



This week, our family Lenten meditation sessions began. Together, we reflected on God's unconditional love for each of us and our call to embrace and treat others as we would want to be treated. By loving our neighbour, we reflect the image of God to the world. Thank you to everyone who joined. There are more sessions next week.

A huge well done to our Cross-Country team, who represented St. Benedict's at Medway Park in their final race of the year. We are very proud of their dedication!

On Thursday, our whole school celebrated World Maths Day with the theme 'United by Numbers'. Children worked together to help millionaire Benny Factor decide how to share his fortune and support his community. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to work collaboratively and apply their Maths skills in creative ways.

Mrs. Stuart and I have met with all teachers over the last couple of weeks to discuss every child's progress. These valuable discussions help us understand how children are developing across the curriculum and identify where further support or challenge may be needed.

Please continue to support your child's learning by encouraging them to read at home and recording this in their reading diary. Research highlights that reading exposure at home positively impacts critical areas of brain development, supporting your child's progress in many aspects of learning. As a minimum, we ask that you listen to your child read at least three times a week, but please hear them more if you can. It's also important to read aloud to your child to model expression and to enable them to access wider vocabulary.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Easter Fayre tomorrow, starting at 11am. It promises to be a fun-filled event for the whole family!

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

The Season of Lent



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 29th March 2026

Palm Sunday



Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

"Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

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

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

Wednesday 22nd April

Year 2 and Year 3 Road Safety

Thursday 23rd April

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

Friday 24th April

Tag Day £1 donation
School Disco Years 1-6

Thursday 30th April

1st Swimming session for Year 5

Tuesday 5th May

1.30pm Crowning of Our Lady Mass

Tuesday 12th May

Year 5 Fort Amhurst Trip

Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May

KS2 SATS WEEK (school office closed mornings)

Wednesday 20th May

Year R Vision Screening

Thursday 21st May

Mini Youth Games -Tag Rugby Event

Friday 22nd May

Last day of Term

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 21st July

Future Inset Days

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Passion Play Tickets

Year 3 and Year 4

Tickets have been sent home. Two tickets have been allocated per family for 6pm on Wednesday 1st April.

Tickets will be required for entrance.

No children under secondary school age may attend the 6pm performance.

Year 6 Stations of the Cross

Year 6 will lead the whole school and their family through the Stations of the Cross.

9:10am Monday 30th March

Please book a seat via ParentMail



Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R



Learner: We are so proud of Luna's writing this week. She wrote her own sentence independently, using her sounds to help her write confidently. Well done!

Superstar: Gabby is so kind and caring towards everyone in the class. She always thinks of others and is a wonderful role model to all.

Year 1

Learner: Sophia- well done for joining in so enthusiastically in our Math's Investigation this week.

Superstar: Natasha- thank you for showing your faith by being thoughtful in R.E. lessons.

Year 2



Learner: Luke C has worked so hard this week to improve his handwriting and he produced a wonderful informal letter. Well done, Luke.



Superstar: Adira really shone in our R.E. lesson when learning about the 'Examination of Conscience' asking herself – 'Am I being a Peacemaker?' – Well done, Adira!



Year 4

Learner: I am so proud of you Nancy, you have had a tricky week but have shown resilience and a positive attitude to all your learning.



Superstar: Francis, you are such a compassionate and understanding young man. Your peers are lucky to have you as a friend, negotiator and peacemaker. Thank you.



Year 6



Learner: This certificate is awarded to Tiara in recognition of her growing confidence and determination in mathematical reasoning. During World Maths Day, she demonstrated excellent resilience when problem-solving and calculating answers. Well done, Tiara – keep up the fantastic effort!

Superstar: This certificate is awarded to Moyin for the maturity, patience and quiet strength she consistently demonstrates in the classroom. Moyin shows remarkable tolerance, responding with calmness even in challenging situations. She draws on the gospel values to guide her actions, always choosing to act with grace and integrity. A wonderful example – well done!



Year 3

Learner: Maryam, for her active participation in Maths lessons and detailed explanations when solving reasoning problems.

Superstar: Noku, for being the calm, kind, compassionate young lady that she is! Noku is everyone's friend and really embodies our school values.



Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Cameron for showing our CST value of participation. He has been a valuable member of class discussions- well done!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Medeea for always showing our school value of compassion. Medeea you are kind, caring and always looking out for other people!

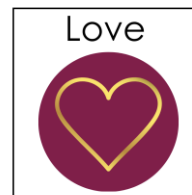


Catholic Social Teaching Principle Next Week



Being peacemakers
Promoting peace

Value of the week Next week



We love one another
and look after our school.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 3 - 97.7%

2nd Year 4/ Year 6 - 97.5%

3rd Year 5 - 96.6%



Missio Boxes

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



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

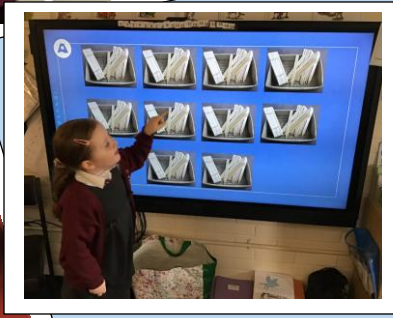
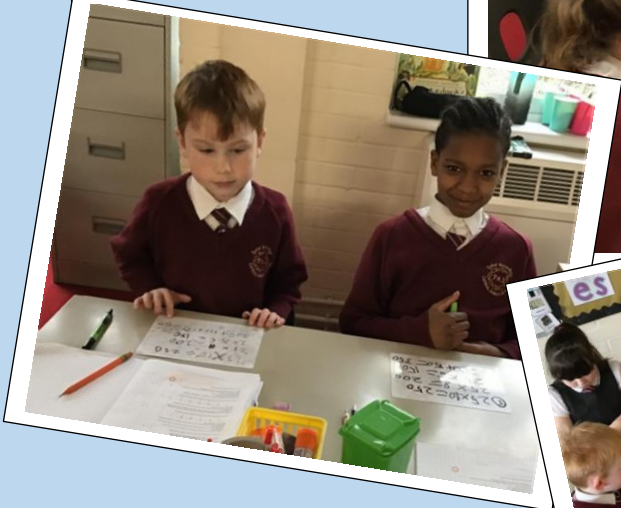
Lisa Brett



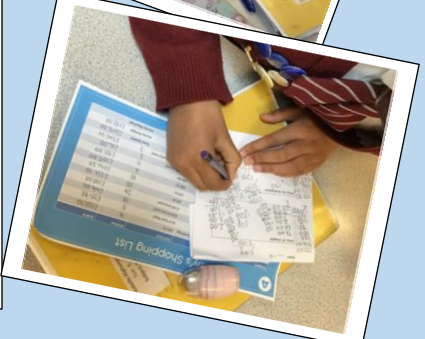
**Worried about something you
have seen or heard?
Not sure what to do?**

Please come and talk to us.

World Maths Day



Maths Ambassadors



Year 4 Roman Feast



Cross Country Team



Overall Ranking

Y5 Girls 7th Place

Y5 Boys 6th Place

Y6 Girls 6th Place

Y6 Boys 8th Place

<https://justiming.co.uk/liveresults/schoolxc/g-live.html?f=medwayxc250326.clax>

Empty Ink Cartridges

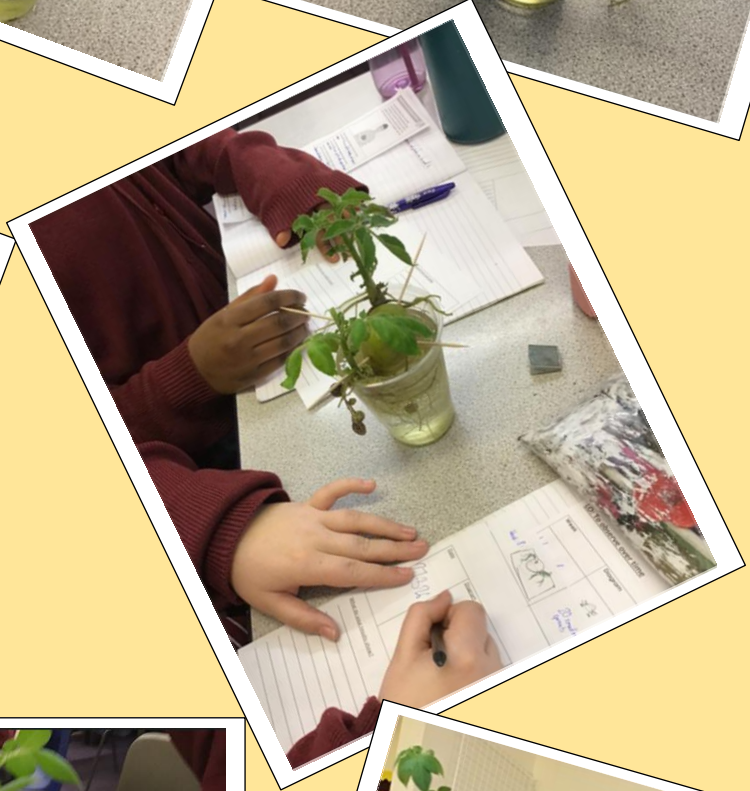
Please bring in any used ink cartridges from your home printer for recycling for a local charity, the Q- ship Society.

There is a collection box at the reception desk.

Thank you.



Year 5 Science - Potato Growing



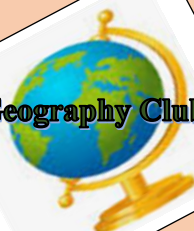
Lunchtime Clubs



Mindfulness colouring

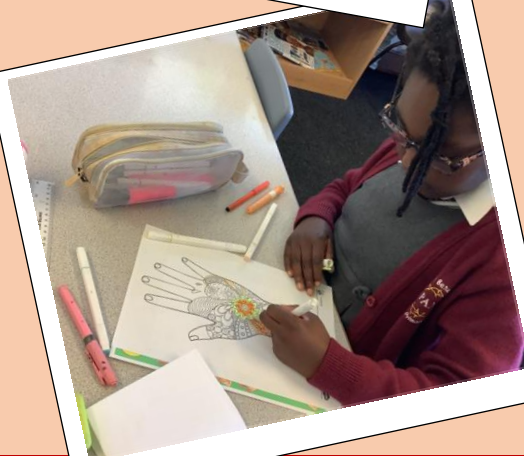


Geography Club



In Geography club, we learnt all about mehndi patterns commonly used in India. We also learned about Eid celebrations as Muslims celebrated Eid last week.

We enjoyed listening to Indian music, especially the table drums and sitar guitars.





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

MedwayGo

FREE ACTIVITIES DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

[Click here for information](#)

2026 Shopping list #1

If you are able to help, we urgently need more of the following:

FOOD & DRINK:

- Instant mash
- Tinned ham or corned beef
- Tinned hot meat
- Milk – long-life
- Tinned or packet custard
- Squash
- Tinned tomatoes
- Coffee (small jars)
- Tinned fruit
- Jelly
- Long life sponge puddings
- Hot chocolate

TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD:

- Washing-up liquid
- Toilet roll
- Nappies size 4/5/6

THANK YOU for joining us to help
stop UK hunger!

medway.foodbank.org.uk; 01634
757057

Registered Charity No: 1166505

Medway Foodbank

Please bring in any
donated food items
into school.

Thank you for your
support.

MEDWAY FOODBANK

**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Year 1 Forest School

Year R and Year 1 acted out the Last Supper using the toast cooked on the campfire. Year 2 have been busy making a St. Francis scarecrow.

Dear St. Francis,

We love animals just like you do. Help us to care for them like you did. We pray for the fish and other sea creatures. Please stop people throwing rubbish in our oceans. We thank you for the plants and animals in our Forest School. We hope people look after all nature, not just the animals that we can see at home, on the farms and in the zoos. Lord in Your Mercy, hear our prayer. **Year 2 Prayer**



Year R Forest School





JOIN US FOR OUR

Easter Fayre



FREE ADMISSION



SAT 28TH MARCH 2026

11 AM - 2PM

ST BENEDICTS SCHOOL
LORDSWOOD, ME58PU



See you there!



Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock

22nd March 2026



5th Sunday of Lent A

This weekend we hear another long gospel in which we thank God for the raising of Lazarus to life by Jesus. This gospel is always chosen to enlighten the elect who have their 3rd scrutiny today. We are grateful to welcome our RCIA candidate Liz Coombes at 9am Mass, when she will receive the Lord's Prayer.

Fr Joseph Donkor

BIG KENT WALK

Please sponsor St Francis Class who are walking 200km over 40 days in solidarity with those who walk miles each day just to access safe water. On Wednesday the children walked with their teachers and Fr Joseph to St Simon Stock Church from St Benedict's school with the Crucifix. Your sponsorship will help bring clean safe water to communities around the world. This Lenten challenge is very important to the children and your support would mean so much. To sponsor go to <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-class-big-lent-walk>

FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING

After 6pm Mass on 21st March

. Everyone is required to stay after the final blessing.

KSC Easter painting competitions for all 7-18 yr olds. The Theme is a scene of any incident during period from the Last Supper to Pentecost. Please call the Parish Office for a more in-depth description. 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.

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