

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Newsletter 40
Tuesday 21st July 2026



LEAVERS 2019-2026



Leavers' Assembly

It is the time of year again where we wish farewell to our Year Six pupils.

A message from Mrs McAlpine to St. Francis Class 2026:

You have been a real credit to our school over the past seven years and have risen to the challenge of leading and setting a good example for the rest of the school. You have made us laugh and brought much joy to St Benedict's. Your attitude towards learning has been excellent.

We are so proud of who you have become, and hope you take our school values and all that you have learned into your next phase of life at secondary school. Learn and challenge yourselves in the knowledge that you are loved by God.

We will miss you hugely! We hope you cherish the memories you have made with us. Remember: you will always be part of our primary school and family, and you will always be our Year 6, who made us proud throughout your time with us.

To the families who leave us:

This is also the end of an era for a number of our St. Benedict's families, who have no more children or grandchildren coming through the school. For some of you this will be a significant milestone. St. Benedict's certainly becomes a big part of our lives as generations pass through the school. If today seems like the end of the journey for you, know that you are always welcome and remain part of our St. Benedict's family.

On behalf of everyone at St. Benedict's, I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Mrs McAlpine



St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School
Year 6 St. Francis 2025-2026



Review of Academic Year 2025-2026

Before we bid farewell to 2025-2026, staff and children alike have been reflecting on our successes and celebrations as a school. I would like to use this final newsletter to share and celebrate our school achievements with you.

Our 2026 Results

EYFS GLD				
77%				
Year 1 Phonics				
89%				
KS1	St. Benedict's Expected Standard	NATIONAL Expected Standard	St. Benedict's Greater Depth	NATIONAL Greater Depth
Combined (RWM)	73%		4%	
Reading	81%	68%	35%	19%
Writing	81%	60%	8%	8%
Mathematics	81%	70%	27%	16%
Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check			St. Benedict's	NATIONAL (2025)
%20 +			90%	67%
% 25/25 (Full marks)			62%	37%
KS2	St. Benedict's Expected Standard	NATIONAL Expected Standard	St. Benedict's Greater Depth	NATIONAL Greater Depth
Combined (RWM)	72%	63%	25%	9%
Reading	78%	75%	50%	31%
Writing	91%	73%	44%	13%
Mathematics	81%	75%	44%	27%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPAS)	91%	74%	63%	30%

Music Lessons

Lessons for Key Stage 2 pupils included:

64 instruments
have been learnt
this year!

Guitar
Drum
Cello
Ukulele
Recorder



Musical Events

RockSteady Concerts

Choral Festival at Central Hall Theatre

Carol Concert at Rochester Cathedral

Ukulele Ensemble at Central Hall Theatre

Recorder Ensemble at Central Hall Theatre

KS2 Choral Festival at Central Hall Theatre

Young Voices Concert at the 02

Year 1

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 5

Year 6

School Visits

Year R

Animal Club

Year 1

Wingham Wildlife

Year 2

Wingham Wildlife

Year 3

Kent Life – Anglo Saxon Day

Brogdale Farm

Year 4

Canterbury Museum

Gurdwara Visit

Aylesford Priory

Year 5

Fort Amhurst

Aylesford Priory

Local walk and litter pick

Y6

Houses of Parliament

02

Pilgrimage Walk

PGL Residential Trip Marchants Hill

Eco Team

Tovil Waste Site, Maidstone

KS1 & KS2

Local Library Trips

Sporting Events

Mini Youth Games Competitions

Basket Ball

Badminton

Swimming

Tag Rugby

Netball

Athletics

Football

Medway Cross Country Tournaments

Brompton, Cliffe Woods, Medway Park, Swingate

Football Matches

'v' Woodlands

'v' Byron

'v' Napier

'v' Maundene

'v' Saxon Way

'v' St. Margaret's

'v' Bligh

'v' Parkwood

Monster Kickabout

Playground Leaders training completed by
Year 5.

Charity

Macmillan

£224.54 was raised by our cake sale on the playground.



One Big Family

We collected donations for the local homeless.

#ItsAwrap

We collected hats, scarfs and gloves for local homeless children.

Catholic Children's Society

To bring comfort to a child in crisis during Christmas, we collected gifts for local children.



Royal British Legion

By selling Poppy merchandise, we raised funds to support the British Armed Forces community.

Mission Together

£111.70 was raised to help children in overseas countries.



CAFOD

Year 6 Big Lenten Walk raised £525.



Medway Foodbank

Throughout the year, we collected donations to support local families facing financial crisis or food poverty.

Lunchtime Clubs

Geography
Chess
Music
Running
Science
Colouring
Football
Art
Recorder
Coding
Mini Vinnie
Chaplains

Ways we keep you safe

Seizure Assembly
Bonfire Safety and Fireworks Assembly
Kent Fire and Rescue Fire Safety sessions
World Mental Health Day
Drowning Prevention Assembly
Water Safety sessions
Road Safety Workshops
Safer Internet Day workshops
Restart the Heart CPD training
Computing Squad Assembly
Medway Signs of Youth Assembly

Topical Talk Festival

We collaborated with The Economist as part of the Topical Talk Festival which equips children with the vocabulary, confidence and critical-thinking skills needed to navigate an ever-changing world.

Awards



Oscar Romero Developer Award
Young Eco Engineers Best Teamwork Award
Young Eco Engineers Class Champs Award
Ruby Robin Award

Information for September

Just to keep you up to date so you have this information before we start back in September:

- School starts back on **Wednesday 2nd September**.
- The school gates will open at 8:35am for Family Morning Prayer and then 8:40am.
- Registration will be at 8:50am. **Children will be late if they arrive after 8:50am.**
- Healthy snacks – please continue to send your child with a healthy snack each day and a water bottle. Healthy snacks can include – fruit, raw vegetables and cereal bars etc. Please do not send cakes, biscuits, crisps, chocolate or sweet treats as a daily snack.
- All children must wear the correct school uniform to school.

Shoe Collection- Second Step

Thank you to all who donated their used shoes to the charity collection today.



100 % Attendance Assembly



Well done to Zion, Medeea, Karina, Emilia, Olly, Leontine, Stephanie, Eva, Lily, Carson, Somto, Louise, Ethan, Evie, John, Joshua, Oscar, Korede, Elisha, Reuben, George, Jasmine, Liam, Zakai, Tami and Heavenly.

Hoo Sports Academy



St. Benedict's School Football Team received their medals in our celebration assembly on Monday.

Well done to Luca who was awarded the 'Most Valuable Player' trophy by other teams in the League.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 recreated their own version of 'The Great Fire of London'. The fire started at Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane and spread rapidly, burning down lots of other 3D houses that the children had made as part of their history and D&T topic. This really was a highlight for the children! They sang 'London's Burning' very loudly as Mrs Stuart manned the flames. An excellent and memorable way to finish the year.

Mrs Edwards



School Uniform

St. Benedict's Catholic School is proud of its children and of their appearance - school uniform is compulsory.

Our school's uniform

- Maroon jumper or cardigan with school logo (from Uniform Base)
- Regular classic fit, A-line grey skirt or pinafore dress (not black or charcoal)
- Grey trousers (not black or charcoal)
- White blouse or shirt
- School tie
- Black or grey tights
- Black or grey socks
- Black sensible school shoes (no boots or shoes with high heels)
- Maroon gingham dress (not culottes) with white socks and sandals
- Grey shorts
- Children are given a St. Benedict's yellow cap when they join, these are to be worn on school trips/events and during the summer terms at playtimes/lunchtimes.

P.E. Kit

- White t-shirt with school logo from Uniformbase or plain white t-shirt with no logo
- Navy shorts
- Navy tracksuit
- Black plimsolls / any trainers for outdoor activity

Additional Uniform requirements

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 require a Forest School Kit

- Waterproof gloves
- Waterproof jacket AND waterproof trousers (**All in one waterproof is best)
- Fleece/sweatshirt
- Long trousers in all seasons
- Long sleeve T-shirt
- Wellies
- Sun hat/woolly hat
- Spare socks
- At least 4 layers - ie. vest+shirt+fleece+waterproof (+coat+extra socks in winter)

Jewellery, hair and other expectations

- No jewellery (only a watch) including earrings are allowed for health and safety reasons.
- If a child's ears have very recently been pierced, then a child may wear their studs provided they have been covered with tape (by a parent) before coming to school.
- Hair that can be tied back, should be tied back.
- Gel should not be worn
- No hair dye, no indentations.
- Hair extensions should match the child's hair colour exactly.
- Fancy bands, large or numerous bows, clips or beads should not be worn.
- Hair clips and hair bands should match school colours (maroon, white or grey) and be small in size.
- Make up (including nail varnish) must not be worn in school.
- Tattoos and transfers stickers are not permitted.
- Items which are not allowed will be taken from children and returned to parents.

Please note

- All uniform must be clearly labelled.
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Children should be able to do up their own laces and fasten their shoes.
- Heeled shoes are not to be worn in school. Sandals without toe cover or ankle strap are not allowed.
- Trainers are only allowed for P.E. lessons.

Items to bring in September

Reception Class

- Named water bottle
- Packed lunch if your child is not ordering a school dinner
- Book bag
- PE bag containing PE kit

Year 1 and Year 2

- Named water bottle
- Packed lunch if your child is not ordering a school dinner
- Book bag
- PE bag containing PE kit
- A glue stick

Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

- Named water bottle
- Packed lunch if your child is not ordering a school dinner
- Book bag
- PE bag containing PE kit
- Pencil case
- Pencils
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- Highlighter
- A packet of coloured pencils (no more than 12)
- A glue stick

We encourage you to donate:

- a box of tissues
- a roll of kitchen paper towels

Thank you.



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TALES OF COURAGE

Recommended by
NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

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** **Medway Therapeutic Alliance**
Serving You



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**
Serving You

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.

Year 4 Bee Garden

Year 4 are delighted with the progress of the bee garden. The wild flower seeds and the flower bombs are growing well. We have lots of bright beautiful blooms which are attracting butterflies, bees, dragonflies and ladybirds. Thank you to all parents who made this possible. Mrs Read will look after the garden over the holidays.



Mojo Visit to Year 1 and Year 3



Year 1 and Year 3 were incredibly privileged to receive a visit today from the Child-Friendly Medway Team's mascot, Mojo!

The children were each gifted a book as an end of term treat to celebrate their hard work and dedication to the school.
Congratulations!



Leavers Mass



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	MENU KEY:
WEEK ONE 20.04.26 11.05.26 08.06.26 29.06.26 20.07.26 14.09.26 05.10.26	Option One	Macaroni Cheese	Phat Pasty Pork Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Spaghetti Bolognaise	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	Whole grain
	Dessert	NEW Banana Mousse	Orange Drizzle Cake	Fruit Platter	Apple Flapjack	Strawberry Jelly with Mandarins	
WEEK TWO 27.04.26 18.05.26 15.06.26 06.07.26 31.08.26 21.09.26 12.10.26	Option One	Cheese & Tomato Pizza With New Potatoes	Beef Chilli with Rice	Roasted Pork Sausages with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Greek Chicken Pitta with Herby Rice & Tzatziki	Battered Fish with Chips & Tomato Sauce	
	Option Two	Lentil & 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	Plant based
	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	Added plant protein
WEEK THREE 13.04.26 04.05.26 01.06.26 22.06.26 13.07.26 07.09.26 28.09.26 19.10.26	Option One	Tomato Pasta	Beef Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chef Shilpa'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	Chef's Special
	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.