



We have had yet another busy week here at St Benedict's!

Our school football team played their final match of the season against Parkwood. Although the match ended 3-0 to Parkwood, the team achieved an excellent 5th place overall in the Medway Primary Football League. Well done to all involved for their excellent teamwork and determination.

Emily from Medway Libraries led a whole-school assembly to launch this year's 'Read to the Beat' Summer Reading Challenge. Children are encouraged to read six books over the summer to earn prizes, a certificate, and a medal. The challenge runs until 12 September and we encourage all our children to get involved and keep reading over the summer break.

On Wednesday evening, our Year 6 pupils gave a fantastic performance of 'Goodbye My Friend' as their end-of-year production. The evening was filled with laughter, fun and memorable moments showcasing the confidence and talent of our pupils. We wish them every success as they prepare for the next stage of their education. A special thank you goes to Mrs King and Mrs Law for their hard work in bringing the production to life.

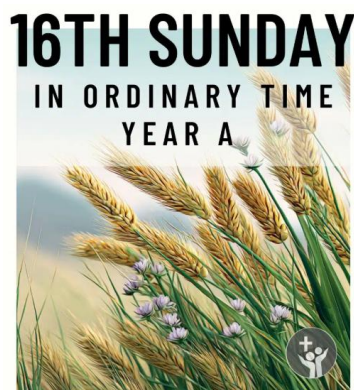
Also this week... our Sporting Carousal for all classes took place, EYFS enjoyed a visit from 'Animal Club', we hosted our Art Gallery showcasing children's work and 'Biscuits and Books' sessions celebrating the children's learning throughout the year.

Congratulations to all the children who received a trophy during today's Prize Giving Awards Assembly. We are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Your child's school report has been sent home today. We greatly value your feedback and would appreciate any comments you would like to share with staff. Please complete the parent comment form available on ParentMail if you wish to provide feedback regarding your child's report.

Have a blessed weekend,
Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 19th July



Matthew 13: 24-43

"Let them grow together until harvest."

Prayer of the Month – July



Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognising it as a gift from God.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 20th July

11am Leaver's Mass

Tuesday 21st July

9:10 am Leaver's Assembly

Tuesday 21st July

'Donate at the Gate Shoe Swap'

Children are to wear their shoes to school and bring trainers to change into (see poster below).

Last day of Term 2pm Finish

Summer Holidays



Tuesday 1st September 2026

INSET DAY

(No children attend school on this day)

Wednesday 2nd September

Children return to school for the new academic year.

Monday 21st September

School Individual Photos

Friday 23rd October

INSET DAY

(No children attend school on this day)

Friday 13th November

Flu Immunisation Whole School



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.

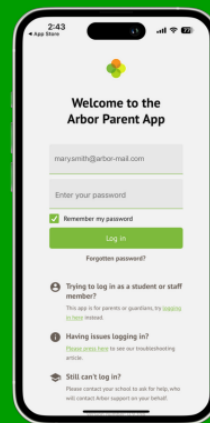
IMPORTANT

Please sign up to Arbor and download the Parentmail App. To avoid missing out on important information, you must sign up to Arbor as ParentMail will no longer be used: <https://st-benedicts-catholic-primary-school-149979.uk.arbor.education/?/home-ui/index>



We're using the Arbor Parent App!

See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in



Google Play

App Store

Prizegiving Assembly



Dear God,

Thank you for helping us to get through another amazing year at St. Benedict's.

We come together today to celebrate the hard work, the resilience and confidence of our school family.

Keep us safe and happy in the summer holidays.

Lord in your Mercy

Led by Faith G. Year 3



Arbor



From September, we will be using Arbor as our only communication system in school. **We will no longer be using ParentMail.**

If you have not seen any welcome e-mails from Arbor, please check your 'junk' or 'spam' emails and allow them, or you may miss important information regarding your child/ren. Please use the link below if you have deleted any Arbor messages:

<https://st-benedicts-catholic-primary-school-149979.uk.arbor.education/?/home-ui/index>

If you have a child in a secondary school that also uses Arbor, you will need to create a new password for the child at St. Benedict's School and log in with a different password for each child.

IMPORTANT

If you have any outstanding balances to pay in Parentmail account, you will be unable to order school meals, or book afterschool clubs or breakfast club through Arbor in September. Please clear any monies owed in Parentmail. All debts will be carried over to Arbor. Outstanding debts from year 6 pupils will be transferred to any other siblings at the school. Please pay the correct amount in Parentmail to take you to the end of the summer term with a zero balance.

You will be able to order your child's meal from 1st September 2026.

Forgotten Items

Today, we had at least 15 people bring in forgotten bags, packed lunches, PE kits and water bottles at various times during the morning. Please try to ensure that your children have everything they need for school before they come in. It is time consuming for staff to take these items to classrooms.

Items in the office

We have a variety of items in the office including medicines and creams.

Please collect these items before the end of term.

Any items left over the holidays will be disposed of.

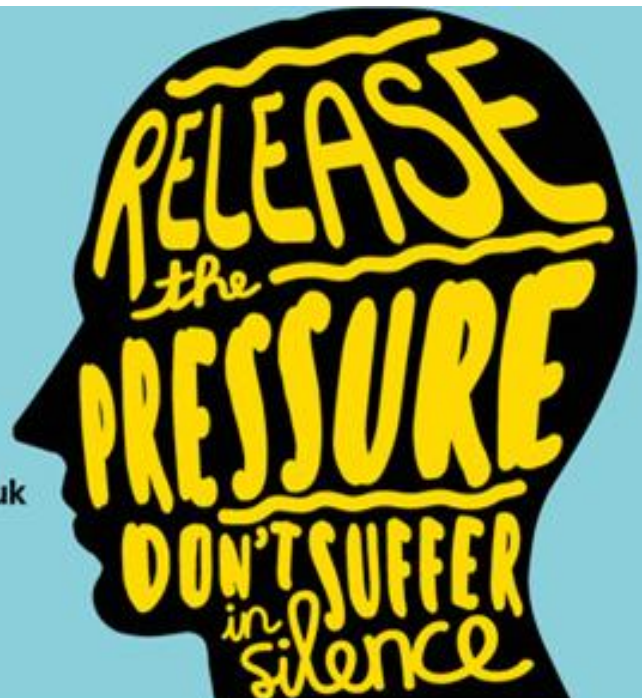
Times Table Rockstars

Fastest	Rocco Y5
Highest Score	Audrielle Y5
Most Improved	Lily Y5
Star	Yan Y5

"I was in a really dark place. Talking helped me realise things would get better."

For free confidential 24hr support call **0800 107 0160** or text **STAND** to **85258**

For more information visit releasethepressure.uk



Sports Day Carousel



Well done to
St. Patrick's House,
who were this year's
Sports Day winners,
with 2480 points.



SECOND STEP

by Sneakers Prep

**WEAR.
DONATE.
RESTORE.
REPEAT.**



DONATE AT THE GATE ON YOUR WAY OUT OF SCHOOL



SWAP YOUR SHOES DAY

BRING IN YOUR USED SCHOOL SHOES/ TRAINERS AND LEAVE THEM AT THE SCHOOL GATE ON YOUR WAY OUT.

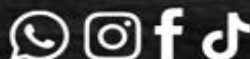


07480 009800

@SNEAKERS_PREP



Unit 1a, Lower Boat House,
North Pondside Road,
The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
ME4 4TY



Children should wear their school shoes into school and change into alternative footwear at the end of the school day to donate their shoes at the gate. Thank you.

School Council Buddy Bench Project

Thank you to Mrs Fewtrell who liaised with a local college who designed and made our Buddy Bench. School Council were delighted to test out the new bench when it arrived today.



Medway Libraries Summer Reading Challenge Assembly

Thank you to Emily Maycock for coming into school and explaining to the children about the Summer Reading Challenge.



Free Summer Reading Challenges at Medway Libraries

Join us at Medway Libraries for our [**free Summer Reading Challenges**](#) for the whole family! With our fun “Read to the Beat” theme, will be celebrating the exciting connection between reading and music, inspiring children across Medway to discover stories, creativity, and rhythm through books.

We have lots of [**free events for all ages this summer**](#), including storytimes, Lego Clubs, VR events, craft sessions and more. Highlights from this summer’s programme include:

- The Rap School workshops with world champion freestyle rapper Rob Bradley (aka Jack Flash)
- Comic Book Art Masterclasses with Kev F Sutherland, artist from Marvel Comics and Beano
- Mr Muddles Magic and Puppet Show and Party Games
- Creative Writing “Fun With Words” workshops with The Dyslexic Poet, Sam Rapp
- Musical storytimes with pantomime dame Mama G
- Performances and art workshops by artist Ed Boxall, in partnership with Applause
- Pearly Queen intergenerational karaoke
- Musical Movers and Shakers for 0-7 year olds with Mrs G-T
- Early years storytelling sessions by storyteller Diana Redgrave

To book, visit any Medway library or [visit our website](#).

This year we have four reading challenges. You can participate individually or as a family:

- The Mini Challenge, for 0-3 year olds
- The Summer Reading Challenge, for 4-11 year olds
- The Young Adult Reading Challenge, for 12-17 year olds
- The Adult Reading Challenge, for everyone aged 18+

All challenges are free, and run until Saturday 12th September.

Why take part?

Our Summer Reading Challenges for children and teens help young people retain their literacy skills over the summer holidays, spend time away from screens, and encourage reading for pleasure. Reading for pleasure increases wellbeing, creativity, and empathy in all ages, is the single most important indicator of a child’s future success, and statistics show teenagers who read for pleasure are more likely to attain higher paid jobs as adults. Reading through the summer holidays will provide your children with skills and memories that will last a lifetime- it is an investment in your child’s future.

Research consistently shows that children who read (independently, or with an adult or older sibling) not only excel academically but also cultivate stronger family bonds, are more creative, and have improved emotional wellbeing.

The Children’s Summer Reading Challenge

The children’s Summer Reading Challenge is to read **6 library books** before Saturday 12th September, and for every book children read they’ll **win** a prize, including stickers, bookmarks, and badges. The final prize is a **certificate and special medal!**

All library books count towards the challenge, including but not limited to:

- Fiction books with stories
- Graphic novels such as *Dog Man* and *Bunny vs Monkey*, comics, and manga
- Non-fiction books, full of facts and information
- Joke books
- Poetry books
- eBooks borrowed from our eLibrary
- Audiobooks- ideal for long car journeys!

The main thing is for children to choose their own books- books they want to read and enjoy! Younger children can have help to read their books, e.g. from an adult or sibling.



Thank you for the brilliant up take for our trash and treasure game. The following house points will be added to each house.

- ♥ 36
- ♥ 35
- ♥ 55
- ♥ 32

Summer Fayre raffle pre sales

- 1st place - year R (£50 Amazon voucher)
- 2nd place - year 3 (£30 Amazon voucher)
- 3rd place - year 4 (£20 Amazon voucher)

Vouchers will be given to the classes in September to purchase something for their new class.

Year 1 are the winners of our unwanted clothes collection. They will be given an extra playtime.

MEDWAY LIBRARIES PRESENTS

Careers Fair

5 August 2026

11am - 3pm
Lordswood Community Hub

Stalls from local businesses

CV writing guidance

Lordswood Careers Fair 2026 – Register Your Interest



For young people aged 14 and above

No booking required

MEDWAY LIBRARIES *Medway Libraries Serving You*

LUMINOVA™ Recommended by **NICE** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

TALES OF COURAGE

Help your child build confidence over the Summer Holidays

For 7-12 year olds
Free instant access
Support worries about:

- Going to school
- Making new friends
- Speaking in front of a group
- Making mistakes and more!

To get instant access visit:
luminova.app/medway



BfB LABS **mind North Kent** **Medway Serving You** **Medway Therapeutic Alliance**

Year 6 Water Battle



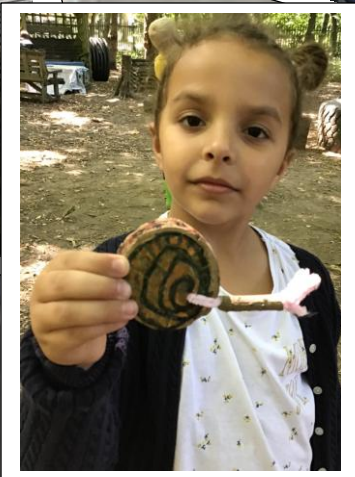
Biscuit and Books Sessions



Forest School Year R



Forest School Year 1



Booking School Dinners

From 1st September, you will be using Arbor to order your child's school meal. Caterlink will still be using the Summer Menu up until the end of October. Please see below for a reminder of the menu.

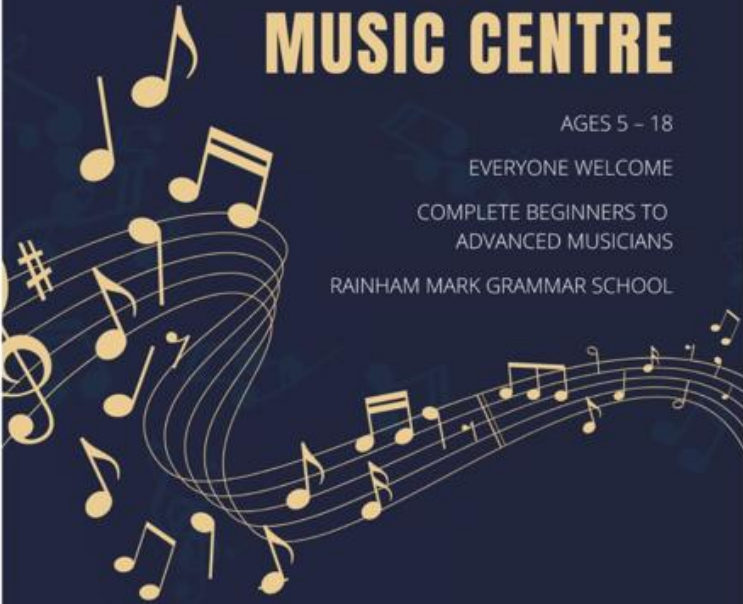
You will not be able to choose the actual dish in future, you will be choosing from either a hot meal, hot vegetarian meal, school made or jacket potato. Therefore, you will need to keep a copy of the menu below for future reference.

KENT & TKAT SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE					
Option One	Macaroni Cheese	Phat Pasty Pork Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Spaghetti Bolognese	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Option Two	Chickpea Curry with Rice	Quorn Vegan Cumberland Sausage with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roasted Quorn with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Tomato & Vegetable Pasta	Cheese & Bean Pasty with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Sides	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Baked Beans & Peas	Carrots & Cabbage	Sweetcorn & Peppers	Baked Beans & Peas
Dessert	NEW Banana Mousse	Orange Drizzle Cake	Fruit Platter	Apple Flapjack	Strawberry Jelly with Mandarins
WEEK TWO					
Option One	Cheese & Tomato Pizza With New Potatoes	Beef Chilli with Rice	Roasted Pork Sausages with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Greek Chicken Pita with Herby Rice & Tzatziki	Battered Fish with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Option Two	Lenill & Sweet Potato Curry with Rice	Loaded Jacket With Cheese & Spring Onion or Tomato Pasta	Veg Wellington with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Greek Spinach & Cheese Whirl with Herby Rice & Tzatziki	Quorn Vegan Cumberland Sausage with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Sides	Peas & Coleslaw	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Fresh Vegetable Medley	Broccoli & Carrots	Baked Bean & Peas
Dessert	Iced Vanilla Sponge	Peaches & Ice Cream (or Cream for Serveries)	Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad	Jam & Coconut Sponge	Oaty Cookie
WEEK THREE					
Option One	Tomato Pasta	Beef Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chef Shipa's Mild Chicken Curry with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
Option Two	NEW Chinese Vegetable Noodles	Quorn Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Vegetable Pasty with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Cowboy Sausage and Bean Hotpot	NEW Cheesy Broccoli Frittata with Chips
Sides	Peas & Sweetcorn	Baked Beans & Rainbow Slaw	Carrots & Swede	Sweetcorn & Peppers	Baked Beans & Peas
Dessert	Pineapple Upside Down Cake	Cheese & Crackers	Fruit Medley	Strawberry and Apple Crumble with Ice Cream (or Cream for Serveries)	Vanilla Shortbread
AVAILABLE DAILY: Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt					
If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.					

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

Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Kent & Medway
Music Hub
Partner Organisation

FREE

Online Music Technology Sessions

- Open to pupils in Year 5 - 13
- Tuesdays 5:30pm - 6:30pm
- Term time only

SIGN UP NOW
www.medwaymusicassociation.co.uk





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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Kent & Medway

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Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock

12th July 2026



15th Sunday Year A



This is the QR Code for First Collections for your convenience and flexibility. Please scan to donate. You can still donate using the gift aid envelopes or the contactless machines in the church lobby (please insert your card in this one) and the hall, or just by putting money in the offertory bag.

Today, the Church worldwide celebrates Sea Sunday – a day to come together to pray for seafarers, fishers, and all who live and work at sea, often in difficult and hazardous conditions. We thank them for the vital role they play in our lives. Our Second collection is for Stella Maris, the catholic Church's maritime agency.

The Gospel on Sea Sunday is the parable of the Sower. Today, we try to hear and ponder God's Word. Carefully listening to the word, appreciating and absorbing it, responding to it obediently, is a lifelong task. This cycle of life is symbolised by rain and snow falling from the sky and soaking the earth, then rising towards heaven as bushes and trees. Divine inspiration is the rain and snow, our inspired lives are the bushes and trees.

Friends, Summer fete next Saturday 18th July 2026. We still need donations of bottles for our bottle tombola, wine for our water and wine stall and good quality toys. Please bring in your donations and leave in the parish hall. We also need volunteers to make cakes for the Cake Stall as 2 of our most prolific cake-makers are out of action this year. Please sign up for helping on the day on the sheets on the table in the church lobby. Your church needs you! Also, our First Youth Mass will be on Sunday 19th July at the 11am Mass. Our young people will be participating in readings, bidding prayers, singing, offertory procession etc. They will also serve refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Finally, your last chance this weekend to pick up Application forms for the Reconciliation/First Communion Programme starting in September. See overleaf for details.

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

St Simon Stock

Summer Fayre 2026

Saturday 18th July 11am-3pm

Refreshments Ping Pong in a Jar

BBQ Cake Stall Teddy Tombola

Toy Stall Bottle Tombola Water & Wine

Do You Feel Lucky? Hook A Duck Chinese Cooking Demo

Lordswood Dance Group Coconut Shy Face Painting

Soft Axe Throwing Soft Archery Parachute Game

Football Target Bouncy Castles Golden Bucket

See You There!

Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, ME5 0NF