



As we reach the end of this half-term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a wonderful start to the year here at St. Benedict's. This term has truly flown by and I am incredibly proud of how all our children have settled in. It's so wonderful to see pupils embracing our routines with confidence, independence and, above all, kindness towards one another.

It was great to hear from our new parents at this week's 'Transition Coffee Morning' that your children have transitioned so well into life at St. Benedict's. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us.

Yesterday, we celebrated our beautiful Harvest Mass and were overwhelmed by your generous donations. A special thank you goes to Fr. Michael for stepping in whilst Fr. Joseph is away and to all the children who led by reading, singing, signing, playing instruments or serving – you made our celebration so meaningful. All donations have now been collected by Trish Mineham, a past St. Benedict's governor and current volunteer at Medway Foodbank. Together, we have truly embraced the Catholic Social Teaching principle of helping people most in need – a wonderful reflection of our school values in action.

Over the last two weeks, Mrs. Stuart (SENDCo) and I have met with each class teacher to discuss every child's progress. This helps us make sure we meet the needs of every pupil, especially those who are most vulnerable.

I have also had the pleasure of looking through reading diaries across all year groups. It's brilliant to see how engaged our children and families are in reading at home. Reading is crucial—not just for developing English skills, but for fostering imagination, building confidence and supporting lifelong learning.

Congratulations to our Cross-Country Team, who competed at Medway Park on Wednesday, and to all the children who received certificates this week for living out our School Values.

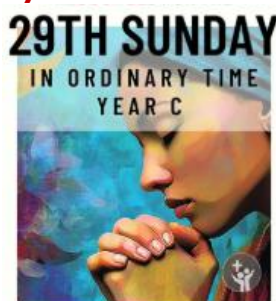
These are just a few examples of our ongoing commitment to giving every child at St. Benedict's the best opportunity to flourish.

Next term promises to be an exciting one! We have lots of events planned, so please check the 'Dates for Your Diary' section below. Please also remember to book your parents' consultation meeting via the 'Parents Evening' tab on ParentMail if you haven't done so already. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and how we can work together to support their learning at home.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy half-term break. I look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 27th October.

Mrs. McAlpine

Sunday 19th October 2025



Luke 18: 1-8

"Prayer brings us not only nearer to God
but also nearer to one another."
Pope Benedict XVI



Prayer of the Month – October

For collaboration between different religious traditions

Let us pray that believers in different
religious traditions might work together
to defend and promote peace, justice
and human fraternity.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 20th October- Friday 25th
Half-Term

Monday 27th October
Children return to school.

Wednesday 29th October
3.30pm-7.15pm Parents and Carers Evening
(We kindly ask that children do not attend)

Thursday 30th October
Used Clothes Collection

Friday 14th November
Nasal Flu Immunisation YR-Y6

Monday 1st December
2.30pm Advent Wreath Service

Monday 2nd December
TAG day
(KS1 – Chocolates. KS2-Bottles)

Thursday 4th December
Year 3 Carol Concert Rochester Cathedral

Monday 8th December
2pm Infant Nativity

Tuesday 9th December
10am Infant Nativity

Wednesday 10th December
3.20 pm Christmas Market

Thursday 11th December
2 pm Grandparent Tea Party

Tuesday 16th December
2pm Junior Carol Concert
6pm Junior Carol Concert

Wednesday 17th December
Christmas Reading Café
1.30pm Children's Pantomime -Aladdin

Thursday 18th December
9.10 am Pre-Schooler Advent Craft and Play
Christmas Dinner and Parties

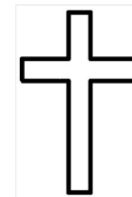
Friday 19th December
9.10 am Achievement Assembly (for invited parents)
Last Day of Term 2 pm Finish

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Everyone should have a say
Subsidiarity

Value of the Week After Half-term



We are self-motivated.

Attendance Winners for Last Week

1st	Year 4	99.38%
2nd	Year 3	99.03%
3rd	Year 5	98.13%



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.mscb.org.uk/>

Safeguarding Alert

There has been an important safeguarding alert issued regarding several children's books by **Andy Cope**, including titles from the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pup* series, published by **Puffin**.

These books contain a printed web link intended to direct children to Mr Cope's website for additional story content. However, the domain is **no longer owned** by Mr Cope and has been taken over by a **third party** now publishing **inappropriate adult content**. Please do not allow your child to visit the website.

Key Points:

- The **stories themselves remain appropriate** for children.
- The **QR code printed in the books is the issue** and should not be accessed.
- Puffin has **paused distribution** of the affected titles and is working to resolve the matter.

Harvest Mass

Thank you for your donations to the Medway Food Bank.

Thank you to the Mini Vinnies for helping to arrange the donations for our Harvest Mass yesterday.



Mrs Mineham collected the food on behalf of Medway Food Bank.

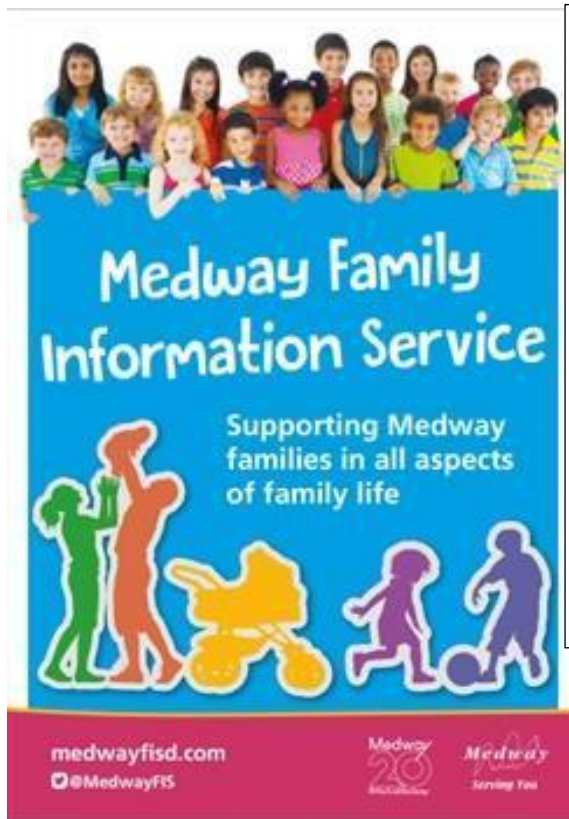


'Gifts from God' Celebration Assembly



Year R Parent/Carer Transition Coffee Morning





The **Medway Family Information Service (FIS)** is a:

- **Free**
- **Friendly**
- **Confidential**
- **Impartial**

service that supports families with children and young people aged:

- **0 to 19 years**, or
- **up to 25 years** if your child or young person has a **disability or special educational needs (SEND)**.

FIS can help you find the **right information and support** for your family, including childcare, education, health, and local services.

For further information, please visit the FIS webpage



 **Welcome to the End of Term 1 SEND Newsletter** 

Welcome to Medway!

Are you new to the area or looking to meet other families?

Join us at the **Welcome to Medway Event**, a fun, friendly gathering designed to help families connect and feel part of the community.

Whether you've just moved to Medway or have lived here for years, this event is a great way to meet other parents, carers, and local organisations offering free support and resources for families.

What's on:

- Child-friendly activities for all ages
- Free refreshments
- Giveaways
- A special guest appearance!
- Meet local services and support teams

No need to book. Just come along!

Let's build connections and celebrate our community together. We can't wait to welcome you! 

 **Date:** Wednesday 22 October 2025
 **Time:** 10:00am – 1:00pm
 **Location:** Deanwood Wellbeing Centre, Rainham, ME8 9TX



Cross Country Event at Medway Park





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:

Thurs	FULL	yr 2025	9:30am
Friday	FULL	2025	2:15pm
Thursday 16 th October 2025			9:30am
Thursday 6 th November 2025			9:30am
Thursday 13 th November 2025			9:30am
Thursday 4 th December 2025			9:30am

Please book via the office:

01634 669700

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk



Apply for a school place
for September 2026
Medway Residents
<https://admissions.medway.gov.uk/Synergy/Admissions.aspx>

Now Open

Apply for a school place
for September 2026
Kent Residents

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>

Applications open
Friday 7 November

Year R Forest School

ST BENEDICT'S WOOD



Kent / TKAT Autumn Winter 2025 2026		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE						
27.10.2025	Option One	NEW BBQ Sausage Pasta with Garlic Bread	NEW Curried Chicken With Rice (Chicken Biryani)	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
17.11.2025	Option Two	Autumn Vegetable Lasagne With Garlic Bread	Veggie Burger in a Bun with Potato Wedges	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Potato & Courgette Layer Bake	Cheese and Bean Pasty with Chips and Tomato Sauce
08.12.2025	Vegetables	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Vegetable Medley	Carrots & Swede	Sweetcorn & Pepper Mix	Baked Beans & Peas
12.01.2026	Dessert	Cheese and Crackers	NEW Apple Crumb Cake with Custard	Fruit Medley	Syrup Sponge With Custard	Jelly With Mandarins
02.02.2026						
02.03.2026						
23.03.2026						
WEEK TWO						
03.11.2025	Option One	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza With Tomato Pasta	Spaghetti Bolognese	CHICKEN SHACK BBQ Chicken or Quorn with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
24.11.2025	Option Two	Mild Mexican Chili with Rice	Veggie Spaghetti Bolognese		Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice	Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce
15.12.2025	Vegetables	Sweetcorn & Peas	Carrots & Broccoli	Sweetcorn & Peas	Vegetable Medley	Baked Beans & Peas
19.01.2026	Dessert	NEW Gingerbread Cookie	Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Fruit Salad	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Vanilla Shortbread
09.02.2026						
09.03.2026						
30.03.2026						
WEEK THREE						
10.11.2025	Option One	Macaroni Cheese	NEW Chicken 50% Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
01.12.2025	Option Two	NEW Chef's Special Lentil Curry with Rice	Tomato Pasta	Veggie Sausage and Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice	Red Pepper Frittata with Chips & Tomato Sauce
05.01.2026	Vegetables	Peas & Green Beans	Vegetable Medley	Carrots & Cabbage	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Baked Beans & Peas
26.01.2026	Dessert	Oaty Cookie	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Fruit Salad	NEW Jamaican Ginger Cake with Custard	Cornflake Tart
23.02.2026						
16.03.2026						
MENU KEY		Added Plant Protein	Wholemeal	Vegan	Chef's Special	
Available Daily: - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings - Freshly Baked Bread- Daily salad selection - Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt						
		ALLERGY INFORMATION: 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. caterlink feeding the imagination				



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



12th October 2025

Parish Of St Simon Stock



28th Sunday of the Year C



Newsletter

Parish notices:

There is no 2nd collection this weekend. Next weekend it is for World Missions (Missio).

THE CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ALL NEXT WEEK FOR REDECORATION. THERE WILL BE NO SERVICES OR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. THE PARISH HALL AND PARISH OFFICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEETINGS AS NORMAL.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Our Christmas Fayre is on 22nd November 11am to 2pm. This is a major fundraising event for the parish. We would be very grateful for your donations of bottles for the bottle stall and also any unwanted gifts or toiletries.

The booklet in your newsletter this week identifies all areas in the parish that need improvement or replacement, the time scale in which this should happen, and the projected costs. These costs have to be met by monies received from the general collections and those for the Development Fund.

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

Primary schools

St Benedict's
St Thomas More

Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder

Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700

Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701