



As we welcome you back, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful gifts, kind words and thoughtful messages in cards that you shared with us at the end of the last academic year. Your generosity and support mean so much to us, and we truly appreciate the care, encouragement and partnership you show to our school.

It was wonderful to see our school family back together again on Wednesday – we have truly missed our St. Benedict's children! We were delighted to welcome back so many familiar faces, as well as some new members of our school community, all ready to embark on another exciting year of learning, friendship and growth. Everyone looked incredibly smart and ready for the year ahead!

This week, during our Celebration of the Word, we discussed the qualities of good leaders and explored what makes Jesus our perfect leader. The children reflected thoughtfully on how they can trust and follow Jesus throughout the year ahead.

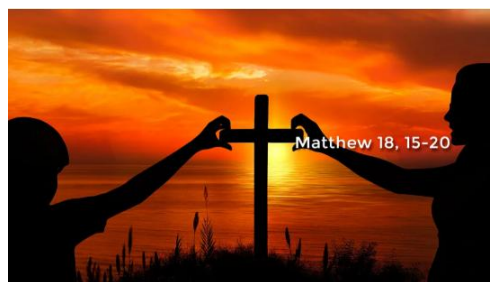
This reflection continued into our class activities, where children in each year group were invited to put themselves forward for leadership roles within our school. Classes have been voting for this year's Pupil Leadership Team, and we look forward to announcing the successful candidates very soon!

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support as we begin another exciting academic year together. We are looking forward to all that the year ahead will bring.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Have a blessed weekend,
Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 6th September 2026



Matthew 18: 15 - 20

*'For where two or three are
gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.'*

Prayer for the Month September



For the care of water

*Let us pray for a just and
sustainable management of
water, a vital resource, so
that everyone may have
equal access to it.*

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 8th September
2pm Beginning of the Year Mass

Tuesday 15th September
Medway Test

Wednesday 16th September
Medway Test

Monday 21st September
School Individual Photos

Tuesday 29th September
KCSP Trust Mass (Year 4)

Thursday 1st October
Year 3 School Trip

Thursday 15th October
Year R and Year 6 Height and
Weight Check.

Friday 23rd October
INSET DAY
(No children attend school on this day)

Meet the Teacher Sessions

Parents of children in Years R - 6 can informally meet with their child's new teacher after school at 3:30pm on the following evenings:

Date	Year Group
Monday 14 th September	Y4
Tuesday 15 th September	Y6
Wednesday 16 th September	Y3
Thursday 17 th September	Y1
Monday 21 st September	Y2
Tuesday 22 nd September	Y5
Thursday 24 th September	YR

Each session will last approximately 20 minutes and will cover curriculum and class information.

The sessions will take place in the classroom and we would prefer only adults to attend please.



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:

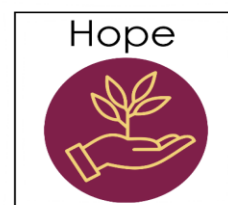
Lisa Brett



**Worried about something you
have seen or heard?
Not sure what to do?**

Please come and talk to us.

Value of the Week



We are determined to
always try our best.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

Principle of the Week



Taking part
Participation

Welcome to St. Benedict's

We welcome all the children and their families who started at St. Benedict's this week:

Jake, Deborah, Light, Louie, Bella, Ezra, Jireh, Delilah, Emily, Moyin, Hope, Henry, Mason, Lucas, George, Serenity, Olivia, Tiwaloluwa, Sofia-Elena, Heavenly, Finley, Arthur, Everly, Darasimi, Martha, Bonnie, Dax, Lavinia, Arthur, Olly and Jarren.

Term Dates

Please see a list of term dates at the end of this newsletter.

Please do not book holidays during term time.

Uniform

Full school uniform including smart school shoes (not trainers) must be worn.

All uniform must be clearly named.

No jewellery is allowed for health and safety reasons. This includes earrings.

No nail varnish.

All hair that can be tied back, should be tied back. Fancy bands, large or numerous bows, clips or beads should not be worn. Small hair accessories should match school colours.

Gel should not be worn.

No hair dye or indentations.

Hair extensions should match the child's hair colour exactly.

Please ensure your child brings a coat to school.

Thank you for your support.

Summer Reading Challenge Finishes Saturday 5th September

If your child would like to finish their Reading Challenge, they have until the end of the day on **Saturday 12th September** to pop into a library to collect their prizes.

Prizes include stickers, bookmarks, badges, a certificate and a medal.

You can find the location and opening times of your nearest library [here](#).

If your child took part in this year's challenge, please can they bring in their certificate and medal to school on Monday 14th September.



We no longer use ParentMail.

All parents should now have signed up to Arbor and downloaded the Parent App.

If you have not seen any welcome e-mails from Arbor, please check your 'junk' or 'spam' emails and allow them, or you may miss important information regarding your child/ren. Please use the link below for a first time log on.

<https://st-benedicts-catholic-primary-school-149979.uk.arbor.education/?/home-ui/index>

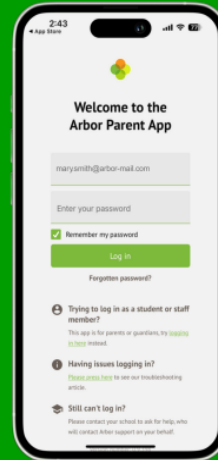
If you have a child in a secondary school that also uses Arbor, you will need to create a new password for the child at St. Benedict's School and log in with a different password for each child.

You must order your children's lunches before 8am on Monday mornings for the week.

We're using the Arbor Parent App!



See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in



Mary, Our Lady's Birthday – 8th September

On Tuesday, we celebrate Mary's birthday.

We would be very grateful for donations of flowers from your garden to decorate class prayer tables.

Thank you in advance.



Kent
Catholic
Schools'
Partnership



'Academies in Christ'
Part of the Archdiocese of Southwark

ATTEND AND ACHIEVE

School isn't just a place
to be – it's where you learn
most, grow in confidence,
build friendships and
create your future.



Thrive under 5



Students who have **fewer** than 5 days
off per year, statistically **thrive** within education.



BETTER PROGRESS

Excellent attendance
leads to stronger
learning and higher
achievement.



CONFIDENCE GROWS

Being in school
regularly builds
confidence and
resilience.



STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Attend, belong,
and build positive
relationships.



MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Good attendance
opens doors to more
choices and brighter
futures.



Every lesson counts.
Every day shapes your future.
Thrive under 5. Be here. Succeed.



St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School



Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith.

2026/2027



School Tours for September 2027

for children born between 1st September
2022 and 31st August 2023.

Parents of children of all faiths are invited
to visit the school for a tour with our
headteacher, Mrs McAlpine.

Dates and Times of Tours:

Thursday 1st October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 15 th October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 22nd October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 5 th November 2026	9:30am
Thursday 12 th November 2026	9:30am
Thursday 26 th November 2026	1:15pm

Please book via the office:

01634 669700

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk



Forest School Year 2



Important - Booking School Dinners

Please see below for a reminder of the menu.

Please order before 8 am and order for the whole week. If your child pays for meals, you must have enough funds topped up to pay for the meals you are ordering as the system will only let you order up to the funds on the account.

Children in Year R only need to order lunch for Thursday and Friday next week as they will be leaving at 12pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

KENT & TKAT SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026					
caterlink feeding the imagination					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Option One	Macaroni Cheese	Phat Pasty Pork Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Spaghetti Bolognese	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
Dessert	NEW Banana Mousse	Orange Drizzle Cake	Fruit Platter	Apple Flapjack	Strawberry Jelly with Mandarins
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
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
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 Halpot	NEW Cheesy Broccoli Frittata with Chips
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				
WEEK ONE	20.04.26 11.05.26 08.06.26 29.06.26 20.07.26 14.09.26 05.10.26				
WEEK TWO	27.04.26 18.05.26 15.06.26 06.07.26 31.08.26 21.09.26 12.10.26				
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				

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.

Term Dates September 2026 to July 2027

Term 1

Tuesday 1st September 2026 INSET DAY (Children do not attend school).

Start: Wednesday 2nd September

Finish: Thursday 22nd October 2026

Friday 23rd October INSET DAY

Autumn break: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026

Term 2

Start: Monday 2 November 2026

Finish: Friday 18 December 2026

Christmas break: Monday 21 December 2026 to Friday 1 January 2027

Term 3

Monday 4 January 2027 INSET DAY

Start: Tuesday 5th January

Finish: Friday 12 February 2027

February break: Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027

Term 4

Monday 22 February 2027 INSET DAY

Start: Monday 23rd February

Finish: Thursday 25 March 2027

Good Friday: 26 March 2027

Easter Monday: 29 March 2027

Easter break: Tuesday 30 March 2027 to Friday 9 April 2027

Term 5

Start: Monday 12 April 2027

Finish: Friday 28 May 2027

Early May bank holiday: Monday 3 May 2027

Spring bank holiday: Monday 31 May 2027

Late spring break: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027

Term 6

Start: Monday 7 June 2027

Monday 21st June 2027 INSET DAY

Finish: Wednesday 21 July 2027

Parish News



Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme Mass of Commitment

12th or 13th September

Children and parents must attend one of the Masses of Commitment at either 6pm (Saturday 12th), 9am or 11am on Sunday 13th September at St. Simon Stock Parish.



Parish Of St Simon Stock

23rd August 2026

21st Sunday Year A



This is the QR Code for First Collections for your convenience and flexibility. Please scan to donate. You can still donate using the gift aid envelopes or the contactless machines in the church lobby (please insert your card in this one) and the hall, or just by putting money in the offertory bag.

In today's Gospel, Peter answers Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" by confessing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Peter did not discover this truth simply through his own intelligence, reasoning, or moral achievement. His faith that we all share is ultimately a gift from God

We are pleased to welcome Bernie D'Souza as the new chair of the Parish Fundraising Social Committee, and thank Tanya Wilkins for her many years of hard work and dedication as she steps down as chairperson. Also, Arianna Pike is volunteering in the parish office on Tuesdays. Many thanks to all of them.

A list of important **Parish dates and events for 2026-2027** is available at the back of the church. **Please note that the Youth Mass in October is now on 4th at 11am.** Also, a questionnaire asking about your preferences in relation to social and fundraising events for the future will be issued at the beginning of September. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

Pilgrimage to Fatima, Mon 28th Sept – Thur 1st Oct Cost £419. This cost includes flights from Stansted, half board accommodation, and transfer from Lisbon airport to Fatima. Led by Fr. Stephen Boyle, trip will include visiting the homes of the seers, attending mass at the apparition chapel and the beautiful way of the cross. Only a few places left. Closing date: 13th Sept. contact Fr. Stephen dartford@rcaos.org.uk 07504518262 for more details. Single £100. Insurance is not included on the trip, and we ask that attendees are insured.

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