



On Monday, we were delighted to welcome Fr. Joseph for his first Mass at St Benedict's. It was wonderful to see so many families join us. Children from each year group led the readings and prayers beautifully as we thanked God for the beginning of the school year.

At the end of Mass, Fr. Joseph blessed and presented this year's Mini Vinnies and Year 5 Pupil Chaplains with their newly awarded pins and badges.

Our Pupil Chaplains took on their first role this week, representing St Benedict's at Southwark Cathedral in London. Alongside Catholic schools from across the diocese, we gathered for prayer and thanksgiving, asking for God's blessing for the year ahead and His support as we grow in wisdom and love.

Today, St. Therese Class visited Aylesford Priory, joining other schools in our KCSP Trust to celebrate the start of the academic year. The theme of the celebration was this year's Trust Catholic Social Teaching focus: 'The Common Good.' Bonnie and Noel presented a pictorial representation of St Benedict's 'common good' in action within our local community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Cake Sale yesterday and today, led by our wonderful Mini Vinnies.

New Parent Tours start next week. If you have a child due to start school in September 2026, please contact the office to book a space.

St Benedict's Association AGM 'Wine and Nibbles' Evening is next Wednesday at 6:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Have a blessed weekend.

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 28th September 2025

26TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C



Luke 16: 19 – 31

"Give something, however small, to the person in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing." St Gregory Nazianzus



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

Friday 26th September

Aylesford Priory Year 4 (Beginning of Year Mass)

Wednesday 1st October

Kent Life Class Trip Year 3
6.30 pm SBA AGM

Friday 3rd October

Leadership Assembly (For those invited).

Tuesday 7th October

8:50am Year 4 Times Tables Parent Workshop
9:10am Year 4 Class Assembly

Wednesday 15th October

2pm Harvest Mass

Friday 17th October

INSET DAY (No children to attend school)

Monday 20th October- Friday 25th
Half-Term

Monday 27th October

Children return to school.

Thursday 30th October

Used Clothes Collection

Friday 14th November

Nasal Flu Immunisation YR-Y6

Please do not book holidays in term time.

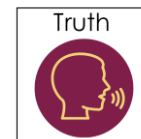
Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



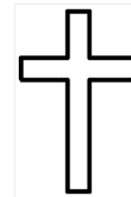
Putting people most in need first

**Preferential Option
for the Poor**

Value of the Week Next Week



We always tell the truth.



Safeguarding



Our Safeguarding Team are:

Mrs McAlpine – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss Howell - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Read – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Stuart - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Please find below useful links to help keep children safe.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.msrb.org.uk/>

SBA Roles

Please complete the form in Parentmail if you are interested in any of the roles on the SBA (PTA).

The form will close on 30th September.

A reminder that the SBA Annual General Meeting will be held in school at **on Wednesday 1st October at 6:30pm.**

Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Superstar: Zion, for being a fabulous role model and demonstrating all the school values, both in and out of the classroom.

Learner: Gabriella, for beautiful blending of her sounds and writing 'Fred' words!

Year 2

Superstar: Luke C has been a fabulous member of the class this week, and every week! He always shows kindness, initiative and he loves to share a story with the class. Thank you, Luke! You are wonderful!

Learner: Tobi has shown resilience, independence, compassion and kindness. He has produced some wonderful independent writing and his editing skills have been fantastic. Well, Tobi!

Year 4

Superstar: Janet – thank you so much for independently making cake sale posters at home using your computing skills – they looked wonderful around our school.

Learner: Eliana you showed wonderful independence when navigating the Bible to find relevant scripture. Your knowledge of the Bible and the different books was inspiring.

Year 6

Superstar: Our superstar of the Week is Nancy. She demonstrates outstanding independence, consistently showing initiative and offering support to her peers without prompting. She can always be relied upon to approach challenges with maturity and integrity, making her a truly trusted and valued member of the class. Thank you, Nancy!

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Liberty-Rose for the fantastic progress she is making across the curriculum. She has contributed brilliantly in Maths, English and History this week — what a super job, well done!

Year 1

Superstar: Thank you Myla for being a kind, caring and cheerful member of St. Michael's class. You make us smile every day.

Learner: Well Done Oceana for showing independence by writing a lovely sentence which included an adjective. We're proud of how hard you are working.

Year 3

Superstar: Faith G for always taking ownership over her learning and showing our school value of independence and maturity, especially in Maths this week. Keep it up!

Learner: Reggie for really trying so hard in his learning this week, especially in English where he wrote a punctuated piece of writing about the Stone Age! I am so impressed!

Year 5

Superstar: Rocco for his excellent participation in class discussions and for having a super start to Year 5!

Learner: Carson for showing great focus on his work and for working independently- keep it up!

Wednesday 24th September 2025
Visit to St. George's Cathedral.



Attendance Ladder



Attendance Class Winners Last Week

1 st Year 3	99.03%
2 nd Year 6	98.75%
2 nd Year 9	98.13%



Attendance letters and Correspondence Form

The Attendance Officer will send all Attendance letters and correspondence to parents/carers via ParentMail. Please ensure you check your ParentMail emails regularly.

Every parent/carer with parental responsibility must sign the form.

Times Tables Rock Stars



**Fastest
Highest Earner
Most Improved
Star of the Week**

**Frankie Y5
Audrielle Y4
Anjola Y4
Henry Y5**

Mini Vinnies and Pupil Chaplains

After Mass on Monday, Fr. Joseph presented the Mini Vinnies (Eliana, Evie, Janet, Vanessa and Amirah) and Pupil Chaplains (Tise, Segun, Leontine, Adam, George and Bella) with their badges and pins.



KCSP Beginning of Year Mass at Aylesford Priory





MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Cake Sale

We were overwhelmed with your wonderful generosity for this week's Mini Vinnie cake sale. We thank you again for supporting our charitable events and helping us to live out the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles: Participation (taking part) and Common Good (thinking of everyone not just ourselves).



Our new Mini Vinnie team had their first assignment this week- to run our cake sale in support of MacMillan. They did a great job!





VoiceBox Choir

The new choir started this week. Children enjoyed their first lesson with Mrs Green.



Data Sheets

It is imperative that we have up-to-date information and contact numbers in school.

Please ensure that you send in your completed forms to the office as soon as possible. If there are no changes, please return the signed form.

DATA COLLECTION SHEET						
Confirm the following details are correct and enter any missing information. Return the completed form to the School Office						
Legal Forename	Home Address		St. Benedict's RCF School			
Middle Name(s)						
Legal Surname						
Preferred Name						
DOB						
Gender						
Year Group	Ethnicity					
Registration Group	First Language					
House	Religion					
Siblings Currently in School	Sibling DOB	If no siblings, please add their name and class below				
	Telephone Number	Dietary Needs - Write any dietary allergies or intolerances here				
Medical Condition	Summary	Notes	Please write any additional medication information here			
Date	Contact Name and Relationship	Home Tel.	Mobile Tel.	Work Tel.	Email Address	Lives with Parent
Contact	Address Line		Where a listed contact with parental responsibility does not live at the same address as the pupil, confirm it is correct.			
Please sign below to confirm these details are correct.						
Signature: _____			Date: _____			
Data Protection Act 2018: The school is registered under the Data Protection Act for holding personal data. The school has a duty to protect this information and keep it up to date. The data is being collected, controlled and processed in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The school is required to share some of the data with the Local Authority and with the Department for Education.						

Violin Lessons

Unfortunately, Medway Dynamics and Kent Music have been unable to secure a violin teacher who can accommodate us this academic year. We will let you know if this situation changes, but until then, there will be no violin lessons taking place.





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 or use the QR code above.



SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes -
more funds for
your organisation
1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS
ARRANGED ON:

30 OCTOBER

THURSDAY

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND
BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION
WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

WE DON'T ACCEPT

- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING
AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES



St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith.

2025/2026

School Tours for September 2026

for children born between 1st September
2021 and 31st 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 2nd October 2025 9:30am

Thursday 16th October 2025 9:30am

Thursday 6th November 2025 9:30am

Thursday 13th November 2025 9:30am

Thursday 4th December 2025 9:30am

Please book via the office:

01634 669700

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk





Year 1 Forest School



ATHLETICS IN MEDWAY

WEST KENT ATHLETICS CLUB

JAVELIN
POLEVAULT
DISTANCE
SHOT PUT
HAMMER
MULTIEVENTS

HIGH JUMP
LONG JUMP
DISCUS
SPRINTS
HURDLES
TRIPLE JUMP



RUN
JUMP
THROW

Every Saturday morning

 11:00am - 12:00pm

 £5 per session

 Medway Park, Mill Road,
Gillingham, ME7 1HF

6-14 Years old

<https://bookwhen.com/westkentac>

Your School Photograph is Ready!

Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If by chance you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711. For individual photographs you will need the pupil's admission number from the school database.

Regards

Vancols Photographers

Christmas Grotto at the Fort

A Magical Christmas Experience at Fort Amherst.

Starts with an Elf Hunt around the Fort
Join us for festive snacks with the elves.
Help the elves sorting the naughty and nice list.

Decorate baubles and biscuits.

Storytime with Mrs Claus

Personal time with Santa Claus and
receive a gift

Running throughout December
at Fort Amherst, Chatham

www.fortamherst.com

Is your child registered for SCHOOL MILK?

Child
UNDER 5

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.



Child
OVER 5

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DEFRA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com



Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on 0800 321 3248

 FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOLMILKScheme

St Benedict's School Association



Annual General Meeting

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Stay informed and get involved.

Wine and nibbles will be served

School Hall

Wednesday 1st October at 6.30pm



Parentkind
Member Association

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE AS THEY RETURN TO SCHOOL



We know that as a parent, nothing matters more than your child's safety and wellbeing. As the school term begins, we understand this can bring worries about safety both inside and outside school.

Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit works with partners and communities to keep children safe by reducing and preventing violence. We support parents in having the right conversations and helping them spot if their child may be involved in violence or bullying.

Our back-to-school guide outlines year-round tools to help your child stay safe, take action and make the right choices.



[Watch: Sophie's story, a parent's experience](#)

Tools to help you

Not sure how to support your child or young person? Our range of guides can help:

- [Explainer: understanding emojis](#)
- [A guide to knife harm: feel more confident in conversations](#)

Having the right conversations

Talking with young people or young adults about knives and weapons can be difficult, whether you are a parent, guardian or carer. Our toolkit can help you prepare for a conversation with your child about carrying knives.

[View the toolkit on our website](#)

Free sports activities

We work with Sports Connect to provide free local out-of-school activities that support physical and mental health while keeping children and young people out of trouble through creative and interactive sessions.

[Visit the Sports Connect website](#)

CLOCK IT CHECK IT CHANGE IT

Being an active bystander: Clock It, Check It, Change It

Many young people witness unacceptable behaviour in and outside school, and you can empower them to safely step in and make a change.

Free resources from our Clock It, Check It, Change It campaign support conversations with young people about responding when they see or anticipate violent incidents.

[Access the resources on our website](#)

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



Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Southwark



Parish Of St Simon Stock



21st September 2025

25th Sunday of the Year C



Newsletter

Wherever we are and whatever we do we are invited to be children of the light and bear witness to Christ and not to be afraid to do so! We can make friends with those who do not believe, and in this way show them the way to Christ. But who are those people whom we still have to reach with the message of the saving friendship of God, to whom we have to bear witness? Perhaps they are very close to us, perhaps it is one of our relatives. The free gift of Christ is available to all. *Fr Joseph*

Parish notices:

The 2nd collection this weekend is for MacMillan Cancer.

Next weekend we will have our Foodbank Harvest Collection.

Following a recent stocktake at our Medway Foodbank warehouse we realise that many of the food items and everyday essentials are in short supply. We need to continue to help individuals and families in Medway during the next few winter months. So, next weekend we will have our annual Parish Harvest Collection weekend for Medway Foodbank. You will find a Harvest 2025 Shopping List in your newsletter this weekend or on the table in the foyer. You can continue to donate tins of fruit or vegetables or use the new long Harvest Shopping List. Please put your donations in the Collecting Boxes next weekend. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to help others in Medway.

The Ladies of UCM are celebrating their Anniversary Mass on Sunday
5th Oct at 11am. We will also be enrolling our latest new members.

After Mass there will be refreshments in the Hall to which all
parishioners are invited.

Priest: Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Martin Smith: martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep Margaret Whitworth: waldersladesg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk tel: 07811 852267

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
St Thomas More

Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700
Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701

