



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

What an exciting week it has been filled with many proud moments of our amazing St. Benedict's children!

It is great to see so many families joining Morning Prayer at 8:35am as we reflect on the Stations of the Cross during this Lenten season.

St. Joseph's Class led us in prayer to celebrate the special women in their lives. They shared their reasons for loving them, sang a special song, performed a dance and presented a flower. Thank you to their Year 4 buddies for supporting them so well.

Chef Jamie from Caterlink delivered an engaging lesson on knife and fork skills for St. Joseph's and St. Michael's Classes. The children practised the 'stab, slide, saw' technique on watermelon and enjoyed tasting the fruit afterwards.

Years 1, 4, 5 and our Recorder Club performed at the Chatham Central Theatre as part of the Medway Music Association Annual Festival. Our children impressed everyone with their music, behaviour and smart appearance. A huge thank you to our staff for their effort in preparing the children to be stage-ready and volunteering their time at the evening performances. Thank you, parents, for supporting our children to take part in these wonderful experiences.

We celebrated British Science Week by joining the Trust's Virtual Primary Science Day, with experiments across all key stages – from floating objects and the rainbow fish challenge, to testing the strength of backbones and exploring air resistance.

Thank you to our parent volunteers on the SBA for buying, wrapping and running today's Mother's Day shop whilst also co-ordinating tonight's event and arrangements for our up-coming Easter Fayre. Your time and commitment are greatly appreciated. We are always looking for more volunteers to share the load so please get in touch if you would like to become involved.

Next week, Year 6 will be undertaking their Big Lenten Walk Challenge walking from our school to our parish church St. Simon Stock to fight global poverty. If you would like to sponsor us, please follow this link:

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

Please continue to keep Mrs Pierce in your prayers as she continues her recovery.

I look forward to seeing those of you attending tonight's Race Night. The doors open at 7pm.

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 15th March 2026

4th Sunday of Lent



John 9: 1- 41

"I was blind and now I see."

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 16th March

2:30pm Football Match Home V Byron Primary School

Tuesday 17th March

Mini Youth Games Netball

Wednesday 18th March

1pm Year 6 Big Lent Walk

Thursday 20th March

2:30pm Rocksteady Concert

Monday 23rd March

2pm Football Match Home V Napier Primary School

Wednesday 25th March

Cross Country Event

Thursday 26th March

Family Lenten Meditation

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

Thursday 23rd April

Unwanted clothes collection
9.10am 'Sleep' Coffee/tea morning with
Educational Psychologist Team

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

Please book via the ParentMail form.

Superstars and Learners of the Week



Year 1

Learner: Mia for being really focused and writing some super sentences which included adjectives and conjunctions.

Superstar: Karina- Thank you for being a caring and compassionate member of St Michael's class.



Year 2

Learner: La Rosa has been working incredibly hard in Mastering Number and has been so quick and accurate when answering the questions. Well done, La Rosa.



Superstar: William has made a fantastic start in his new class. He has made lots of friends and has enjoyed his learning. Well done, William.



Year 4

Learner: Caris worked so hard this week to write her biography on our book character and to ensure she included all the features needed. I was incredibly proud of her published piece.



Superstar: Lilly you are such a fantastic member of our team. You are thoughtful, kind and show consideration to all. Thank you!



Year 6

Learner: Our Learner this week is Jason for demonstrating superb teamwork and resilience during our trust's Science Day. Throughout the air resistance experiment, your ability to conduct the experiment confidently and apply scientific knowledge with enthusiasm and determination was lovely to see. Super job!



Superstar: Our Superstar of the Week is Nii Okai for demonstrating this week's value of compassion. He has kindly supported a peer during learning time by clearly explaining how to approach new concepts and helping them understand how to reach the correct answers in Maths. Thank you, Nii Okai!



Year 3

Learner: Arlo has been working really hard in English and Maths this week. He puts his hand up to answer lots of questions and is able to explain in detail how he solved reasoning problems.

Superstar: Teni is one of the kindest, most compassionate children in our class. Her thoughtfulness and care for others shines through everyday.



Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Bella for her fantastic work and independence in Maths. You confidently rounded to the nearest whole number and the nearest tenth. Super work, Bella!

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Frankie for always showing compassion towards others. Frankie is always offering to support others with their work- keep being fantastic!



Catholic Social Teaching Principle Next Week



Showing we care
Solidarity

Value of the week Next week

Forgiveness



We forgive others when
they have made a mistake.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 4 99.69%

2nd Year 2 98.05%

3rd Year 6 97.81%



Times Table Rock Stars

**Fastest
Highest
Most Improved
Star**

**Rocco Y5
Rocco Y5
Jessie Y4
Isabella Y5**



Missio Boxes

Please collect up any loose change for the Missio boxes. The filled boxes can be returned to school after the Easter break.



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 Ties

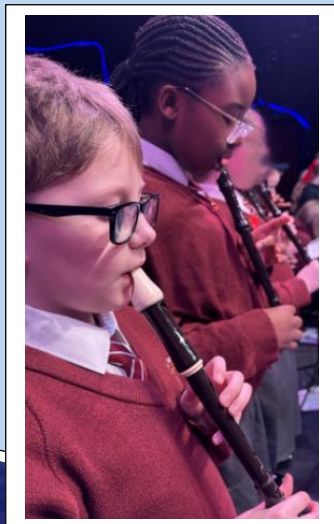
Please remember to send your child into school with their school tie.

An increasing number of children are coming into school without this compulsory part of the uniform. The school tie can be purchased from Uniformbase.



Medway Music Festival

Recorders



Ukuleles





Year 1 Music Festival



Year 5 Music Festival



Year R Assembly



Caterlink Knife and Fork Skills Workshop for Year R and Year 1



Lenten Pre-Schooler Craft and Play: Thursday 2nd April at 9:10 am - 10am

Pre - school children are invited to come into school at 9:10 am to 10 am on Thursday 2nd April with their parent or carers. Enjoy a morning of Lenten arts, crafts and story time organised by our Pupil Chaplains. Refreshments will be available.

Please call or e-mail the school 01634 669700 if you would like to attend this session.



SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes -
more funds for
your organisation
1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS
ARRANGED ON:

23 APRIL
THURSDAY

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND
BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

✓ WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

✗ WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING
AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk • 0330 043 0550 • thelittlerecyclers.co.uk

Lunchtime Clubs



Running
Club



Balloon Skewers



COLOURING
CLUB



Geography Club –
In Geography club we learnt
about the Brazilian Carnival!
We then decorated our own
carnival masks whilst listening
to Samba music!



Coding Club



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



To think about why sleep is an issue for your child(ren) right now



To understand the function of sleep better, and how much sleep we need at different stages of life



To understand the factors that can affect how easily we fall asleep and stay asleep



To think about what might 'get in the way' of our sleep plans



To think about looking after our own sleep needs

Join us at 9am
(after drop-off)
on Thursday
23rd April, for a
cuppa and a
short input from
the Educational
Psychology Team
about Sleep!

SLEEP

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 2 Forest School



Year R Forest School

ST BENEDICT'S WOOD



Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock



8th March 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent A

This weekend of Lent of 'Year A', we are thinking about the scrutinies. The Scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent and are intended 'to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect' and 'then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good' (RCIA 141). The Gospel of the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well (John 4:5-42), fits in well with the first scrutiny. Here Jesus speaks of giving living water, which in the Old Testament is a symbol of Godly teaching and salvation. Within this, we are grateful to welcome our RCIA candidate Liz Coombes who will be doing her first scrutiny at 9am Mass and receiving the Creed. Please remember her in your prayers and she continues with her RCIA programme.

Fr Joseph Donkor

FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING after all Masses on 21st/22nd March.

This year's Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is 21 to 28 August 2026 - to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocesan-pilgrimages/diocesan-ca/>. We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026>. For more info, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

MEDWAY FOODBANK LENTEN COLLECTION WEEKEND MARCH 14th/15th

Our parish will be collecting items for the Medway Foodbank as part of our Lenten Almsgiving next weekend March 14th/15th. Our 2026 Shopping Lists are in newsletters this weekend and can also be found in our Parish Website along with the Give in Lent Calendar.

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