



This week, we have focused on our school value of 'Hope' as we step forward with renewed hope into all that lies ahead this year. A new school year is like a fresh page, waiting to be written. Together, we will fill those pages with faith, confidence and love, remembering that God walks alongside us in all that we do.

In Tuesday's Mass, we gave thanks to God for the blessing of a new school year. As our Mass fell on Our Lady's birthday, we also asked Mary for her guidance, showing us how to welcome God's call with trust and open hearts.

Father Michael reminded us that beginning again does not have to involve grand gestures. Sometimes, it is the smallest things that make the biggest difference: saying please and thank you, offering a kind word, taking the time to listen, saying sorry and forgiving others when they make a mistake. If we use these simple acts of kindness as our guide, we will certainly be 'Living Well Together', the theme of this year's Education Sunday.

We are so proud of how beautifully St. Joseph's Class have settled into life at St. Benedict's. They enjoyed their very first school lunch on Thursday, had a successful full day today and have now met their Year 4 Mentors, who made them an individual card with a special welcome message. Both classes are now very excited about their upcoming Teddy Bear's picnic!

We are thrilled to share some wonderful news with our school family. Miss Howell is expecting baby number two! We know that you will join us in celebrating this joyful news and wish Miss Howell and her family every happiness as they prepare for this exciting new arrival.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming you to our Meet the Teacher Curriculum Afternoons. These sessions offer a wonderful opportunity to visit your child's new classroom, learn more about the curriculum for the upcoming year, and find out about daily routines. Staff will meet you at the external classroom doors. Please see further on in the newsletter for the date for your child's class.

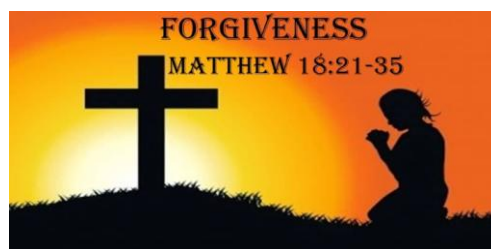
Next Tuesday and Wednesday, the office will be closed both mornings whilst the Medway Test takes place. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 13th September 2026

Education Sunday



Matthew 18: 21 - 35

'Forgive from your heart.'

**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 15th September

Medway Test

Wednesday 16th September

Medway Test

Monday 21st September

School Individual Photos

Friday 25th September

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Tuesday 29th September

KCSP Trust Mass (Year 4)

Thursday 1st October

Year 3 School Trip to Kent Life

Tuesday 13th October

2pm Harvest Mass

Thursday 15th October

Year R and Year 6 Height and Weight Check.

Friday 23rd October

INSET DAY (No children attend school on this day)

School Office Closed Next Tuesday

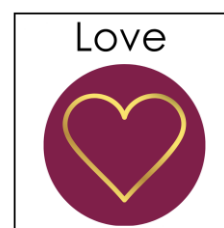
and Wednesday Morning

Please ensure that children bring everything they need with them to school on **Tuesday and Wednesday**, as we will be unable to accept any forgotten items after **9.10am** on these mornings.

The **school office will be closed** due to the Medway 11+ Test.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us to ensure that the testing can take place calmly and without disruption.

Value of the Week



We love one another and we look after our school.

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.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Thinking of everyone
The Common Good

Learners and Superstars of the Week

Year R

Learner: Moyin for wonderful creative play, making mermaid potions in the mud kitchen.

Superstar: Ezra, for settling in beautifully, following all class rules and being kind to all.

Year 1

Learner: Our learner of the week is Joe for trying really hard in all his learning this week. Well done Joe!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Henry, for being a super role model for St. Michael's Class. Keep it up, Henry!

Year 2

Learner: Well done Hezekiah, you have completed all of the work set this week to such a high standard. I have been particularly impressed by the fantastic language choices you have made in writing. You have returned to school with such a hardworking and determined attitude, and we are incredibly proud of you. Keep up the fantastic work.

Superstar: Well done Marley for coming back to school full of enthusiasm and positivity! You have settled in so well into Year 2 and have been working hard to do your best. Keep smiling Marley. We are very proud of you.

Year 3

Learner: I have been very impressed with Adira's RE this week and her reflective thoughtful responses. Keep it up!

Superstar: Tobi has settled really well into Year 3 and truly lives out our school values. He demonstrates excellent behaviour for learning and is a valued member of the class.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Isa for showing our Catholic Social Teaching principle of participation. Isa is always eager to join in, share his learning and support others.

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Lilly for starting Year 5 as a fantastic role model! She represents our value of hope by always being determined to do her best!

Year 4

Learner: Well done to Matthew with his maths learning this week. He has worked diligently and accurately with thousand numbers. Keep it up young man.

Superstar: Maryam, thank you so much for being so supportive and encouraging in our Year 4 team. You have made an excellent start and Mrs Read is very proud of you!

Year 6

Learner: Our learner of the week is Carson for showing superb work ethic and for his progress in our daily arithmetic challenges. Keep it up Carson!

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is awarded to Daniel for settling well into the routines of year 6 and for his fantastic behaviour for learning across the curriculum, especially in Maths, where his focus, determination and effort have really shone through. Great job, Daniel!



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



Please
speak to
us if you
have any
concerns

Payments in Arbor

Please ensure that you have paid for any outstanding music lessons and trip money.

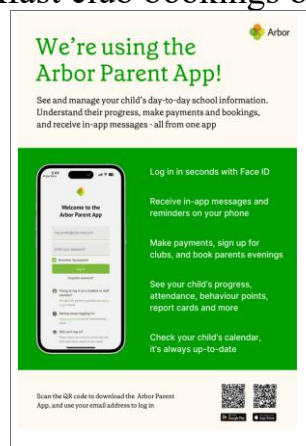
Sports

There are still some spaces for Y3 and Y4 football and dodgeball for KS2 children. Please contact Mrs Thexton if you want a space for your child.



Reminders

- You must order your children's school lunches, if required, before 8am on Monday mornings for the whole week, so the cook knows how much food to order.
- You must book the week's breakfast club bookings before 10pm Sunday night.



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.

St. Joseph's Mentors



Prayer for Mother Mary's birthday.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Mother Mary, whose birth brought light and hope to the world. As we celebrate her birthday, we honour her faith, humility and obedience to Your will. May her life inspire us to follow You more closely and through her intercession, may we grow in love, faith and grace. Lead us always to Jesus through her gentle guidance.

Amen.





Cycle to School Week 5th – 9th October

With the cost of the school run continuing to rise for many families — from fuel and parking to the time spent in traffic — cycling to school offers a simple, healthier and more affordable way to travel. It also helps children build confidence, independence and positive lifelong travel habits. We would like to invite all children to take part in Cycle to School Week 2026 by cycling or scooting to school.

Uniform

Full school uniform including smart school shoes (not trainers) must be worn without exception.

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 12th September

If your child would like to finish their 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.



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu i mmunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

Ken
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



KENT & TKAT SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MENU KEY:
WEEK ONE						
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	Whole grain
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	
WEEK TWO						
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	Plant based
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	Added plant protein
WEEK THREE						
Option One	Tomato Pasta	Beef Burger with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	NEW 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 Hotpot	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	Chef's Special

AVAILABLE DAILY: Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt

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

Please do not book
holidays during term time

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

6th September 2026

23rd 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.

Welcome to everyone from their holiday. New to the Parish? Welcome. 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.' Please, introduce yourself to the Clergy after Mass and fill out a registration form from the back of the Church.

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, for all ages and for all interest, there's something for everyone in the parish – pick a copy of the questionnaire about the parish asking about your preferences in relation to social and fundraising events for the future and complete it. This shall be returned within one week (or complete it online). You can also scan the QR code to access the online version (**see next page**). The chair of PPC, and the clergy will like to meet all groups, societies and committee Leads on Tuesday 22nd September at 6:30pm in the parish office. This is to discuss the welcome Mass for new parishioners in October 18.

All Adorers are invited to the Adoration Anniversary Mass on Tuesday, 8th September at 7 pm. Members of the parish are also invited. Come and see!! *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. 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
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