



Last Friday, our SBA Race Night proved to be a brilliant evening of racing, fun and fundraising. Together, we raised an incredible **£1,294!** Thank you so much to everyone who came along, supported, sponsored races or horses and helped make it a successful event.

We are thrilled to announce that St Benedict's has achieved the Developer Level of the Oscar Romero Award. This is a prestigious, national award recognising our commitment to social justice. Only 40 schools across the UK have reached this level, so it's a real honour. The award recognises how we embed the Catholic Social Teaching principles into the very fabric of our school community and ethos – from our strategic planning and curriculum, to our daily activities.



A comment from our validator's report:

'Everyone I spoke to, parents, governors, staff as well as pupils showed a great deal of pride in being members of the community and grateful to be in a school where equality and fairness of opportunity are integral to what the school stands for.'

On Wednesday, Year 6 completed their Big Lenten Walk Challenge, walking from school to our parish church, St Simon Stock. Thank you to Fr. Joseph for joining us and leading a special time of Eucharistic Adoration. We reflected on the words: 'learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart' (Matthew 11:29). So far, we have raised £505 to fight global poverty. If you'd like to sponsor us, it's not too late – visit our fundraising page: <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-class-big-lenten-walk>

Sport wise... Year 5 represented St. Benedict's at the Mini Youth Games Netball event at Medway Park – well done to all involved! Our school football team won our home match against Byron Primary School with a fantastic 6:2 score. Sixteen enthusiastic Year 5 pupils have now completed their Playground Leaders Training. We look forward to the positive impact and fun activities they'll bring to our lunchtimes.

We ended the week with a fabulous Rocksteady concert, celebrating our children's musical talents. Well done to all our performers!

Have a blessed weekend,
Mrs. McAlpine

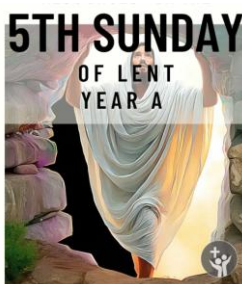
Family Lenten Prayer

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 21st March 2026

5th Sunday of Lent



John 11: 1- 45

"Compassion for the suffering is the beginning of holiness."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

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 23rd March

2pm Football Match Home V Napier Primary School

Wednesday 25th March

Cross Country Event

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

Family Lenten Meditation



Thursday 26th March
Monday 30th March
Tuesday 31st March

Please book via the ParentMail form.



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: Divine for brilliant explanations during Drawing Club. Your imagination is amazing!

Superstar: Molly for being able to explain the importance of saying sorry and forgiving others when they have made a mistake. Well done!

Year 1

Learner: Well done Momore for starting to use signing to communicate. We're very proud of you.

Superstar: Tonia, you understood the importance of forgiveness in the parable of 'The Lost Son' in our R.E. lessons. This is also something you show in your everyday life, through your compassionate relationship with others.

Year 2



Learner: Amelia has worked so hard this week as always and has produced a fantastic setting description using some amazing vocabulary. Well done, Amelia.



Superstar: Adira has been a star pupil again this week in R.E. showing how important it is to say sorry and to show forgiveness. Well done, Adira!



Year 4

Learner: Anjola, I have been so impressed with your problem-solving skills involving fractions this week. Well done – you showed great perseverance.



Superstar: Thank you Elisha for listening so carefully and always being prepared and ready to learn. I can rely on you in our year 4 team.



Year 6



Learner: This certificate is awarded to George, our Learner of the Week, for making fantastic progress in Maths. His hard work and resilience and sheer determination are clearly paying off, as reflected in his excellent test results this week. Well done, George—keep up the great work!

Superstar: Our Superstar of the Week is Alice, who is also being recognised for her positive attitude towards her Maths learning. As a result of her hard work, she has achieved fantastic results and made excellent progress. Alice, we are very proud of you—well done!



Year 3

Learner: Emilia. S for being a super science learner this week investigating the magnetic properties of a variety of materials.

Superstar: Alissa for having a big forgiving heart as well as giving some great responses in our R.E. lessons about the importance of saying sorry as well as being forgiving.



Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Lilah for her fantastic contributions to Maths lessons this week! You have been amazing at converting fractions, decimals and percentages!

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Aiva-Rose for her detailed and thoughtful poem where she included figurative language effectively.



Catholic Social Teaching Principle Next Week



Everyone is special
Human Dignity

Value of the week Next week



We follow the teachings of Jesus.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 1 99.29%

2nd Year 3 98.71%

3rd Year 4 97.5 %



Times Table Rock Stars

Fastest Rocco Y5
Highest Rocco Y5
Most Improved Star Medeea Y5
Nife 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.



It's not too late to donate!

Year 6 Big Lent Walk



Mini Youth Games Netball



NETBALL

Football

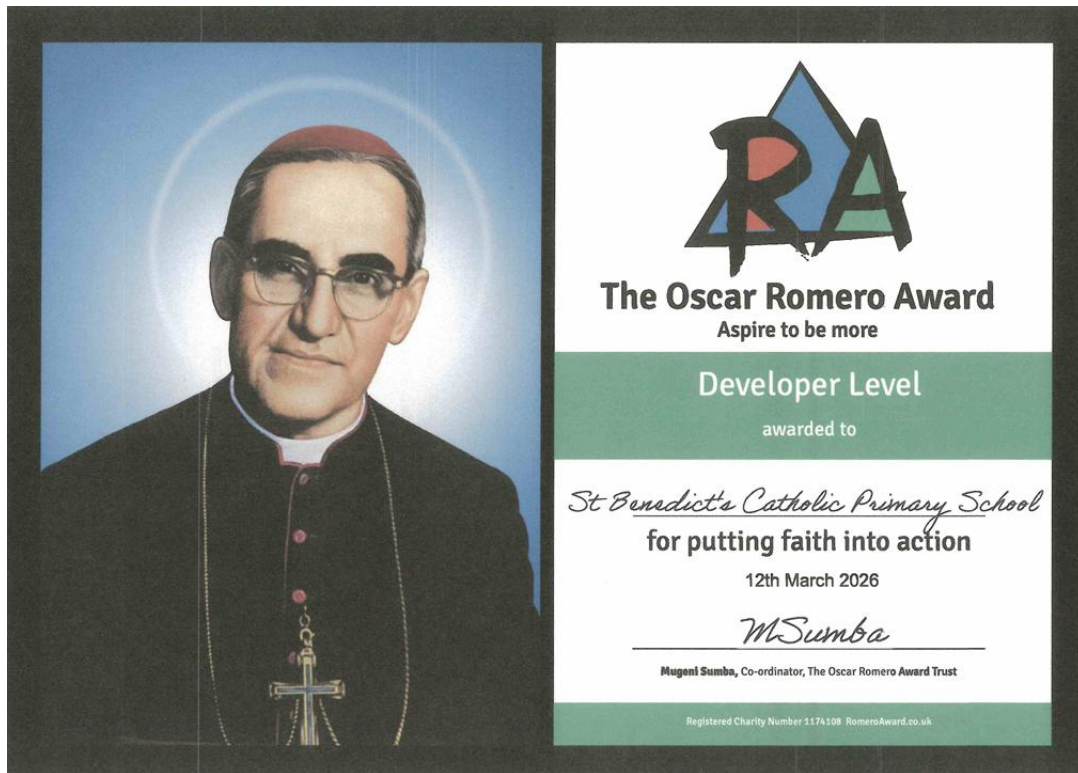
St. Benedict's V Byron



ROCK
STEADY



Oscar Romero Award



We are proud to have received The Oscar Romero Award.

RA | Young Artists' Summer Show

Well done to Olive, Tobi, Olivia, Ralph and Isabelle, the five entrants to the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Show for their fantastic submissions. We have such talented children at our school!

The submission deadline has now passed.



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

Make Fun Foam Mosaic Portraits

with artist Wendy Daws



Sat 21 March

Session 1 - 10am - 12.30pm

Session 2 - 1pm - 3.30pm

Gillingham Library

Free!

All ages welcome

No booking required

Create your own colourful foam mosaic portrait
and be inspired by the Circle of Six fabulous
portraits celebrating Great Gillingham women.

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

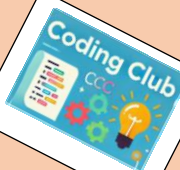
MEDWAY
LIBRARIES

Medway
Serving You

Lunchtime Clubs



Raisin lava lamps





Supporting Parents and Carers of Children Experiencing School Attendance Difficulties



What is Family Horizons?

A **free** online course for parents and carers whose children are finding school attendance challenging. Whether your child is starting to show signs of anxiety about school, or hasn't been able to attend for some time, this course offers understanding, practical support, and hope.



What does it offer families?

- Understanding of your child's experience with school
- Practical strategies and tools to support wellbeing
- Ways to work effectively with schools
- Stories from families who understand
- Resources you can use with your child



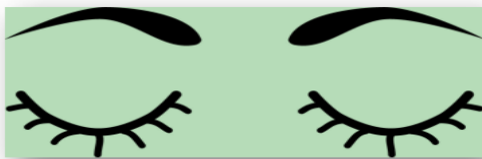
How does it work?

- Access 5 chapters with video content online anytime
- Watch short, focused videos
- Download practical resources
- Revisit materials when needed

Every child's journey is unique. Whether you're just noticing difficulties or have been supporting your child for some time, Family Horizons provides gentle, practical support for your family's specific situation.

**Supporting families,
understanding attendance**

**Join for FREE by emailing
your child's teacher for
the registration link**



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 R Forest School



Year 2 Forest School





HOO SPORT ACADEMY



AGES
5-11

PRESENTS

EASTER CAMP

MONDAY 13TH APRIL -
THURSDAY 16TH APRIL

VARIOUS VENUES
ACROSS MEDWAY



9AM TO 3PM

£19.95 A DAY
FOUR DAY DISCOUNT
FOR £64.95

ACTIVITIES:

RANGE OF SPORTS	BOUNCY CASTLES
ARTS AND CRAFTS	GO-KARTS
DANCE AND DRAMA	ANIMAL WORKSHOP
NERF WARS	SWEET TREATS



scan to book

OR VISIT US AT:

EEQU.ORG/HOOSPORTACADEMY



Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock

15th March 2026



4th Sunday of Lent A

Happy Mothers Day! I welcome all of you to this Mass today and congratulate all mothers of our parish and any mothers visiting. The Ladies of the UCM will be distributing Daffodils at all masses this weekend.

We hear another long gospel in which we thank God for the healing of the man born blind. This gospel is always chosen to enlighten the elect who have their 2nd scrutiny today. We are grateful to welcome our RCIA candidate Liz Coombes at 9am Mass. Jesus brought healing to many people. St John consistently portrays Jesus as someone totally devoted to serve God's purpose. That often brought our Lord into conflict with what others expected of him. Our mission is given towards the end of the story: 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' The man wanted to know who the Son of Man is so he could believe. He was looking at Jesus before him but he lacked the enlightenment to recognise him for who he was – the Son of Man. This enlightenment came when Jesus told him: "you are looking at him; he is speaking to you." Jesus' comment on what had happened made the Pharisees say that they were not blind but indeed their behaviour in the story shows that although they have eyes to see, they were unable to see the deeds of Christ and identify him as the Son of God. In effect, they were blind and needed enlightenment but they would not admit their predicament because they were self-confident or full of themselves. Jesus is willing to offer us salvation, all we have to do is to show our faith in him. **Fr Joseph Donkor**

KSC Easter painting competitions for all 7-18 yr olds. There are 3 age categories: 7-11yrs, 11-14yrs and 14-18yrs with cash prizes for 1st 3 places in each category, and a donation of £200 to the parish/school producing the overall winner. Artworks are to be submitted to the Parish office. Closing Date 18th April 2026.

MEDWAY FOODBANK LENTEN COLLECTION

Please leave your donated items in the red boxes in the church lobby.

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