



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Last week ended on a creative high with our hugely successful Crafternoon, organised and run by our wonderful SBA volunteers. The children loved the variety of crafts on offer and we are so grateful to the dedicated team of parents who made the event possible.

We began this week with a lovely Reconciliation Service led by Fr. Joseph and our Year 6 pupils. This special time allowed our juniors to reflect during this Lenten season—a period of prayer, fasting and giving alms. Each class has now chosen a Lenten project inspired by one of the Catholic Social Teaching principles, focusing on how we can stand in solidarity with our local and global family.



We were delighted to welcome representatives from CAFOD, one of the charities we support. They shared inspiring stories about their work and explained why this Lent's fundraising is focused on 'floating gardens'. Some classes participated in hands-on workshops to explore this theme even further.

Yesterday, our school was filled with excitement as children dressed up as their favourite book characters. The costumes were fantastic and there was lots of chatter in the playground about everyone's favourite stories. Thank you to all parents for your wonderful effort and for joining us at the parade—it truly made the day special!

Today, Years 3 and 4 visited Lordswood Library to enjoy the dance performance 'Story Detectives'. Pupils journeyed through the library, solving puzzles and discovering new books. We look forward to reading the hero and villain stories they'll write, inspired by this adventure!

Next week, we're excited for our musical performances at Chatham Central Theatre and celebrating British Science Week with hands-on activities and workshops.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Family Lenten Prayer

Open our hearts to your word, O Lord, that we may be renewed
Open our hands to receive and to give, that we may be replenished
Open our minds to the silence of Your presence, that we may be refreshed – Amen



Sunday 8th March 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent



John 4: 5-42

"God's love is a spring of living water which flows constantly into the hearts of those who pray." St Louis de Montfort

Prayer of the Month – March

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



Dates for your Diary

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

Thursday 26th March

Family Lenten Meditation

Saturday 28th March

Easter Fayre

Monday 30th March

9.10am Year 6 Stations of the Cross
Family Lenten Meditation

Tuesday 31st March

*Family Lenten Meditation

Wednesday 1st April

Gifts from God Achievement Assembly
(for invited parents)
2pm Passion Play
6 pm Passion Play

Thursday 2nd April

9.10am -10.10am Pre-schooler Craft and Play
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.

Family Lenten Meditation



Thursday 26th March

Monday 30th March

*Tuesday 31st March (Not 1st April as in Lenten Newsletter)

Please book via the ParentMail form.

Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

 **Learner:** Macey – for super sounding out of words independently and spelling them in her writing.

Superstar: Kairo for being such a brilliant role model to the other children. He always follows our school values and we are very proud of him.

Year 1

Learner: Tami- for getting stuck into his work and completing a great independent piece of writing showing the robot's thoughts. Well done, Tami.

Superstar: Hezekiah- Thank you for being an honest and truthful member of the class. You are a great role model for everyone.

Year 2

 **Learner:** Harry has blown me away with his fantastic writing this week. He worked so hard to use similes in his setting description and a range of interesting vocabulary. Well done, Harry!

 **Superstar:** Florence has been a model student this week demonstrating truth, compassion and integrity. Good girl, Flo!

Year 3

Learner: Stephanie, for some really good maths explanations to the class this week. Her confidence and level of detail when solving maths problems has really impressed me.

Superstar: Reggie for showing our school value of Truth by being a very honest and truthful member of our class.

Year 4

 **Learner:** Zion has impressed us this week with his independence in maths learning – he worked accurately and quickly with his tasks on fractions.

 **Superstar:** Gracie you are such a superstar, you respect your peers and treat everyone with kindness and patience. Thank you.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Regan for writing a great standpoint for our Topical Talk Festival. He included both sides of the arguments when discussing technology in sports.

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Oliver for showing our CST value, preferential Option for the poor as he collected money to donate to those in need in other countries.

Year 6

 **Learner:** Our learner of the week is Scarlett who has worked extremely hard to complete her maths work independently, showing determination and improved focus throughout. It has been wonderful to see her confidence grow as she achieved successful outcomes. Well done, Scarlett—keep up the fantastic effort!

 **Superstar:** William is our Superstar of the Week, for the maturity and diplomacy he has demonstrated among his peers. He has shown excellent judgement and has made positive decisions. Well done, William—we are very proud of you!



Catholic Social Teaching Principle



Thinking of everyone
The Common Good

Value of the week Next week



We are kind and listen to others.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 6 - 99.61 %

2nd Year 3 - 98.75 %

3rd Year 2 - 98.50 %



Times Table Rock Stars

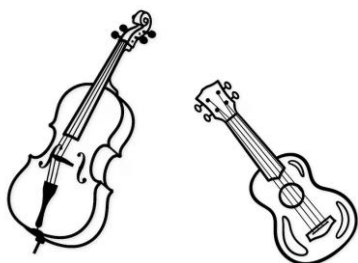
Fastest	Rocco Year 5
Highest	Rocco Year 5
Most Improved	Jessie Year 4
Star	Korede Year 5



No Cello or Ukulele Lessons Next Week

Due to the music festivals next week, there will be no ukulele or cello lessons.

Lessons will continue the following week.



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.



Crafternoon





Book Week

Lordswood Library Visit



Book Week



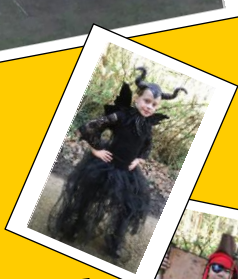
WORLD
BOOK
DAY



Book Week



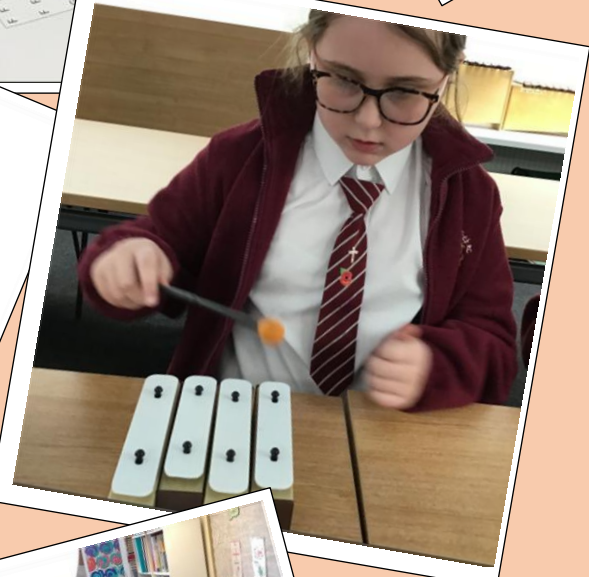
WORLD
BOOK
DAY



Lunchtime Clubs



Running
Club



In Geography Club this week, we learnt about the continent of Africa. We explored beautiful African patterns and made our own! Stephanie even brought in a stunning traditional outfit from Ghana.





Please sponsor St. Francis Class' Big Lent Walk!

This Lent, we're walking 200km over 40 days in solidarity with those who walk miles each day just to access safe water.

Your sponsorship will help bring clean, safe water to communities around the world. This Lenten challenge is really important to us and your support would mean so much.

Will you support our walk?

Thank you!

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-class-big-lent-walk>



Showing we care
Solidarity

Kids Online Safety

New kids online safety website launched as part of government campaign

A new government website was launched on 16 February 2026 to support families and encourage regular conversations about what they're seeing online, asking simple questions, like "who shared this" and "why?". Based on parents' main concerns and needs, it provides:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

This also contains signposting to trusted resources from charities and third parties, where parents can access other forms of support (like speaking to an expert). The website will continue to grow and be developed this year

[Kids online safety](#) with parents.



Did you know?

You might not think your child has seen any worrying online content, but remember, you won't know until you ask.

Wraparound Care

Are you looking for before and after school childcare that works for you?

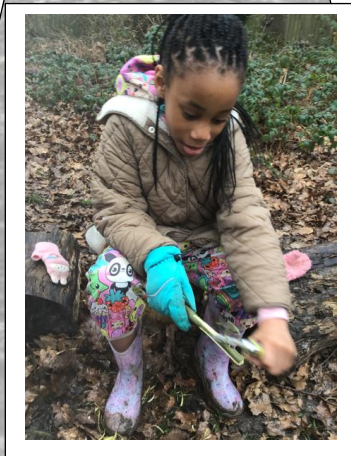
Monday – Friday
Opens at 7:30am
Closes at 5:30pm

To book, please contact the school office (01634 669700 or office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk)



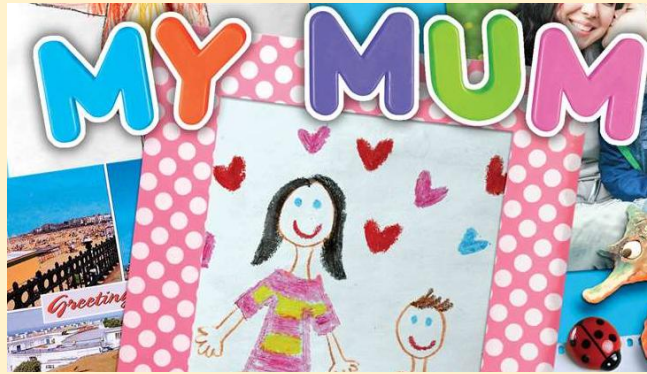
Year 1 and 2 Forest School

Year 1 and 2 have been whittling sticks to make book characters.



Year R Forest School





This is a reminder that the pictures of mum drawn by pupils from Years R, 1 and 2 are in a special supplement to be carried in your local KM Media Group newspaper **next week on March 12th**.



St Benedict's Association
Our Schools Family

Many thanks to those who have named a horse for our race night. There are a few horses remaining without a name. Please speak to your class rep to find out how to be in with a chance to win a prize.

ON SALE NOW:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/st-benedicts-association/index.cfm>

Mothers Day Shop - Sales close - 11th March at 9pm

Race Night Tickets - Sales close - 12th March at Midday

Easter Fayre - sign up to volunteer on a school stall

Wonder Bars for Easter - pre sale close - 25th March at 5pm



Rainham Mark
Grammar School

EASTER MUSIC COURSES APRIL 2026

ALL
ABILITIES
WELCOME

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

Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock



28th February 2026

2nd Sunday of Lent A

Hello and welcome. It's great to see you! Today's Gospel has the focus on Transfiguration. The symbolism in this gospel is about confirmation, evangelization, and new life. About Jesus, who fulfils the Law and the Prophet. These also point us to John Chapter 4, which speaks about the Samaritan women. We will hear more. But this is not all. I am fascinated by Peter's spontaneity, human reaction, and values. 'Lord, it is wonderful for us to be here, if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. Such cultural hospitality is welcomed in all cultures. Nevertheless, we can interpret it in two ways. Firstly, it gives us the message that we all get special moments that we want to hang on to. We can't always be on the high. There is growth in the valleys also. Secondly, sometimes we build magnificent and great churches. That is great! But it is not the only means to transmit our faith. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead'. This is evangelization. Not until after his resurrection from the dead will the disciples see this fully again, and only then will the full implications begin to unfold in their understanding and mission. We came after the warning. So, we are supposed to talk about the vision. As we progress through Lent we too are given better understanding of God's love and are empowered to share that vision and love with others.

A speaker from CAFOD will be giving an appeal at all Masses this weekend in aid of the Lent Fast Day. Please use the envelopes at the back of the church to make your donation. Fr Joseph Donkor

Part-Time Parish Cleaner for the Presbytery. 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) This will be a 12 mth fixed term contract. **Pay:** £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. **All applications must be in by 8th March.**

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