



This week, our school community came together to celebrate the birthday of Jesus' mother, Mary. We reflected on the incredible gift God gave Mary and, through her, the world, by sending His Son, Jesus. We prayed together, giving thanks for our blessings and recognising all that God has done for us. Thank you to everyone who donated garden flowers to honour Our Lady – your generosity helped make our celebration even more meaningful.

Our 'Meet the Teacher Curriculum Afternoon' sessions also began this week. We hope you found these sessions helpful and informative. Teacher PowerPoints will be uploaded onto your child's class page on our school website so you can revisit the information at any time. Please follow this link: <https://www.st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk/children/class-pages>

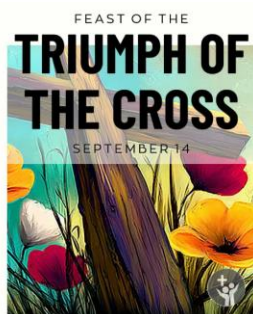
We look forward to welcoming Year 6 and Year 3 parents to next week's sessions.

This weekend, we join churches across the country in celebrating 'Education Sunday'. This year's theme, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up' invites us to reflect on the journey of learning and discovery, both in school and in faith.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025



John 3: 13 - 17

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

## Prayer of the Month – September



### For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.



## Upcoming Dates

### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

3.30 pm Meet the Teacher Year 6

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Medway Test OFFICE CLOSED A.M.

### Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Medway Test OFFICE CLOSED A.M.

3.30pm Meet the Teacher Year 3

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Individual School Photographs

2pm Beginning of Year Mass

### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

3.30pm Meet the Teacher Year R

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September

Aylesford Priory Year 4 (Beginning of Year Mass)

Macmillan Cake Sale

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October

Kent Life Class Trip Year 3

6.30 pm SBA AGM

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October

2pm Harvest Mass

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October

INSET DAY (No children to attend school)

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 25<sup>th</sup>

Half-Term

Please see a list of term dates for Academic Year 2025-2026 at the end of this newsletter.

Please do not book holidays in term time.

## Office Closed Next Tuesday and Wednesday Morning

Please do not bring in any forgotten items next Tuesday and Wednesday morning after 9.10am. **The office will be closed** due to the Medway 11+ Test. You will not be permitted to enter the school grounds whilst the testing is taking place.

## Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



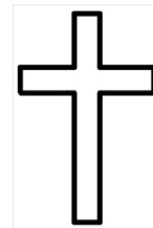
Everyone is special

**Human Dignity**

## Value of the Week Next Week



*We believe in ourselves.*



## Attendance Class Winners

**1<sup>st</sup> St. Clare's Class 98.44%**

**2<sup>nd</sup> St. Therese Class 97.27%**



# Superstars and Learners of the Week

## Year R

**Superstar:** Louise for being a wonderful kind and caring friend as well as working hard to complete her learning.

**Learner:** Kairo for amazing art work and completing some tricky Maths questions!

## Year 1

**Superstar:** Chloe A. for being so kind and caring to all of her friends. Thank you, Chloe.

**Learner:** Aria for showing her love for learning and enthusiastically joining in this week.

## Year 2

**Superstar:** Hudson is such a star! He always shows love and kindness to everyone and he really is such a pleasure to teach. Thank you, Hudson.

**Learner:** Aiden has had a fantastic start at St Benedict's and he has worked very hard to produce some fantastic writing this week. Well done, Aiden.

## Year 3

**Superstar:** Emilia. E. for demonstrating our school value of Love by being really kind and loving to her peers this week, even when no one was watching!

**Learner:** Lucrece for settling in really well into her new school and the Juniors and trying really hard with all of her learning.

## Year 4

**Superstar:** Amirah has shown our school value of love this week, with her considerate and thoughtful words and actions towards others. Thank you, Amirah.

**Learner:** Zion has made wonderful contributions to our English learning this week and chose some excellent vocabulary for his fact file. Great job!

## Year 5

**Superstar:** Lily H. She has shown our school value of love by looking after our PE equipment, using the hockey stick appropriately and helping to tidy up after the lesson.

**Learner:** Frankie for consistently impressing us with his work. He has a wonderful attitude to learning and always takes care with his work.

## Year 6

**Superstar:** Lucca for showing great compassion and love for his teammates during PE. Lucca praised and encouraged others, lifting team spirit and creating a supportive, positive atmosphere for everyone.

**Learner:** Nii Okai, for his fantastic behaviour for learning across the curriculum, especially in Maths, where his focus and effort have really shone through.

## Cars Outside School

Please be considerate of our neighbours and all our school community when parking on Lambourn Way.

We have had concerns raised over parents parking on the pathways, forcing pedestrians to walk in the road around the cars. Please do not park in the turning point outside the school gates or on the yellow lines in the school approach road.

Please do not leave your car engine running whilst waiting outside the school. This is harmful, not only to the environment, but to children, who are particularly at risk:

'Vehicle exhaust fumes outside schools pose serious health risks to children, including respiratory problems like asthma, reduced lung development, and potential impacts on brain development. Children are more vulnerable because their bodies are still developing, they breathe faster, and are often closer to exhaust levels. Fine particles in the fumes can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream'.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Summer Reading Challenge Finishes Saturday 13th!

This year, Medway Libraries has had our best ever response to the Summer Reading Challenge! If your child would like to finish their Challenge, you have until the end of the day on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September** to pop into a library to collect their prizes.

Prizes include stickers, a poster, bookmark, pop badge, certificate and medal.

You can find the location and opening times of your nearest library [here](#).

If your child took part in this challenge, please could they bring in their certificate and medal on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September.



## School Meals Booking

Each week, you will be sent a 'Form' in ParentMail enabling you to choose your child's menu for the following week. Please complete this form before 8am on Monday morning.

We look forward to welcoming St. Joseph's Class (YR), who will be staying for lunch next week, before going home at 12.30pm. If your child is bringing in their own packed lunch, you can also indicate this on the weekly form.

If you have not completed the form by Monday at 8am, your child will not have a meal cooked for them and you will be required to provide a packed lunch for the rest of the week.



## Achievements



Yan (Year 5) played in a 3 x 3 Ozone ice rink Jamboree ice hockey tournament, following Olympic rules, last Saturday on 6th September and won 1st place as part of the Oettinger team.

Well done, Yan!



Jasmine and Bella, both in year 5, have worked incredibly hard in achieving a 'distinction' at the Pauline Quirk Academy in a Stage and Screen Award. Well done, girls!



Kent  
Catholic  
Schools'  
Partnership



'Academies in Christ'



## Foundation (Practicing Catholic) Local Governance Committee Members needed!

Use your skills  
to shape the  
future of the  
next generation

We are committed to  
enhancing the diversity of our  
Governance to ensure we are  
reflective of the communities  
in which we serve.

A committee member is  
strategic rather than  
operational; members are  
not involved with the day  
to day running of a school

A committee member  
supports and challenges  
the school's leadership  
team to drive  
school improvement.

Please contact us to discover more about this exciting opportunity  
[governance@kcsp.org.uk](mailto:governance@kcsp.org.uk) or use the QR code above.

Application dates:  
Mon, 1 Sept  
2025 to Thu, 15  
Jan 2026

## Admission to primary school **September 2026**

# apply online

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

If the answer is yes, then now is the time to apply for a school place.

### Online admissions for Medway residents

The quickest, easiest and safest way to apply for your primary school place.

**Last year 99 per cent of applications were made online.**

If you give us your email address when applying you will:

- receive confirmation your application has been received;
- receive details of the school offered on the offer day by email without having to wait for an offer letter.



Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions



## Admission to primary school **September 2026**

- You must apply to your home local authority (ie if you pay your council tax to Medway Council you must apply to Medway). If you pay your council tax to one of the district councils of Kent (for example, Swale or Maidstone) then you must apply to Kent County Council.
  - You can name schools in any area but you must apply to your home local authority.
  - Medway residents can apply from **9am on Monday, 1 September 2025**.
  - Please make sure that you have submitted your application by **5pm on Thursday, 15 January 2026**.
  - If you do not want to apply online and would prefer to complete a paper application form, please contact the School Admissions and Transport Team. **Please note:** Medway Council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications in writing or over the phone.
  - Please read primary admissions 2026 information available at **Medway.gov.uk/PrimaryAdmissions** to find out more about the admission process and Medway's primary schools.
- If you would like any further advice you can speak to School Admissions and Transport Team, who will be happy to assist you.

**Medway Council School Admissions and Transport Team**

Phone: **01634 331110**

Email: **admissions@medway.gov.uk**

Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions



Application dates:  
Mon, 1 Sept  
2025 to Fri, 31  
Oct 2025

## Admission to secondary school **September 2026**

# apply online

### Online admissions for Medway residents

Was your child born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015?

The quickest, easiest and safest way to apply for your secondary school place.

**Last year 99 per cent of applications were made online.**

If you give us your email address when applying you will:

- receive confirmation your application has been received;
- receive details of the school offered on the offer day by email without having to wait for an offer letter.



Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions



## Admission to secondary school **September 2026**

- You must apply to your home local authority (ie if you pay your council tax to Medway Council you must apply to Medway). If you pay your council tax to one of the district councils of Kent (for example, Swale or Maidstone) then you must apply to Kent County Council.
- You can name schools in any area but you must apply to your home local authority.
- Medway residents can apply from **9am on Monday, 1 September 2025**.
- Please make sure that you have submitted your application by **5pm on Friday, 31 October 2025**.
- If you do not want to apply online and would prefer to complete a paper application form, please contact the School Services Admissions Team. **Please note:** Medway Council do not acknowledge receipt of paper applications in writing or over the phone.
- Please read the secondary admissions 2026 information available at **Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions** to find out more about the process and Medway's secondary schools.
- If you would like to request details of your nearest qualifying school(s) for the purposes of home to school transport please complete and submit the request form, which can be found at **Medway.gov.uk/SecondaryAdmissions**. Any request for information must be received by **Wednesday, 1 October 2025**.

If you would like any further advice you can speak to School Services Admissions, who will be happy to assist you.

**Medway Council School Services Admissions**

Phone: **01634 331110**

Email: **admissions@medway.gov.uk**

Medway.gov.uk/OnlineAdmissions





# St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith.

**2025/2026**

## School Tours for September 2026

for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September  
2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Parents of children of all faiths are invited  
to visit the school for a tour with the  
headteacher.



### Dates and Times of Tours:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 9:30am

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025 9:30am

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025 9:30am

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 9:30am

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025 9:30am

Please book via the office:

01634 699700

[office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk)



NEW

WRAPAROUND CARE PROVISION



THE FOXES' DEN



TO ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



A fun and exciting after school club! Children have access to a huge variety of games, craft activities and toys, as well as being able to play in our extensive field and playground.



A light dinner, healthy snack and a drink included.



# Year 1 Forest School



## September 2025 to July 2026

### Term 1

#### **Monday 1 September 2025 INSET DAY**

Start: Tuesday 2 September 2025

Finish: Thursday 16 October

#### **Friday 17 October 2025 INSET DAY**

Autumn break: Monday 20 October 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025

### Term 2

Start: Monday 27 October 2025

Finish: Friday 19 December 2025

Christmas break: Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026

### Term 3

#### **Monday 5 January 2026 INSET DAY**

Start: Tuesday 6 January 2026

Finish: Friday 13 February 2026

February break: Monday 16 February 2026 to Friday 20 February 2026

### Term 4

#### **Monday 23 February 2026 INSET DAY**

Start: Tuesday 24 February 2026

Finish: Thursday 2 April 2026

Good Friday: 3 April 2026

Easter Monday: 6 April 2026

Easter break: Monday 6 April 2026 to Friday 17 April 2026

### Term 5

Start: Monday 20 April 2026

Finish: Friday 22 May 2026

Early May bank holiday: Monday 4 May 2026

Spring bank holiday: Monday 25 May 2026

Late spring break: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

### Term 6

Start: Monday 1 June 2026

#### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June INSET DAY**

Finish: Tuesday 21 July 2026

## LEGOLAND® COACH DAY TRIP

### EASTER BREAK 2026

ASD Coaches would like you to buckle up and prepare for a day trip to LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort.

At the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort there are over 55 rides and attractions where children can fly through the treetops to escape fearsome dragons, ride the thrilling rapids with a Viking fleet, join LEGO® divers on a magical underwater adventure on Atlantis Submarine Voyage or enjoy the UK's only LEGO® Star Wars™ Miniland Model Display.

For season pass holders we offer a 'coach-only' discount.

**DATES OF TRAVEL**  
**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL TO**  
**FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**



Adult Ticket - £60.00  
First Child Ticket - £55.00  
Additional Child Ticket - £45.00



Coach Only Price - £25.00

**PICK UP OUTSIDE THE**  
**SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**ARRIVE FOR OPENING AND**  
**DEPART AT CLOSING TIME**



**TO BOOK CALL**  
**01634 726412**

**KSS** **35** YEARS  
SAVING LIVES  
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY  
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

## FAMILY FUN DAY

**20 September 2025**

The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX

- Ice cream •
- Games and prizes •
- Face painting •
- Obstacle course •
- Emergency service vehicles •
- Bouncy castle •
- Fun fair rides •
- Food stalls •
- + more



**Fasten up for our Family Fun Day!**

Meet real lifesavers, learn lifesaving skills, and make family memories!

**Book your tickets now**

**[aakss.org.uk/kent-fun-day](http://aakss.org.uk/kent-fun-day)**



Registered Charity No. 1021367

**TERM TIME ONLY**

## JOIN OUR SATURDAY MUSIC CENTRE

AGES 5 - 18

EVERYONE WELCOME

COMPLETE BEGINNERS TO  
ADVANCED MUSICIANS

RAINHAM MARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**DISCOVER MORE**

[www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](http://www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)

## MMA's Free Online Music Technology Sessions

**Open to ages 9-18**

Join our virtual sessions

**Tuesday 16:30 - 17:30 (term time only)**



For full details visit

**[www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk](http://www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk)**

**MEDWAY MUSIC ASSOCIATION**



## Parish News



### *St Simon Stock Parish in Walderslade*

Bleakwood Road  
Walderslade  
Kent, ME5 0NF  
Tel: 01634 862 910 Mob: 07305 831 925  
Email : [walderslade@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:walderslade@rcaos.org.uk)



Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Southwark

#### **Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme Mass of Commitment**

**2025-2026**

Children and parents must attend one of the  
Masses of Commitment at either 6pm  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September or 9am or 11am on  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September at St. Simon Stock  
Parish.



#### **Children's Liturgy at St. Simon Stock Parish**



Children's Liturgy is on this Sunday at 11 o'clock Mass. This is open to children who are in Year 2 and below (pre-schoolers are welcome with a responsible adult). Older children who have not made their First Holy Communion and are not on the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion programme can also come. This is for children whose parents are attending Mass. Children's Liturgy is fortnightly term time only.