



It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to St Benedict's after our half-term break. I hope you all had a restful week and are ready for an exciting new half term.

Thank you to all parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday evening to discuss your child's progress and next steps. Your involvement and support make a huge difference.

We were pleased so many of you also attended the Online Safety Parent Briefing. We hope you found it informative and that you picked up some useful strategies for keeping our children safe online.

This week, our Eco Stewards did a fantastic job during their local litter pick, accompanied by Mrs Hunt, a school governor and a member of the Medway Environment Team. Mrs Hunt also led a whole-school assembly on recycling and launched Medway's 'Name the Bin' Competition. Good luck with your creative ideas —may the best bin-spirational name win!

Tomorrow is the Feast of All Saints, a special Holy Day of Obligation in our calendar. It's a time to remember all those who are already in heaven and to reflect on how we are all called to be saints. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, let us look to God and strive to make "masterpieces of our lives," inspired by the examples of the saints.

Have a blessed weekend.

Mrs. McAlpine



Sunday 2nd November 2025



Matthew 5: 1-12

'Blessed are people who make peace,
for they will be called children of God.'

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

Wednesday 12th November

9.10 am Year 3 Assembly

Friday 14th November

Nasal Flu Immunisation YR-Y6

Monday 1st December

2.30pm Advent Wreath Service

Tuesday 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

Value of the Week Next Week



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

School Term Dates Holiday Booking

**Schools are not permitted to authorise holidays
in school time.**

Please see the term dates below to help you
plan your holiday.

Christmas Break

Monday 22nd December to Monday 5th January

February Break

Monday 16th February to Monday 23rd February

Easter Break

Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April 2025

Late Spring Break

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2025

Summer Term Ends

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Future Inset Days

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

Class Assembly Dates

All assemblies will begin at 9:10am.

Year 4: Took place in October

Year 3: Wednesday 12th November

Year 5: Wednesday 28th January

Year 2: Thursday 12th February

Year 1: Wednesday 25th February

Year R: Thursday 12th March

Year 6: Monday 30th March

Key Assessment Dates

Key stage 2 tests (Year 6)

The statutory key stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026.

Multiplication tables check (Year 4)

Schools must administer the multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 1 June 2026 – Friday 12th June 2026.

Phonics screening check (Year 1)

Schools must administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 8 June 2026 – Friday 12th June 2026.

★ Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Learner: Reggie for beautiful blending and working hard to produce wonderful letter formation! We are so proud of you!

Superstar: Frederick for making wonderful progress with socializing and being a kind friend! Keep it up superstar!

Year 1

Learner: Frank for trying so hard with your phonics this week. Keep up the good work!

Superstar: Well done Karina for showing your independence by always being ready to get on with your work straightway and always giving your best.

Year 2

Learner – Rhyan has been working exceptionally hard to improve the presentation of his work, especially his handwriting.

Muna – Muna has shown excellent independence and resilience in her learning this week and I'm especially proud of her independent editing.

Year 3

Learner: Teni for always giving, 100% attention and focus to all of her learning! This week, I was particularly impressed with her descriptive writing about the Iron Man!

Superstar: Luca, for flourishing this week in his learning and demonstrating our school value of Independence especially with his writing in English.

Year 4

Learner: Honor you have shown super independence in maths this week when solving column addition and subtraction – well done!

Superstar: Well done Joshua for trying new things and being brave to step out of your comfort zone this week. We are proud of you!

Year 5

Learner: Bethany is our learner of the week for becoming more independent within her work, especially with her Maths where she has applied her times tables skills to find multiples and factors.

Superstar: Olly has been a superstar this week by being resilient with his work, especially in English where he used a range of punctuation to add parenthesis into his work.

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Caitlyn, who has been working really hard to become more independent in her learning - and it's paying off! This week, she got to grips with BODMAS in Maths through improved focus and determination. Super job, Caitlyn!

Superstar: George has been a shining example of team work this week. He was brilliant at supporting the younger members of the Eco Team by encouraging them and even swapping his own litter picker when theirs wasn't working. His helpfulness, positivity and leadership made him a true Superstar of the Week!

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week

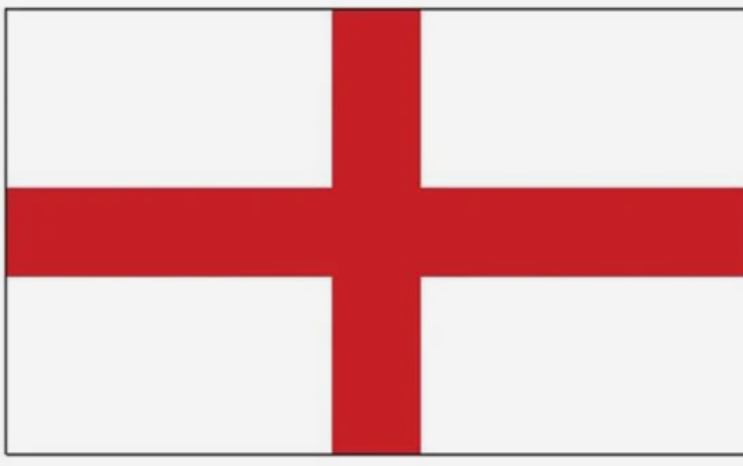


Everyone is special
Human Dignity

House Points

Congratulations to St. George's House who have collected the most house points so far this Autumn term (292).

Good luck to all our House Saints as we wait to see which House will be the overall winner in December!



Times Table Rockstars



Fastest	Frankie Y5
Highest	Francis Y4
Improved	Grace Y4
Star	Ella Y5

Attendance Winners for Last Week

1st	Year 4	99%
2nd	Year 3	99%
3rd	Year 5	98%



Poppy Appeal

Our Pupil Chaplains will be selling poppies and other remembrance items next week to the children in school and parents on the playground.

If your child would like to purchase a stick-on poppy or any other items, please send some money in a clearly labelled envelope for them to put into the collection box.

Suggested amount for snap bands and bracelets is £1. There is limited stock.



Secondary School Applications

The Secondary School Admission portal closes at 5pm tonight for parents of children in Year 6. Please ensure you have completed this.

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

Unwanted clothing collection

Thank you to all those who cleared out their unwanted clothes over half term and donated them to The Little Recyclers. This raised a whopping £220.30! Well done to Year 3 who donated 30 bags. Their prize is an extra play session next week.

Thank you to the SBA for organising this.



Eco Stewards



We thank Mrs Hunt, one of our governors, who also works for Medway Council Environment Team, for coming into school to take the Eco Stewards out on a litter pick. She talked to the school about the environment in an assembly on Tuesday.





KCSP'S 'DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD' COMPETITION 2025

Following the wonderful response that we have had in previous years, KCSP's "Design a Christmas Card" competition is once again returning for 2025.

This competition is, as always, open to **all** pupils, and there are just a few basic rules/guidelines for entries:

- Card designs can be hand-drawn or created using computer design
- Card designs must be no larger than A4 in size
- Card designs must be flat (3D designs and pop-up designs are wonderful, but cannot be reproduced by our printers unfortunately)



The winning designs will be used on the Trust's 2025 Christmas cards, and the winners will each receive a copy of their printed card together with a £20 book voucher

Closing date for entries: Thursday 6th November



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	2025	9:30am
Friday	FULL	2025	2:15pm
Thursday		16 th October 2025	9:30am
Thursday		6 th November 2025	9:30am
Thursday	FULL		9:30am
Thursday	FULL		9:30am
Monday		15 th December	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



ST BENEDICT'S WOOD

Year 1 Forest School





ST BENEDICT'S WOOD

Year R Forest School





NEW PLAYER RECRUITMENT

LORDSWOOD YOUTH FC

NEW U8'S TEAM **SEASON 2025-26**



TRAINING - STARTING SAT 1ST NOVEMBER



**LORDSWOOD YOUTH FC PLAYING FIELDS
NORTH DANE WAY, LORDSWOOD ME5 8YE**



CONTACT - RITCHIE 07595 512926



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



26th October 2025

Parish Of St Simon Stock



30th Sunday Year C



Newsletter

The 2nd collection this weekend is for the Development Fund.

Please give your **red missio boxes** to either Adrian or Catherine Hockney, before you enter the church. If you are unable to bring them please contact (Tel:01634 862877; or email: adrianhockney@btinternet.com) Adrian will arrange to collect them. Your boxes will be returned 1/2 November.

Margaret Subbiah has asked me to thank everyone for all their prayers over the last few months. She says "I am improving slowly and it is wonderful to be back home again. I hope you are all well. God Bless. Love Margaret."

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. Can we also ask for donations of luxury foodstuff items for our Christmas Hamper Raffle as we will be making up the hampers on 19th November ready for the Christmas Fayre when we will start selling raffle tickets.

HANDMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Mavis and Janet have been working very hard to produce our unique Christmas cards, and there will be a preview/sale this Monday 27th October 10.30am to 1pm. So come along and get those special cards for the special people in your lives.

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

Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700

St Thomas More

Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701