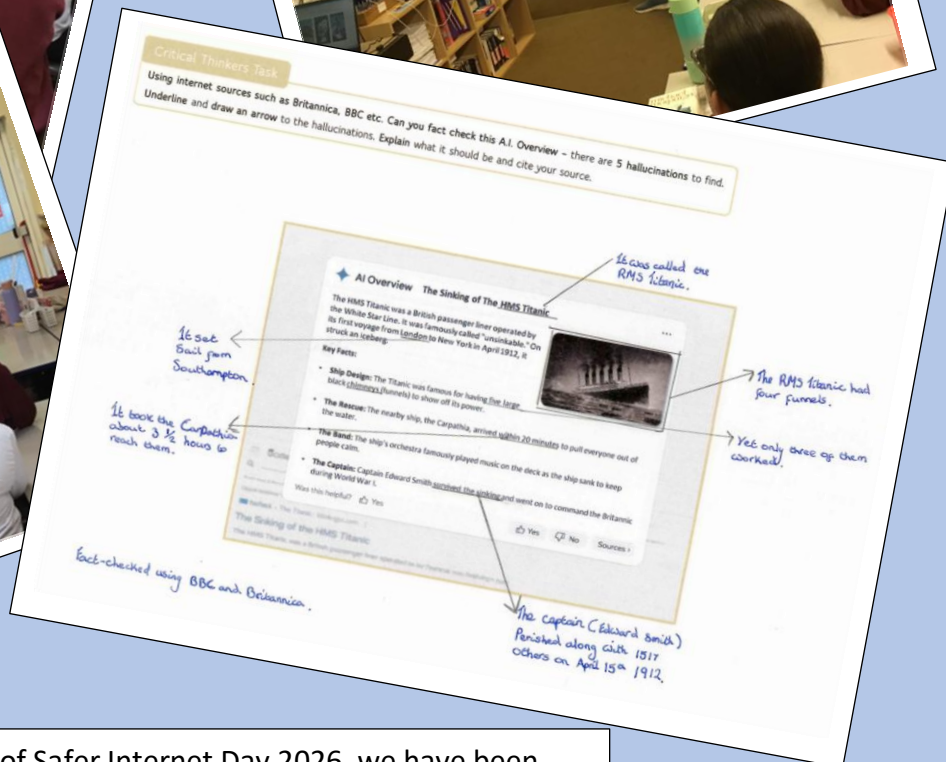
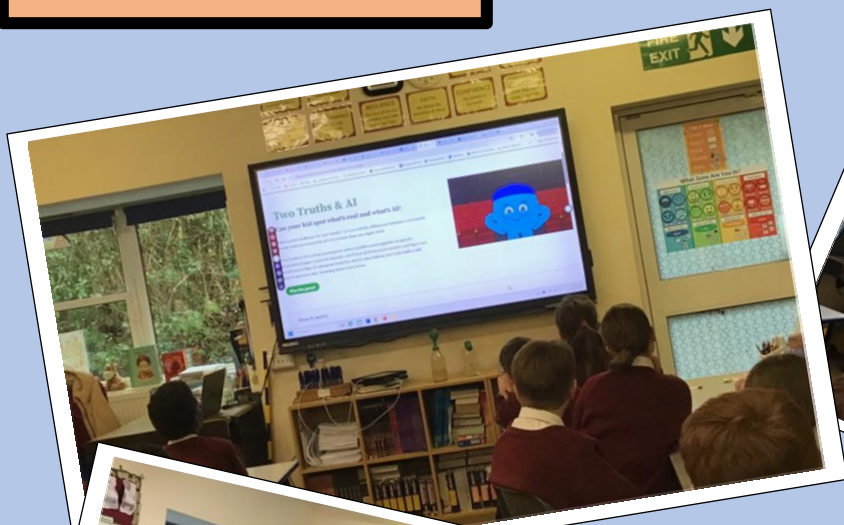
Football Match - Academy of Woodlands V St. Benedict's



CLICK HERE
Tips for parents and carers.

Y6 Safer Internet Day

**Safer
Internet
Day 2026**



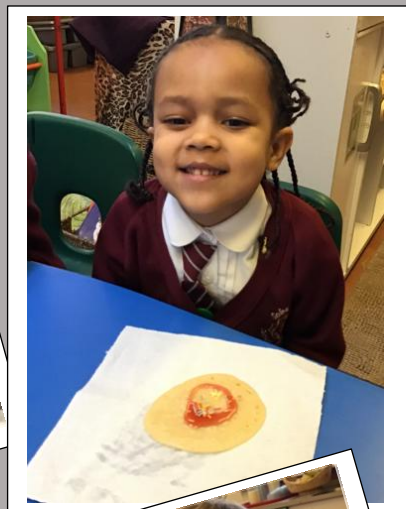
**Safer
Internet
Day 2026** Tuesday
10 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

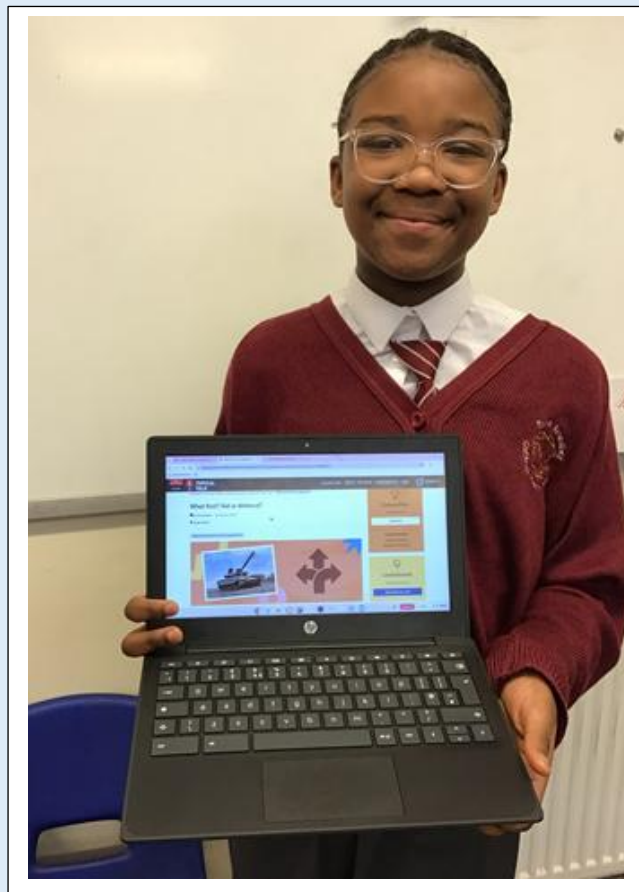
saferinternetday.org.uk

As part of Safer Internet Day 2026, we have been discussing the safe and responsible uses of AI. We learnt that AI hallucinations mean that AI makes up facts, dates or events because it 'thinks' it fits a pattern. This can affect the accuracy of information we read online (Nancy and Nii Okai, Year 6).

St. Joseph's Class Pancake Race



Topical Talk



Anabel received a shoutout for her Topical Talk comment this week!
'I've also been really interested in the perspectives from St Benedict's this week regarding aid and defence. I think they've really understood Topical Talk!'

The Economist

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



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



Year 1 Forest School



For Children's Mental Health Week, Year R made 'wellness wands' to help spread strategies to support our minds. Year 1 made elder wood and Hama bead bracelets to remind them of special places where we experience different emotions.



Year R Forest School

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us Forest
School. We exercise there to keep
our bodies strong and our minds
healthy.

Year R



★ 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



WWW.DADSPACE.CO.UK

MEDWAY DADS & KIDS CLUB TOUR

NEW FOR 2026,
DADSPACE WILL BE
TOURING ALL 4 MEDWAY
FAMILY HUB LOCATIONS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING
DADSPACE MEMBERS AND THEIR
CHILDREN FOR FUN, GAMES,
LAUGHTER AND CONNECTION.
GIVE MUM SOME MUCH NEEDED R&R
FOR 2 HOURS & WHY NOT INVITE A
MATE, HE CAN BRING HIS KIDS TOO!
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.



SUITABLE FROM BIRTH TO END OF KEY STAGE 2 (11 YO)

- * ONE LUCKY FAMILY AT EACH EVENT WILL *WIN* A MYSTERY GIFT VOUCHER.
- * *1 MYSTERY PRIZE AVAILABLE AT EACH OF THE 4 EVENTS.
- * AUTOMATIC ENTRY UPON REGISTRATION, BUT GUESTS MUST ATTEND SESSIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN AND COLLECT PRIZE ON THE DAY. SAME FAMILY CANNOT WIN MULTIPLE PRIZES.

WAYFIELD CHILDREN
& FAMILY HUB
146 WAYFIELD ROAD,
CHATHAM MEDWAY
ME5 0HH

SAT 14TH MARCH
10AM-12PM

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ATTEND; MADE POSSIBLE BY MEDWAY COUNCIL
AND DONATIONS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



BROTHERLY SUPPORT
BETWEEN FATHERS



COSTUME SWAP SHOP FOR WORLD BOOK DAY



Running between Monday
19 February-Tuesday 27
February, 2026 at
Lordwood 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



AVAILABLE HELP FOR WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE

Up to 85% of costs can be claimed through
Universal Credit

WHY THIS MATTERS

Wraparound Childcare - such as breakfast clubs and after-school care helps parents manage work and family life.

If you receive Universal Credit, you may be eligible for significant financial support.

THE BENEFITS ARE

- Claim up to 85% of childcare costs when using Ofsted registered providers
- Payments are made directly to you after costs are incurred

HOW TO APPLY

1. Log in to your Universal Credit account
2. Submit evidence of childcare costs (invoices or receipts)
3. Receive reimbursement after payment

MedwayGo offers Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) for school aged children during the main school holidays. Activities are free for those eligible for benefit related free school meals, as well as children with SEND and children in care for more information use the following link: <https://go.medway.gov.uk/>

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE CAN ALSO BE USED FOR WRAPAROUND CHILDCARE

- Get £2 from the government for every £8 you pay into your childcare account
- Up to £2,000 per child (or £4,000 if your child is disabled)

NEED HELP?

Visit:

www.gov.uk/universal-credit

www.gov.uk/tax-freechildcare

<https://beststartinlife.org.uk>

Don't miss out - access available &
affordable childcare today

junior parkrun -
where everyone is



welcome

junior parkrun is a free, fun,
friendly, weekly, community
event organised by volunteers
of all ages for children
aged 4 to 14.

2k junior parkrun events
take place on Sunday mornings
and are for the whole community
to come together to walk, jog,
run and volunteer. Join in on
the fun at junior parkrun!



junior parkrun

SBA News

Want to be in with a chance to win £100 cash for free???

Download the easyfundraising app and sign up to our cause.

If just 50 new supporters join our cause this February our charity will receive £250!

To claim your free raffle ticket, download the app and come to the SBA table at parents evening to pick up your ticket.

We currently have 17 active members who have raised £99.54 this quarter at no cost to them.

Together we can make a difference. Invite your friends and families to join our cause too.

Get the app now and choose to support St Benedict's Association, Chatham once installed:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeId=&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=pta-bonus-feb26-fb1

Crafternoon

Our first child event for 2026 is happening on Friday 27th February.

Years 1 to 6 only

(Year R will take part in a craft during their school day - so do not need to book).

Limited spaces available, book your tickets on our events page ASAP to avoid disappointment.

The password to book tickets is
Craft2026



Parish News



Children's Easter Craft

Mornings
Saturday 14th & 21st March
10am - Noon
£2.50 per child

Refreshments included

Contact parish office on 862910 to register

Tea/coffee for parents

Parish Newsletter



8th February 2026

5th Sunday of Yr A

To his disciples, Jesus says: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world". As salt sharpens the flavour of food and light lets us see what is in a room, so sharpened in taste by the salt of the Gospel, and enlightened by the Spirit, we can respond better to God. As disciples and ministers of his blessing we are called to be light and salt, enabling others to see and experience how much love God has invested in them.

Also, Wed 18th Feb is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. During Lent we will be holding Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7.15pm and encourage parishioners to lead these sessions. Fridays available are 20th & 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th March and Good Friday 3rd April. Please contact the parish office if you would like to lead on one of these dates. Fr Joseph will also hold the Stations of the Cross on Mondays after 10am Mass. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

We are seeking to recruit a part-time Parish Cleaner to assist with the cleaning of the Presbytery. The role is offered on a 12-month fixed-term contract for 4 hours per week, the day to be agreed with the Priest. Key responsibilities include cleaning of the Presbytery and providing cleaning support to the Parish Priest and the applicant must have previous professional cleaning experience and current permission to work in the UK and must also provide a current reference.

Hours: 4 hours per week (on one day)

Pays: £13 - £14 per hour, depending on experience.

Interested? Job description can be obtained from Parish Office. CV and covering letter to be handed into Parish Office.

Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderlade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Martin Smith: martin.smith@rcaos.org.uk

Please note: Parish Office is located in the new church extension
Tel: 01634 862910. Mob: 07305 831925, Website: www.stsimonwalderlade.co.uk

Email: walderlade@rcaos.org.uk

Primary schools

St Benedict's

St Thomas More

Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder

Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700

Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701