



This week, we were joined by Fr. Joseph, families and parishioners for our Crowning Mary Mass. Children from each year group led readings and prayers beautifully, reminding us of Mary's trust and faith in God. After Mass, St. Joseph's Class performed a lovely liturgical dance and our school family processed out to Forest School. In a special moment, Sienna (our oldest pupil) and Olivia (our youngest) crowned the statue of Our Lady. Each class then laid their handmade bouquets of flowers, pausing for a silent prayer in our Forest School prayer area. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this a truly memorable celebration.



If you have spotted 'Wanted' posters around the school, you'll know that St. Joseph's Class were on the case of their missing caterpillars! The police have even visited to help assess the clues. Our main suspects were the crafty robbers, Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len, from 'What the Ladybird Heard!' Read on to find out if the mystery was solved!

Congratulations to Years 4 and 5 for a fantastic Learning Log Showcase. The independent projects and creative ideas on display were truly inspiring. Thank you to all the families who came along to celebrate the children's hard work.

Today, our children marked Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, thanks to a wonderful idea from this year's School Council. Activities included spending time outdoors to appreciate the beauty of nature, creating representations of '100' with natural materials and recording mini-documentaries in the style of Sir David. These activities helped us reflect on Sir David's important message: to love and care for the planet we all depend on. Well done to our School Council for leading on this celebration.

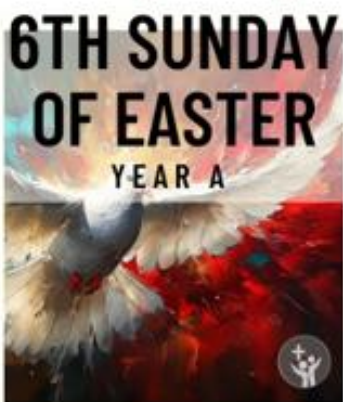
Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 10th May

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A



John 14: 15-21

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Prayer of the Month – May



In May, we pray with Pope Leo that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoiding food waste, and to ensuring that everyone has access to quality food.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May

KS2 SATS WEEK (school office closed mornings)

Tuesday 12th May

Year 5 Fort Amhurst Trip

Monday 18th May

3.30pm St. Benedict's V Twydall Football Match

6pm Year 6 PGL Meeting (Parents only)

Wednesday 20th May

Year R Vision/Hearing Screening

Thursday 21st May

Mini Youth Games -Tag Rugby Event

Friday 22nd May

Last Day of Term

Tuesday 2nd June

2pm Holy Spirit Mass

Wednesday 3rd June

6pm SBA Meeting (School)

Thursday 4th June

MYG Football

Friday 5th June

EYFS Creepy Claws Visit

Wednesday 10th June

6pm New Parents Meeting

Friday 12th June

Years 5 & 6 Careers Fayre

Tuesday 16th June

Year 3 Trip Brogdale Farm

Wednesday 17th June

Group Class Photos

Thursday 18th June

Year 4 Canterbury Museum

Friday 19th June

Father's Day Shop

24th June – 26th June

Year 6 PGL Residential Trip

Monday 29th June 2026

INSET Day (no children attend school)

30th June – 2nd July

Hong Kong Cultural Exchange

Saturday 4th July

Summer Fayre

Monday 6th July

Year 1 and Year 2 Wingham Wildlife Park visit

Wednesday 8th July

*Sports Day weather permitting (Change of Date)

Thursday 9th July

Football Team Cup tournament

Monday 20th July

11am Leaver's Mass

Tuesday 21st July

9.10 am Leaver's Assembly



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.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



**Thinking of everyone
The Common Good**

Value of the Week



**We learn from our mistakes and
keep trying our best.**

Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Learner: Eliora for wonderful concentration and super speedy reading in phonics this week reading all words by sight! Amazing Eliora!

Superstar: Divine for always being a kind and caring member of the class and a wonderful friend, along with an amazing attitude to learning! Well done Divine!

Year 2

Learner: Marco has worked exceptionally hard this week and has produced a wonderful information report on The Great Fire of London. Well done, Marco.

Superstar: Zayne has been a loving, compassionate and kind member of the class this week. Thank you, Zayne!

Year 4

Learner: Grace you have shown true maturity when we have been discussing balanced arguments this week. You encouraged others to think carefully about the positive and negatives before reaching an opinion.

Superstar: Thank you Audrielle for being an excellent class monitor and helper this term. You are responsible and efficient at your tasks and that is a great support in Year 4.

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Sofia for the mature and diligent attitude she consistently shows towards her learning. She works incredibly hard, approaches every task positively and completes all her work to the best of her ability. Her quiet determination and excellent work ethic make her a wonderful example to others. Well done, Sofia!

Superstar: Our Superstar is Tallulah for the resilience she has shown towards school and her learning this week. Despite the pressures of a busy time in Year 6, Tallulah has shown great determination and we are very proud of the strength and courage she has demonstrated—well done, Tallulah!

Year 1

Learner: Tami- We can always rely on you in our phonics sessions and Sound Blasts to be ready and raring to go, clearly calling out your sounds with confidence and volume! You have also been working so hard to blend them together accurately and we're very proud of you.

Superstar: Hezekiah- Thank you for sharing your ideas on the carpet with such enthusiasm and enjoyment. It's so lovely to see you keen to show what you know and see you love of learning shining through. Well done, Hezekiah!

Year 3

Learner: Amelia for working so hard this week on her informal letter. You did an amazing job including all the features and it really sounded like you were Roger! Well done, Amelia.

Superstar: Ezekiel for having such a positive attitude towards his learning this week. It has been brilliant to see you so ready to learn for every lesson and showing great care in your work. Well done!

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Nife for being eager to complete challenges in Maths. She explains her reasoning well to others and clearly shows her working out to problems.

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Oscar for his excellent behavior and attitude on our trip for our swimming lesson. He was well-mannered and very quick at changing!

INFORMATION

Applications for a Primary Place at St. Benedict's Catholic School September 2026

Please ensure that you return your acceptance form to the school by **14th May** to secure your child's place in September 2026.

KS2 SATS Week 11th -14th May

The office will be closed after 9am every morning next week.

No parents will be permitted to come into school with forgotten items. Please ensure your child has everything they need each day. Children who have medical appointments on any of these mornings must contact the school office for instruction.

Neighbours

Please do not let your children run over the neighbours front gardens. We have had several complaints of children trespassing on people's property.

Also, please respect the neighbours by not blocking their driveways and parking over dropped kerbs. They need to have access on and off their property at all times.

Forgotten Items

We have an increasing flow of parents coming into school with forgotten items during the school day.

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for the day.

Thank you.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1 st	Year 3- 99%
	Year R -99%
2 nd	Year 4 -98.4%
3 rd	Year 1 -97.8%
	Year 2 -97.8%



Times Table Rockstars



Fastest

Rocco Year 5

Highest Score

Audrielle Year 4

Most Improved

Nancy Year 4

Star

Yan Year 5

NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK



**WALKIN'
'N' WHEELIN'**
CHALLENGE

18-22 MAY 2026

Walkin' N Wheelin' Challenge

Crowning of Mary Mass



Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

Year 4 have been inspired by Sir David Attenborough to take joy in the simple nature around us. Linked to our computing topic, we took photos from our environment and enhanced them using the following techniques: cropping, zooming in, rotating, blurring and experimenting with altering shades.

We hope you enjoy our efforts.



The children in St. Joseph's Class formed the number 100 in honour of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday.



Year 4 and Year 5 Learning Log Showcase



Assembly

Well done to the Olive, Isabelle, Hezekiah and Ralph for their splendid entries to the Royal Academy art competition. Although no children from St. Benedict's were selected, we think they all produced some amazing art pieces, which are currently on display in the school.



Ruby Robin Award

During Term 3 in Forest School, Year 1 and Year 2 were busy earning their Ruby Robin Award. During the winter, the birds needed our help. By participating in the award, the children helped songbirds in our local area by completing the four challenges set. They participated in activities such as making bird baths, preparing bird food, taking part in bird spotting, learning about the features of birds and also fundraising. These activities also helped us understand our Catholic Social Teaching too. We are proud to announce that all the children in these classes received a certificate and badge to celebrate their achievements. With it being Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, it has been a wonderful day to award these to our Children of the Forest.



Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len Behind Bars !



P.C. Brett came into school to try to solve the crime of the missing caterpillars. He set a crime scene and gathered evidence. He discovered the caterpillars had been stolen by Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len, who have now been apprehended and the caterpillars safely returned to St. Joseph's Class so the children can watch them turn into butterflies.

Thank you P.C. Brett!





WE NEED



YOUR HELP!



We are creating a brand-new logo for our **COMPUTING SQUAD** – and we'd love **YOUR** ideas!



YOUR LOGO SHOULD:

- ★ Include the name 'Computing Squad'
- ★ Be linked to **COMPUTING** and/or **ONLINE SAFETY**
- ★ Be creative and eye-catching!



YOU CAN...

Draw your logo by hand or use technology to design it. You might even want to ask a grown-up to help you create one using AI!



PLEASE BRING YOUR FINISHED DESIGN TO:



Mrs Stanton (Year 1)

OR



Any member of the Computing Squad in Year 6



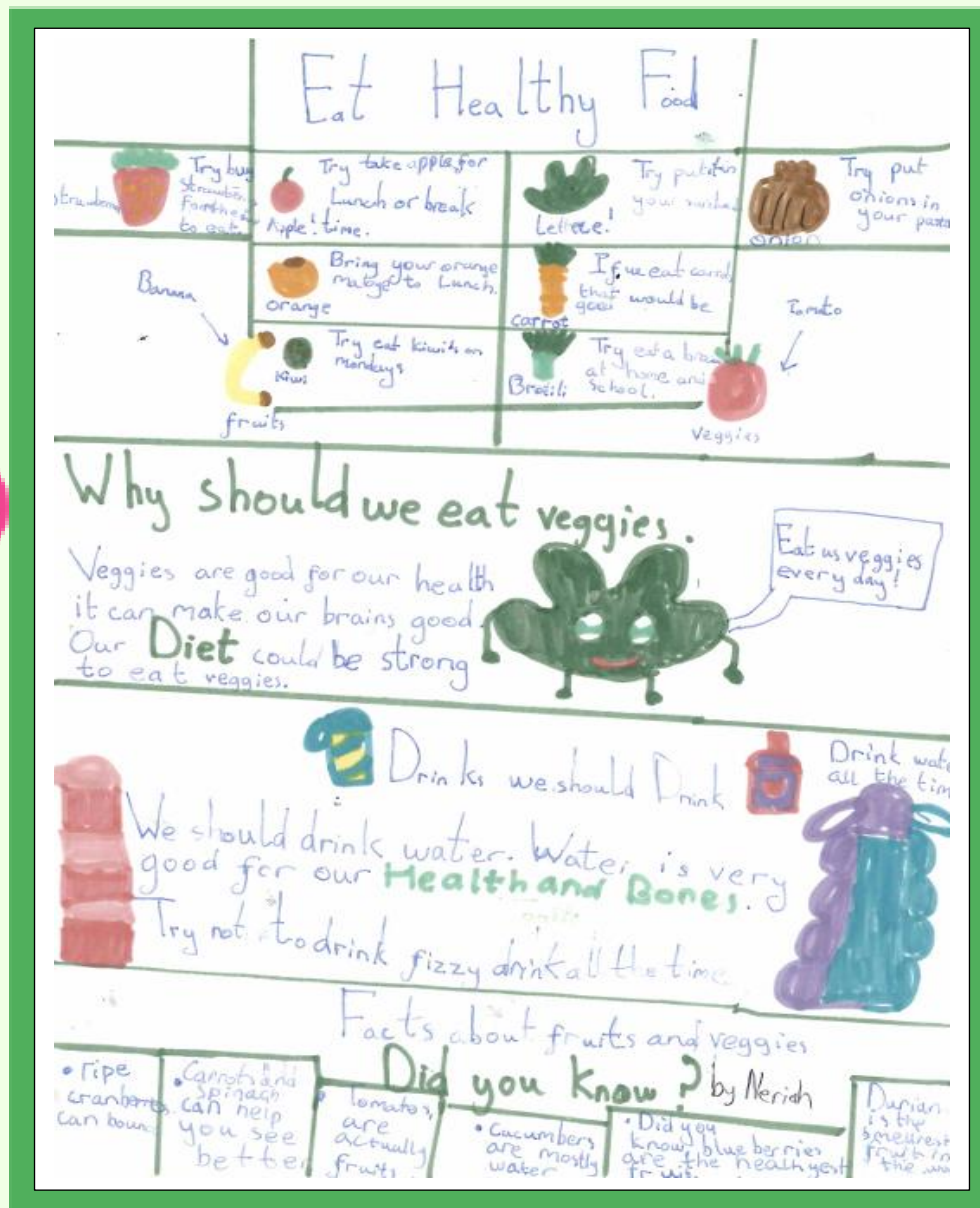
We can't wait to see your amazing ideas –

THANK YOU!



HEALTHY EATING AMBASSADORS

We want to encourage healthy eating and the importance of a balanced diet.



**CAN YOU DESIGN A
HEALTHY EATING POSTER?
CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 5TH JUNE**

We hope you enjoyed listening to us in assembly today and we look forward to seeing your healthy lunches in action!

Neriah, Elsie, Bonnie, Amirah, Anjola and Vanessa.

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School



What will it look like?

On the afternoon of **Friday 12th June between 1 – 3:15pm**, our hall will be transformed into a Career Fair! The children will be visiting the different stands, talking to the adults from the various business and organisations on show. Some stands will have practical demonstrations, and even freebies! The children will have a careers passport, with the chance to fill their passport with stamps and stickers as they visit the stalls.

The careers fair will be a great opportunity for our children to talk with adults in the world of work and see how what we do in school prepares them for later on in life.

We need your help!

Would your business or organisation be able to run a stall at our career fair? Perhaps you work for a large company, run a business, work in the public sector, or are retired from a profession? We will supply a table, chairs and refreshments. You could bring along vertical banners, hands-on activities, leaflets and freebies, and can have one or more adults to help run the stall.

Remember, the purpose is to inspire our children at St. Benedict's and engage with them in thinking about their aspirations.

If you are able to help, have any questions or need to find out more, please email:

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk

Animal Visit



Thank you to Mrs Johnson for bringing in some chickens and a tortoise for the children to see.



KENT ART COMPETITION

THE
KENT COUNTY SHOW

With Trail Blazers

FOR AGES 4-11



Create a piece of art inspired by farming or the countryside and have your artwork on display at the Kent County Show, 3-5 July 2026.

EVERY ENTRANT will receive one free child and one free adult ticket to The Kent County Show at Detling Showground.

1st Prize: Win a Trail Blazers Fishing Party or Forest Adventure Experience for you and 9 friends

2nd Prize: Receive a one to one fishing lesson and a two day fishing pass at a Trail Blazers Lake

3rd Prize: Win a family ticket to Biddenden Tractorfest for two adults and two children for the 15th or 16th August



ENTER BY 20TH JUNE TO BE IN WITH YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

Forest School Year R



A green heart for Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday.



Forest School Year 1



Year R celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday in Forest School this week.



Forest School Year 3



Forest School Year 2



FOREST SCHOOL

May 2026



What's in Season in May?

- Carrots
- Spinach



- Strawberries
- Rhubarb



Iron: energy and concentration

With SATs and GCSEs coming up, we wanted to discuss the importance of iron in helping you stay energised and focused.

Iron's job is to deliver oxygen to parts of your body. If you don't eat enough iron you can feel tired and find it more difficult to concentrate.

The following foods are rich in iron:

- chicken
- fish (including tinned, such as tuna)
- eggs
- chickpeas and lentils
- spinach

Did you know that vitamin C helps your body to absorb iron? Try eating oranges, peppers or tomatoes to get that boost!

Snack Swaps!

Crisps → Rice cakes

Sweets → Dried fruit

Ice cream → Fruit & yoghurt or jelly

Cake/cake bar → Malf loaf

Recipe of the Month

Chicken burgers

Makes 4 burgers

- 400g chicken mince
- ½ tbsp italian seasoning
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1 courgette, grated
- 100g broccoli, finely chopped
- 50g spinach
- Low calorie spray oil
- Wholemeal rolls
- Lettuce



1. Using kitchen roll or a tea towel, pat the grated courgette to soak some of the moisture.
2. Place in a bowl and add the chicken, broccoli, spinach, seasoning and garlic powder.
3. Mix with clean hands or a spoon, until well combined. Shape into patties (smaller patties for children, larger for adults)
4. Heat oil in a large pan and cook patties for around 5 minutes each side, until a golden crust starts to form and the chicken is cooked through.
5. Serve in a wholemeal roll with some lettuce.



Try some snack swaps this week, then treat yourself at the weekend!!

Creative Drop-in Session

Free for Children aged 5-10 in Medway

A relaxed, fun, space for children to enjoy creative activities that support emotional wellbeing.

Children can join in at their own pace in a calm, friendly setting, supported by trained practitioners.

When?

Friday 29th May
11am - 12pm

Where?

North Kent Mind,
Community Hub,
5a New Road,
Chatham, ME4
6BB (Buzzer 11)

To attend, please contact:

hello@medwaytherapeuticalliance.co.uk



medwaytherapeuticalliance.co.uk

Scan the QR code
or visit the website
to learn about the
Medway
Therapeutic
Alliance



25 - 29 JULY SUMMER MUSIC COURSES



For those with no experience to the more advanced young musicians

AGES 5 - 18



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6PM - 8PM

MONDAY NIGHTS

**AGE
5 - 16**

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME



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07860 682499

LORDSWOOD C.C.

**Make half
term musical**
May 2026

[Click
here to
sign up](#)

**Sign up
today**

	Half Term Wind Band			
Tuesday 26th	Ages 8 - 18	Grade 2+	Ashford	£16
	Half Term Strings			
	Ages 8 - 18	Grade 2+	Ashford	£16
Wednesday 27th	Junior Come & Sing - Day One			
	Ages 8 - 13	All abilities	Ashford	£16
Thursday 28th	Junior Come & Sing - Day Two			
	Ages 8 - 13	All abilities	Ashford	£16
Friday 29th	Music Tech Experience Day			
	Ages 10 - 12	All abilities	Rochester	£16

Join us for a week of unforgettable music opportunities

The perfect holiday course for every young musician, whether you've sung and played in a group before or not. Enjoy learning and making music, meeting like-minded friends and learning with expert tutors.

Don't miss this chance to stay creative and elevate your skills this half term!

Locations

- Ashford: Highworth Grammar School
- Rochester: Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School

www.kent-music.com/courses

hello@kent-music.com

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Parish News



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COMMUNITY
FUND

Parish Of St Simon Stock



3rd May 2026

5th Sunday of Easter A

Wishing you all a happy new month of May, which is the month of Mary and the Rosary, so don't forget to pray your Rosary for peace in the world. You are also invited to join the Pentecost Novena for 9 special nights of talks and prayer for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life. Starting on 14th May to 23rd May in the church. Details will be displayed on the church main door next weekend. **Please note, I will be away on pilgrimage in Lourdes from 6th to 9th May and will remember you all in my prayers.**

At our Parish Feast day celebrations on Sunday 17th May after 10am Mass we will be holding our usual sponsored walk, and forms are available from this weekend so please take one and get your family and friends to sponsor you to raise much needed funds for the parish. There is a sponsor form on the little table in the lobby for people to sponsor me as I will be doing the walk too.

There will be a barbeque catering for meat eaters, vegetarians and vegans, but you can also bring your own picnic or savoury food to share. As is usual at this event, we also request people to bring cakes/desserts to share. There will also be a plant stall and hopefully there will be lots of plants to buy to stock up your gardens/greenhouses, so don't forget to bring some money. Of course, we will need people to volunteer to help with the running of this and a sign-up form is now at the back of the church on the disabled toilet door.

Also for our pilgrimage to Aylesford next Sunday at 12.30pm, if you are walking please bring appropriate clothing (it currently looks like it will be dry but this could change) and appropriate footwear (walking boots etc). Also remember to bring water with you. Fr Joseph

Safeguarding Sunday 2026. Sunday 3 May is Safeguarding Sunday. In line with today's Gospel, we are called to protect, called to care, called to act. Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday

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