



This week, our Year 6 children have been completing their end of Key Stage 2 SATs with exceptional resilience and determination. We are incredibly proud of how they approached each paper and we know you will join us in congratulating them for their efforts. A special thank you goes to:

- ❖ our governors, who generously volunteered their time to observe test protocols and ensure everything ran smoothly
- ❖ our dedicated staff for their flexibility and support throughout the week
- ❖ all parents and carers for the encouragement you have given your children at home
- ❖ Mrs Hebditch for coming in each day to support our pupils
- ❖ Mrs Goodearl for her help with Year 5 and their busy schedule of trips and activities

Year 5 have had an action-packed week representing our school in the local community, including: a sports session at Lordswood Leisure Centre, a trip to Fort Amherst to explore our local history, a local geographical walk and a community litter pick. They have truly been wonderful ambassadors for St Benedict's and we are so proud of the way they have represented our values.

Last week, we hosted our Trust's Education Standards Committee meeting. Our visitors included our Trust CEO, Primary Director of Education and several Trust Directors. We received some wonderful feedback recognizing how special our school is:

'As always it was a great pleasure to be at St Benedict's; to see the great work that happens there, to speak to the children and staff and to enjoy the excellent Forest School provision!' AnneMarie Whittle (CEO)

'We were all hugely impressed by all that we saw. St. Benedict's is a school that is clearly loved and where every pupil is precious.' Julian Gizzi (Foundation Director)

'It was a pleasure to see the school in action and to experience the calm and purposeful learning environment, the warmth of the relationships and the pride pupils clearly take in their school.' Sarah McBennett (Director of Primary Education)

Thank you to all staff, children and families for making our school such a welcoming and inspiring place.

This week, also marks Mental Health Awareness Week, an important opportunity to reflect on how we support the wellbeing of both our children and one another. The theme this year of 'Action' encourages us to focus on connection and support. In school, we have been talking about everyday acts of care and how these small gestures can make a big difference in our lives and the lives of others.

Yesterday, we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension, reflecting on the words from Matthew's Gospel:
'And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.'

Tomorrow, our Holy Communicants will be receiving the blessed sacrament for the first time. Please pray for Tise, Teni, Maison, Callum, Ralph and Rae and their families during this special celebration. Thank you to our Parish catechists who have been preparing our children throughout the year for this joyful occasion.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 17th May



John 17: 1 - 11

'I have made your name known to those you gave me.'

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 18th May

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

9.10 am Gifts from God Assembly (invited parents)

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

Tuesday 21st July

Last day of Term 2pm Finish



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



**Everyone is special
Human Dignity**

Value of the Week



**We are honest, trustworthy and take
responsibility for our actions.**

Attendance Winners Last Week

1 st	Year R - 100%
2 nd	Year 4 - 99.6%
3 rd	Year 3 - 99.2%



Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Learner: Joe - for fabulous progress with writing and phonics! We are so proud of you!

Superstar: Rosie - for her hard working and conscientious work ethic; always ready to learn new things and share her ideas!

Year 1

Learner: Oscar- for showing great resilience in his learning. Well done for giving everything a good try, even if it's tricky!

Superstar: Kiara- well done for trying hard to remember your phonics sounds and for adding your sound buttons. Keep it up!

Year 2

Learner: Ali has blown me away this week with his work on fractions. He has proven himself to be a true mathematician!

Superstar: Tobi has shone like a star this week, showing love, compassion and kindness to all. He's been super helpful to his peers, helping them with their work when needed. Thank you, Tobi.

Year 3

Learner: Ashley for super Science work this week investigating what are the best conditions for plants to thrive and grow.

Superstar: Olive, for showing our school value of resilience by always trying her best even if she finds moments tricky. She has blossomed and grown so much in confidence this year.

Year 4

Learner: Caris has worked so hard this week and has perfected using decimals to represent amounts of money. You have an excellent attitude towards your learning – well done!

Superstar: Thank you Lilly for being a great friend and role model in our year 4 team. You strive to uphold our school values each and every day.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Myles! Myles was very enthusiastic about our trip to Fort Amherst this week and was keen to share all of his relevant knowledge! Thank you, Myles!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Lily H for her excellent participation in RSE when learning about self-talk. Keep being positive Lily!

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Moyin for her thoughtful reflections on the Ascension and what it means for us as followers of Christ. She was able to draw on her knowledge of the Bible to support and deepen her thinking. Super job, Moyin!

Superstar: This week, our Superstars are the whole of Year 6 for the resilience and determination they have shown throughout SATs week. Every child has conducted themselves brilliantly, approaching each assessment with focus, positivity and the right attitude. We are incredibly proud of the way they have supported one another and risen to the challenge. A special mention also goes to Liam for maintaining superb focus and concentration throughout the week. Well done, Year 6—you have all been amazing!

First Holy Communion

Our Pupil Chaplains, presented the children who are making their Holy Communion tomorrow with a card of blessing from the whole school.



Times Table Rockstars



Fastest
Rocco Year 5
Highest Score
George Year 4
Most Improved
Noelle Year 4
Star
Lilah Year 5

Coats

Please ensure your child has a coat each day as the weather is changeable and we are outside at break and lunchtime.



Secondary school 2027 admissions

For children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016

Admissions digital information guide:
medway.gov.uk/admissions

Our online guide will help you through the process including information on:

- The Medway Test and how to register your child.
- How to apply for secondary school places and how offers are made.
- Key dates you need to know.
- Medway secondary schools and academies.

If you require a paper version of the information guide, you can collect a copy from one of the Medway Council community hubs after 13 May 2026.

Apply online:
medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

For 2026 admissions 99% of families applied online and received their school offer by email on offer day



Key dates for September 2027 admissions

Remember these key dates in the transfer to secondary school admission process for September 2027 entry.

Wed, 13 May 2026	Digital information guide published, visit: medway.gov.uk/admissions
Mon, 18 May 2026	Registration for the Medway Test opens, visit: medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions
Fri, 12 June 2026	Registration for the Medway Test closes
Mon, 22 June 2026	Deadline for schools to request Medway Test special arrangements
Tues, 1 Sept 2026	Secondary school applications open, visit: medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions
Mon, 14 - Sun, 20 Sept 2026	Medway Test week Visit our website for more information about test dates
Wed, 14 Oct 2026	Medway Test results day
Sat, 31 Oct 2026	Secondary school applications close
Mon, 1 March 2027	National offer day

For further information please read the digital information guide available at: medway.gov.uk/admissions
Alternatively email: admissions@medway.gov.uk

Medway
Serving You

School Fund

Like all schools, St Benedict's relies on parent donations to our Voluntary School Fund to help purchase the little extras for the children of St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School.

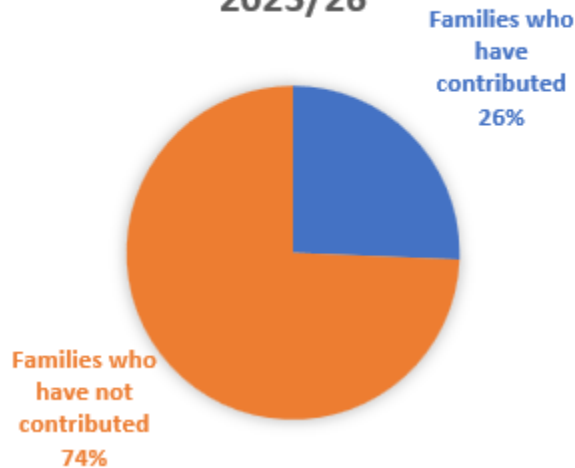
We use our Voluntary School Fund to increase the educational opportunities for all children in the school. Your donations considerably enhance the quality of education we are able to provide, covering items that are not normally provided by the school's designated budget. The fund helps the school to provide resources and equipment which directly support children's education, provide additional activities and improve the teaching and learning environment.

We kindly ask for just a £15 donation per family per academic year.

Currently only 39 families have currently paid the £15 contribution for this academic year 2025/26.

This is payable in the ParentMail 'Shop'.

FAMILIES WHO HAVE PAID SCHOOL FUND 2025/26



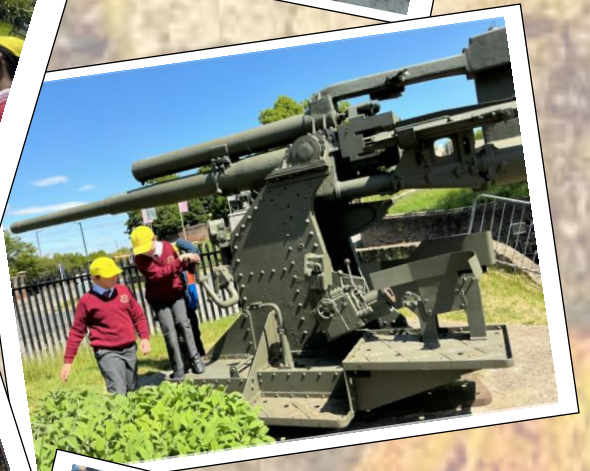
NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK



**WALKIN'
'N' WHEELIN'
CHALLENGE**
18-22 MAY 2026

Walkin' N Wheelin' Challenge

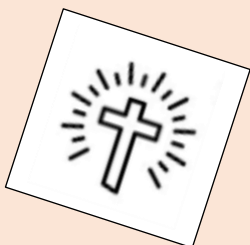
Fort Amhurst



Year 5 Geographical Walk and Litter Pick

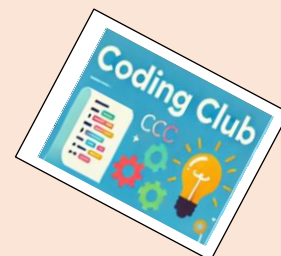


Lunchtime Clubs



Geography Club

We continued with our dancing from around the world with a particular focus on Peru and Thailand which were chosen by Arlo and Elsie! We always follow the interests of the children and learn about the countries they choose.



SCHOOL TREAT DAY

THURSDAY
21ST MAY 2026

MAINS

Hot Dog & Ketchup
or
Veggie Hot Dog
& Ketchup

Chips
Garden Peas
Baked Beans
Salad Bar

DESSERT

Brownie & Chocolate
Sauce
or
Yoghurt
or
Fresh Fruit

Order your child's
Treat Day meal in
Parentmail 'Forms'
before Monday 8am

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

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Kent
Catholic
Schools'
Partnership



'Academies in Christ'
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark

Train to Teach with KCSP School Centred Initial Teacher Training

Visit our website for more information

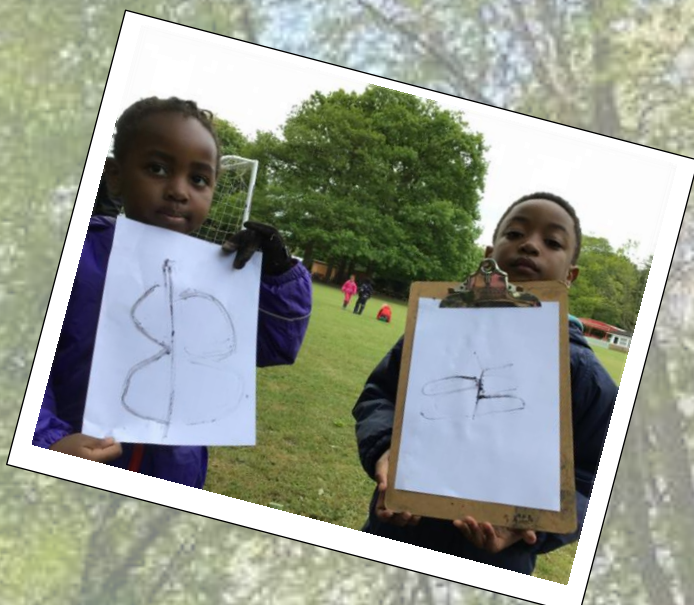
www.kcsp.org.uk/Work/SCITT/

**Application
deadline:
15th June
2026**

T **Teach
First** | Training
Partner



Forest School Year R



Forest School Year 1

We pray for God's gifts.
We love the birds.
Some of us enjoyed making
a nest for them.

Myla



Forest School Year 2



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



APPLY NOW

www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk

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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Kent & Medway
Music Hub
Partner Organisation

**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
01622 358 402



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ONE CLUB.
ONE FAMILY**

**EXPANDING
AND GETTING BETTER!**

**RELAUNCH
6TH JUNE**

**ALL AGES 3+
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME**

- LOOKING FOR A NEW TEAM?
WE'RE ALWAYS WELCOMING NEW PLAYERS!
- LOOKING FOR FUN, FRIENDLY
FOOTBALL FOR ALL?
A POSITIVE, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT
WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS.
- PROGRESSION & DEVELOPMENT
LEARN, IMPROVE & GROW
IN YOUR FOOTBALL JOURNEY.
- QUALIFIED FOOTBALL COACHES
PROFESSIONAL, EXPERIENCED &
DEDICATED TO YOUR DEVELOPMENT.

**LOOKING FOR
NEW
COACHES!**

**6TH JUNE
SATURDAY** | **9AM - 11AM** | **SALLY PORT GARDENS
ME7 5BU**

BECOME PART OF THE GILLINGHAM TOWN FC FAMILY!

Gillingham Town FC | www.gillinghamtownfc.com | 07983970004

Parish News



COMMUNITY
FUND

Parish Of St Simon Stock



10th May 2026

6th Sunday of Easter A

Please welcome Fr Denis Bukenya who will be saying our 6pm Mass this weekend.

For our pilgrimage to Aylesford after 11am Mass this Sunday 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.

You are 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 are displayed on the church main door.

Please remember that our Parish Feast day celebrations are next Sunday after 10AM MASS (THERE IS NO 9AM MASS AND NO 11AM MASS) We will be holding our usual sponsored walk, **and forms are available in the lobby so please take one and get your family and friends to sponsor you to raise much needed funds for the parish.** There is also 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. Fr Joseph

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