



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break and are ready for an exciting term ahead. It's always wonderful to see the children return with renewed energy and enthusiasm!

This week, our whole school community has been reflecting on how we can pray, give and act during this Lenten season, following in Jesus' footsteps. St. Michael's class led a beautiful liturgy for the whole school and their families. The children acted out the scripture of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness from Matthew's Gospel. They also shared their own Lenten promises. Year 1 are certainly planning to be busy helpers at home – we're looking forward to hearing about all the tidy rooms and made beds!

The Season of Lent



Thank you to all Year 1 parents who joined our Phonics Presentation. We hope you found it helpful and informative. If you'd like to revisit the information, please click here <https://www.st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk/children/class-pages/st-michaels-class> for the presentation slides and resources.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended Parents Evening on Wednesday. We hope you enjoyed looking through your child's books and discussing their progress and next steps. We are very appreciative of the time you spent writing lovely 'leaf' comments offering words of encouragement and support. The children have really enjoyed reading or listening to your messages before they're added to our 'Celebration Tree' in school.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to a fantastic term together.

Happy St. David's Day for Sunday!

Mrs McAlpine

Family Lenten Prayer

Open our hearts to your word, O Lord, that we may be renewed
Open our hands to receive and to give, that we may be replenished
Open our minds to the silence of Your presence, that we may be refreshed – Amen



Sunday 1st March 2026

2nd Sunday of Lent



Matthew 17: 1 - 9

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Prayer of the Month – February

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 4th March

Cross Country Event

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Children may dress up as a book character

Monday 9th March

Recorder/Ukulele Ensemble

Thursday 12th March

9.10 am Year R Assembly

KS1/KS2 Music Festival

Friday 13th March

Mother's Day Shop

SBA Race Night

Monday 16th March

Football Match Home V Byron Primary School

Thursday 26th March

Family Lenten Meditation

Saturday 28th March

Easter Fayre

Monday 30th March

9.10am Year 6 Stations of the Cross

Family Lenten Meditation

Tuesday 31st March

*Family Lenten Meditation

Wednesday 1st April

Gifts from God Achievement Assembly
(for invited parents)

2pm Passion Play

6 pm Passion Play

Thursday 2nd April

9.10am -10.10am Pre-schooler Craft and Play

2pm School Finishes

3rd April-17th April

Easter Break

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.

Easter Break

Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April

Late Spring Break

Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

Summer Term Ends

Tuesday 22nd July

Future Inset Days

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 29th June 2026



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.

Family Lenten Meditation



Thursday 26th March

Monday 30th March

*Tuesday 31st March (Not 1st April as in Lenten Newsletter)

Please book via the ParentMail form.

Superstars and Learners of the Week

Year R

Learner: Lawrence for remembering his sounds and writing some of his sounds independently. Well-done!

Superstar: Henry for fabulous formation of his letters and being kind and caring to a friend when they were feeling sad. A super week, Henry!

Year 1

Learner: Myla- Well done Myla for being so confident introducing our Assembly this week. You made everyone so proud!

Superstar: Oceana- Thank you for being such a kind and compassionate member of St Michael's Class. You always look after us all so well.

Year 2

Learner: Roseanna has worked exceptionally hard this week learning her 10 times table.

Superstar: Luke O has showed compassion and kindness to his peers during break and lunch time. Thank you, Luke.

Year 3

Learner: Matthew-for fabulous Science work this week. He was giving great examples of push and pull forces!

Superstar: Ralph, for being a compassionate, kind boy who is always ready to show love and kindness to everyone.

Year 4

Learner: Well -done George for super work with fractions and mixed numbers this week. You were accurate and speedy in your responses.

Superstar: Neriah for showing such compassion and thoughtfulness when writing her Lenten promises.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Lily G for her excellent work on finding equivalent fractions and decimals this week. Keep up the focused work and confidence in Math! Well-done!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Anabel who consistently shows our value of compassion. She is a kind and considerate member of St. Clare's class who is always understanding of others and identifies where she can help.

Year 6

Learner: Our learner of the week is Euan, for writing a brilliant adventure story filled with humour and excitement. Euan skilfully conveyed character through dialogue, bringing the story to life for the reader. A fantastic piece of creative writing — well done!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Isabelle for consistently showing compassion through her actions and living out Jesus' call to love our neighbour and put others before ourself. You truly embody what it means to be a disciple of God, demonstrating kindness, selflessness and faith in all that you do. A wonderful example to us all!

Year 1 Assembly

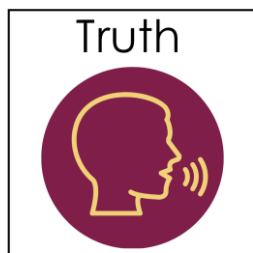


**Catholic Social
Teaching Principle**



Putting people most in need first
**Preferential Option
for the Poor**

**Value of the week
Next week**



We always tell the truth.

Uniform

A reminder to parents:

**Children should be
wearing shoes not boots
or trainers.**

Thank you for supporting
our high standards.

**Attendance Winners before Half
Term Week**

1st

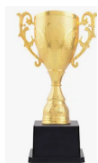
Year 6 99.69%

2nd

Year 2 99.2%

3rd

Year 4 97.8%



Times Table Rock Stars

Fastest Rocco Year 5

Highest Rocco Year 5

Most Improved Daniel Year 5

Star Aiva-Rose Year 5

18th out of 57 schools in a five-mile radius



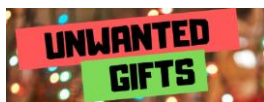
**Donate Your Unwanted
Christmas Presents
or Gift Bags**

Do you have unwanted
Christmas presents?

If there are items that are going
to sit in drawers or cupboards,
then why hang on to them?
By supporting our fundraising,
you can pass on your unwanted
items guilt free; win-win!

Please donate and recycle:

- Sealed unwanted
Christmas presents
- Gift bags



Empty Ink Cartridges

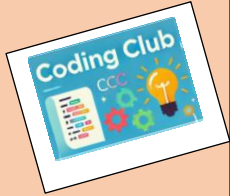
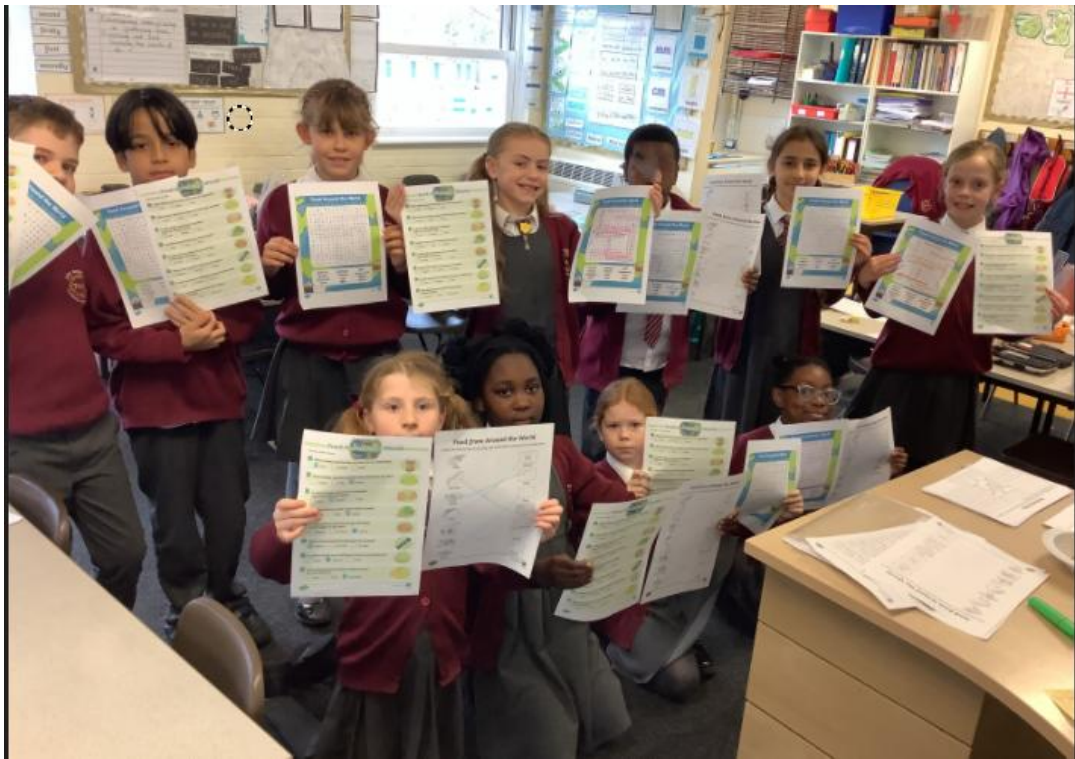
Please bring in any used ink cartridges from your home
printer for recycling for a local charity, the Q- ship
Society.

There is a collection box at the reception desk.

Thank you.

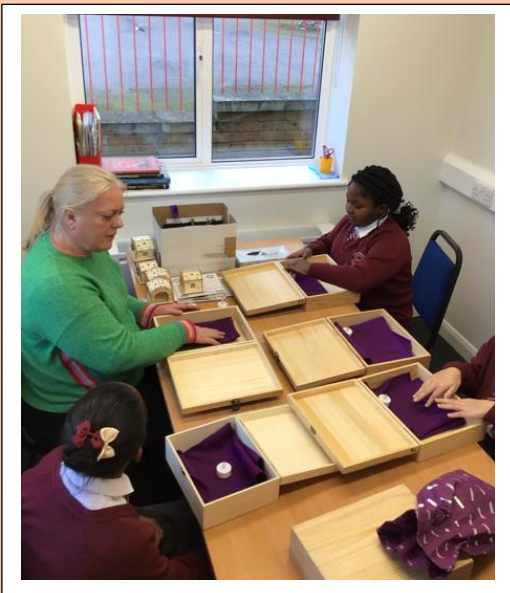


Lunchtime Clubs



In Geography club, we listened to cultural music and watched a video about what children have for school dinners around the world!

We completed a word search, a quiz and matched food from around the world to their flags.



Minnie Vinnies counted out the Lenten books and filled the prayer boxes.





Please sponsor St. Francis Class' Big Lent Walk!

This Lent, we're walking 200km over 40 days in solidarity with those who walk miles each day just to access safe water.

Your sponsorship will help bring clean, safe water to communities around the world. This Lenten challenge is really important to us and your support would mean so much.

Will you support our walk?

Thank you!

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-francis-class-big-lent-walk>



Showing we care
Solidarity

Kids Online Safety

New kids online safety website launched as part of government campaign

A new government website was launched on 16 February 2026 to support families and encourage regular conversations about what they're seeing online, asking simple questions, like "who shared this" and "why?". Based on parents' main concerns and needs, it provides:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

This also contains signposting to trusted resources from charities and third parties, where parents can access other forms of support (like speaking to an expert). The website will continue to grow and be developed this year

[Kids online safety](#) with parents.



Did you know?

You might not think your child has seen any worrying online content, but remember, you won't know until you ask.

Wraparound Care

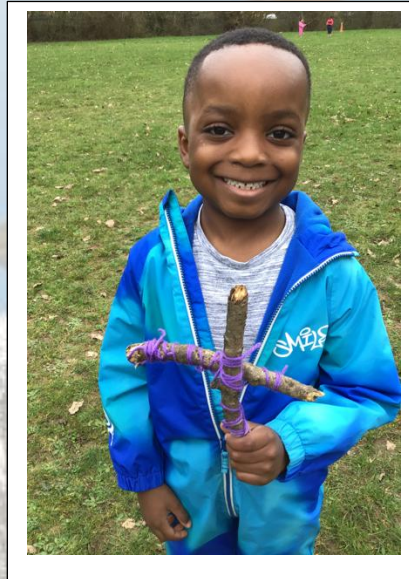
Are you looking for before and after school childcare that works for you?

Monday – Friday
Opens at 7:30am
Closes at 5:30pm

To book, please contact the school office (01634 669700 or office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk)



Year 1 Forest School



Year 1 have been lashing crosses for classroom focal points to support our Catholic Social Teaching: Promoting Peace.

Year 2 Forest School

Dear Lord,

We hope our crosses remind children that Jesus sacrificed himself and died to save us from our sins. We must forgive others like Jesus forgave those who crucified him. Amen

Jack, Zakai and Tobi.



★ RACE NIGHT ★

ADULTS ONLY

IN AID OF
ST BENEDICTS ASSOCIATION



FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

Doors open 7pm - Bar closes 10pm

Races 7.30pm - 10.30

St Benedict's School Lambourn way MK5 8PU

Tickets on sale now VIA PTA events page or



via the qr code

£5 per person in advance only

**We have our own licensed bar but please feel free to bring your own
snacks for your table!**

TICKETS

FREE library events for World Book Day

Visit www.medway.gov.uk/libraries or call 01634 337799 for more information



Sat 28 Feb - 10am-2pm	Chatham Library Dock Road, ME4 4TX	World Book Day Festival Launch With animal handling zoo, Sam Gayton creative writing workshop, face painters, and crafts
Thu 5 March - 10.30am-11am	Chatham Library Dock Road, ME4 4TX	Dress up as your favourite book character and listen to a story
Thu 5 March - 10.30am-11.30am	Gillingham Library High Street, ME7 1BG	Create a version of your favourite character with a messy artwork
Thu 5 March - 9.30am-10.30am	Lordswood Library Kestrel Road, ME5 8TH	Pop in and Play dress up and story
Thu 5 March - 3.30pm-4.30pm	Lordswood Library Kestrel Road, ME5 8TH	World Book Day themed craft
Thu 5 March - 10.30am-11am	Twydall Library Twydall Green, ME8 6JY	World Book Day dress up for Toddler Shake and Boogie
Thu 5 March - 3.30pm-4.30pm	Luton Library Nelson Terrace, ME5 7LA	World Book Day story and craft
Thu 5 March - 3.30pm-5pm	Wigmore Library Fairview Avenue, ME8 0PX	Make a bookmark for World Book Day
Fri 6 March - 10.30am-11am	Strood Library High Street, ME2 4TJ	Dress up for Toddler Shake and Boogie
Fri 6 March - 3.30pm-4.30pm	Hoo Library Church Street, ME3 9AL	World Book Day bingo - Scan code to book - 
Fri 6 March - 2pm-3pm	Walderslade Hook Meadow Library King George Road, ME5 0TZ	Elmer story and collage making
Fri 6 March - 3.45pm-4.15pm	Rainham Library Birling Avenue, ME8 7LR	World Book Day bookmark craft Scan code to book - 
Fri 6 March - 3pm-4pm	Hempstead Library Hempstead Road, ME7 3QG	Dress up as your favourite book character, with colouring and a group jigsaw
Sat 7 March - 10.30am-11.30am	Grain Library Chapel Road, ME3 0BZ	World Book Day fun and craft
Sat 7 March - 10.30am-12pm	Walderslade Village Library Walderslade Road, ME5 9LR	Elmer trail and collage making
Sat 7 March - 10.30am-3pm	Rochester Library Eastgate, ME1 1EW	World Book Day themed craft
Sat 7 March - 11am-12pm	Luton Library Nelson Road, ME5 7LA	Come along and meet children's book author and illustrator Zehra Hicks for a reading and drawing activity Scan code to book - 
Sat 14 March - 10.30am-11.30am	Rochester Library Eastgate, ME1 1EW	World Book Day Festival Finale Choose Your Own Adventure event with live illustrations by award-winning children's book illustrator Garry Parsons Scan code to book - 

SBA News

Want to be in with a chance to win £100 cash for free???

Download the easyfundraising app and sign up to our cause.

If just 50 new supporters join our cause this February our charity will receive £250!

To claim your free raffle ticket, download the app and come to the SBA table at parents evening to pick up your ticket.

We currently have 17 active members who have raised £99.54 this quarter at no cost to them.

Together we can make a difference. Invite your friends and families to join our cause too.

Get the app now and choose to support St Benedict's Association, Chatham once installed:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?causeId=&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=pta-bonus-feb26-fb1



Parish News



Children's Easter Craft
Mornings
 Saturday 14th & 21st March
 10am - Noon
 £2.50 per child

Refreshments included

Contact parish office on 862910 to register

Tea/coffee for parents



Parish Of St Simon Stock



22nd February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent A

Welcome to Lent. Ash Wednesday brought us face to face with the transience of things and our own mortality. We started Lent humbly, close to the ground, close to our earthiness. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." But the ashes are not just to commemorate the transience of creation. Our ultimate destiny is not dust and ashes but sharing in the Lord's risen life, becoming conformed to the image of Christ. As we journey towards that destiny, we hear the call to grow fully into the image of God's Son, which is a call to turn away from sin, to repent. The ashes are a sign of our desire to do just that. While Lent speaks of self-denial it also recalls the waters of Baptism. It trains us like athletes, to throw off the sluggish and heavy drag of gloom and pessimism, to turn aside from false values, so that our best self may emerge. This reminds us of the words of Pope Francis: 'Life grows by being given away...'. In fact, all the synoptic gospels are very clear who was behind Jesus' journey into the wilderness. It was the Holy Spirit who prompted him, who inspired and impelled him to go there. St. Matthew says it was the Spirit who led Jesus out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Let's pray that during this Lent we'll be driven people, people driven by the Spirit. That He may be the driving force of all that we do: a greater love of God (prayer), a more generous love of neighbour (almsgiving) and a truer love of ourselves (fasting). **Fr Joseph Donkor**

Part-Time Parish Cleaner for the Presbytery. Applicant must have previous professional cleaning experience and current permission to work in the UK and must also provide a current reference. **Hours:** 4 hours per week (on one day) This will be a 12 mth fixed term contract. **Pay:** £13 - £14 per hour, depending on experience.

Interested? Job description can be obtained from Parish Office. CV and covering letter to be handed into Parish Office. **All applications must be in by 8th March.**

Supporting Medway Foodbank in 2025

During 2025 our Parish donated 1,364.1kg of food and everyday essentials to Medway Foodbank. A wonderful achievement! This enables them to continue the important work of providing three days of emergency food to individuals and families who find themselves in a time of crisis. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity towards others throughout the year.

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