



This week, all staff across our Chatham Deanery schools came together to celebrate an early evening Mass at St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School. It was wonderful to gather as a community of Catholic schools, share in prayer and celebrate our faith and service. We would like to thank St. John Fisher for hosting us, as well as for providing the refreshments afterwards.

Today, is World Mental Health Day, giving us an opportunity to focus on looking after our minds as well as our bodies. Children and adults experience a range of emotions, and learning to recognise, understand and talk about our feelings can help us seek support when we need it. This week at school, the children have explored mindfulness, breathing exercises, positivity and kindness crafts, as well as learning how exercise can help us release energy and boost our mood.

There are also simple ways to support wellbeing at home. Regular sleep routines, active play, spending time together and a relaxed daily check-in can all help children feel happy, secure and supported. Please remind your child that they can always talk to a trusted adult if they have a worry or something is troubling them.

Thank you for all the generous Harvest donations we have received so far. Your kindness and generosity will make a real difference to those in our local community. Medway Foodbank will be collecting your contributions on Wednesday 14th October. If you would like to donate, please send items in with your child before this date. A donation box will also be available on the playground each morning.

Appointments for our Open Evening on Wednesday 21st October will be available to book from 6pm tonight. Please use Arbor to book your appointment slot. We kindly ask that children do not attend the evening.

We are looking forward to another busy and exciting week, with our Harvest Mass, EYFS café visit, the start of the Medway Cross Country Series and our Black History creativity sessions.

We also look forward to seeing you at the SBA's AGM Bingo Night, which begins at 5:45pm on Wednesday 14th October. We hope to see lots of you there for a fun evening together!

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 11th October 2026

28TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A



"Invite to the feast whomever you find."
(Matthew 22:9)

Prayer of the Month October

In October, we pray with Pope Leo for mental health ministry. Let us pray for people who are feeling very sad, anxious or lonely.



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 13th October

2pm Harvest Mass

(Seats bookable through the Arbor shop -
No payment required).

Wednesday 14th October

EYFS café visit

5:45pm SBA AGM Bingo Night
Medway Cross Country

Thursday 15th October

Year R and Year 6 Height and
Weight Check.

Wednesday 21st October

9:10 am Celebration of Achievement
(Invited parents only)
Parents/ Carers Evening

Friday 23rd October

INSET DAY (No children attend school on this day)

Half Term

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Friday 13th November

Flu immunisation YR – Y6

Friday 27th November

TAG Day (no uniform day)
(KS1 Chocolates/ KS2 Bottles)
2.30pm Rocksteady Concert (for those
invited)

Thursday 3rd December

Year 3 Rochester Cathedral

Friday 4th December

2.30pm Advent Wreath Service

Attendance Winners for Last Week

1 st	Year 3 -100%
2 nd	Year 5 - 98.8%
3 rd	Year 4 - 98.4%



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.

Value of the Week Next Week



We are kind and listen to others.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Being peacemakers
Promoting peace

Newsletters

Our Newsletters can be easily accessed on
the homepage of the school website.

Learners and Superstars of the Week

Year R

Learner: Bonnie for her wonderful attitude to learning and always helping others, including litter picking to help God's creatures.

Learner: Henry for his amazing enthusiasm in all of his learning and always being willing to share his knowledge to the class confidently – we are also slowly becoming experts on dinosaurs too!

Year 1

Learner: Henry for his superb independent writing in his diary entry this week. We were so proud of how you used your sounds and your word banks to write fantastic sentences. Well done!

Superstar: Ada for having such great integrity this week. She helped out around the classroom without being asked and was kind and compassionate to those around her. Thank you for all your help this week!

Year 2

Learner: Abigail, for planning, drafting and publishing a truly wonderful character description! You worked with such passion and your fantastic choice of vocabulary really brought your writing to life. It is clear to see how your love of reading is shining through in the quality of your own writing. You should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved. Well done, Abigail!

Superstar: Lucas, we are so proud of the independent learner you are becoming! You are always keen to get stuck into your work and are showing fantastic determination to do your very best. It has been wonderful to see the care and effort you are putting into your learning. Keep up the brilliant work!

Year 3

Learner: Zayne-for always offering up his excellent ideas and showing super behaviour for learning. Keep it up!

Superstar: Muna, for always demonstrating our school value of truth. She is a kind and honest girl and a pleasure to teach. Well done!

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Elisha for his excellent attitude towards learning. He tackles math problems with determination and resilience. Well done!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Elsie for always showing our value of truth. She is always honest and reflective of her work, asking for support when needed.

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Medeea for showing increased confidence in her learning this week. She has tackled long division with growing independence and written a fantastic diary entry in the role of Carrie, capturing her thoughts and feelings so effectively. Keep believing in yourself, Medeea — well done!

Superstar: Our Superstar of the Week is Myles for showing greater concentration this week. He has worked hard to stay focused, contributed brilliantly to class discussions and completed his work while giving his very best effort. Keep it up, Myles — great job!

Times Table Rockstars

Fastest	Rocco Y6
Highest Score	Audrielle Y5
Most Improved	Honor Y5
Star of the Week	Rocco Y6



Parents Evening Wednesday 21st October

Parent Evening appointments can be booked via the Arbor portal or app from 6 pm today.

If you have difficulty booking your appointment, please follow the instructions in the following link:

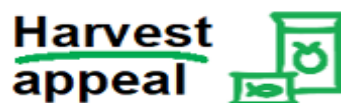
<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/203792102-Booking-Guardian-Consultations-Parent-s-Evenings-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-Parent-App>



Harvest Mass Donations

Please send in donations of the items below for our Harvest Mass. After the Mass, the food items will be donated to Medway Foodbank. A box will be available on the playground for your donations.

Thank you in advance.



Please donate an item or two from the list to help local people left without enough money to live on.

Harvest Shopping list 2026

- Long-life milk
- Pasta sauce
- Coffee
- Tea bags
- Instant mash
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned custard
- Tinned ham
- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned spaghetti
- Cup-a-Soup
- Pot Noodles/Packet noodles
- Jelly
- Angel Delight
- Savoury snacks

TOILETRIES & HOUSEHOLD:

- Shampoo
- Washing-up liquid
- Deodorant – male and female
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes

THANK YOU! for joining us to help stop UK hunger!

[medway.foodbank.org.uk](https://www.medway.foodbank.org.uk); 01634 757057

Registered Charity No: 1166505

Please book seats for the Harvest Mass in the Arbor shop.

Just enter the quantity required for the seats. No payment required.

School Uniform

A reminder that our School Uniform Policy clearly states no jewellery, including earrings, should be worn in school.

If a child has recently had their ears pierced and are unable to remove their earrings, they will not be permitted to take part in PE lessons for 6 weeks, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings. Children who are not able or permitted to take part in the physical element of lessons will be required to take on a coaching role, observation tasks or take part in theory-based activities.

Our policy follows national advice issued by the Association of Physical Education (AfPE). It is now felt that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'.

The most recent guidelines state: 'All jewellery should be removed prior to a physical education lesson due to the increased risk of it becoming caught or causing injury to the wearer or fellow learner. The wearing of any jewellery increases the risk of injury significantly.'

If you are considering piercing your child's ears, please do this at the start of the summer holiday so it does not impact their access to the curriculum.

Dear St Benedicts
Catholic Primary
School,

We wanted to take a moment to say a huge thank you for your incredible generosity and support of Second Step by Sneakers Prep. Thanks to the amazing donations from schools like yours, we have now collectively received over 600 pairs of school shoes and trainers. An incredible milestone that we simply couldn't have reached without your support.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

KS1 EYFS Black History Month Assembly

Dear God,

Thank you for Carter G. Woodson who started the first Black History Month.

Thank you for all the talented people in the world. Thank you for the wonderful music to listen to at lunchtime.

Amen.

By Year 2

Year 2 played African rhythms in Forest School, then participated in African dance and storytelling.











Arriving Late to School: Procedures and Expectations

To help every child make the best possible start to their school day, we are introducing a new Late Arrival Form for pupils arriving after 8:50am.

Any child arriving late must be accompanied to the school office by an adult, who will be asked to complete the form before the child is registered.

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for learning, and we thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring children arrive at school on time and ready to learn.



KCSP's
'Design a Christmas Card'
Primary schools' Competition 2026

KCSP need to find a fantastic Christmas card design!
Can you help us please?

Please enter our competition and send us your amazing
Christmas card ideas!

The winner will receive a printed copy of their card
and a £20 book token!

Closing date for entries:
Monday 09 November 2026

Christmas Card Design Competition

This competition is, as always, open to **all** pupils, and there are just a few 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)

#HelloYellow YOUNGMINDS

Our school took part in Hello Yellow today (World Mental Health Day) to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health. No young person should feel alone with their mental health and that's why Hello Yellow matters.



If you wish to donate, please use the link below:
<https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/event/hello-yellow/donate>

Most importantly, we want to share the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children. This includes:

- online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/)
- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/

Annual School Fund Donation

Help us make a difference
for our school!

Just
£20
per family

Your donation will go towards
important things like:



Resources
for our children



Improving
our facilities



Technology
and equipment



Enriching
school activities



Arbor

Please pay through the
Arbor shop.



Thank you for your support!



Year R Assault Course





Message from the Children's Commissioner

Have Your Say – Take Part in The Big Future Survey!

Do you think adults and politicians really listen to young people? The Children's Commissioner for England wants to hear directly from *you* about your life, your future, and the changes you want to see.

The Big Future is a national survey for children and young people aged 0–18 across England. It's your chance to share:

- what matters most to you,
- your hopes for the future,
- your biggest concerns,
- and what you think makes a good childhood today.

The results will help adults in government understand what children and young people really think and what needs to change.

Complete the survey here:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture



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



SBA AGM Bingo Night

The SBA's AGM will be held in the school hall on **Wednesday 14th October** from 5:45pm. There will be free Bingo, a free welcome drink and nibbles, alongside sharing all the successes from last year. We look forward to seeing you there!



We are inviting nominations for the SBA Committee for the 26/27 school year. Please complete this form by Monday 12th October 9am (please complete even if you do not wish to nominate for a role).

Thank you for getting involved and supporting our school community! We look forward to welcoming you at the AGM Bingo Evening on 14th October.



Fill | SBA COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS 26/27

Forest school Year R Last Week



Forest School Year 1



Forest School Year 2



Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock

4th October 2026

27th 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.

Jesus continues to challenge the leaders of Israel. Adopting the symbol of a vineyard for God's people, he accuses those who have been entrusted to care for it. This has many echoes of the vineyard in the First Reading. Having rebelled against God, they will be replaced. We too have been charged with producing the fruits of the kingdom; is this parable a warning to us as well? Our prayer is that our parish will continue to bear a harvest of faith, community and fellowship. If there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things.

The UCM are holding their Anniversary Mass on Sunday 11th October at 11am to celebrate 34 years as a Foundation in our Parish. We would be delighted if you could join us for the Mass and for a small reception in Emmaus Hall. We have the added pleasure of enrolling yet another new member. So please celebrate with us.'

Fr Joseph Donkor

PARISH HARVEST COLLECTION FOR MEDWAY FOODBANK 2026.

Next weekend Oct 10th/11th we will be having our annual Parish Harvest Collection. You can use the new Shopping List which is inside your newsletter, to donate items that are currently needed in our warehouse. Please put your donations in the red Medway Foodbank Collecting Boxes in the church foyer. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to help others in Medway who find themselves in a time of crisis.

Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Martin Smith.

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

St Simon Stock RC Church

Tel: 01634 862910 Mob: 07305 831925

KEY DATES & EVENTS 2026-2027

Archbishop's July 2026 Pastoral Letter states that focus on the youth is key, so the 1st Sunday of every month at 11am will be Youth Mass except in October

October 2026

- Sunday 11th October – Youth Mass (11am)
- Sunday 18th October – World Mission Sunday: Welcome Mass for New Parishioners (11am)
- Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall

November 2026

- Saturday 21st November – Christmas Fayre 11am – 3pm
- Saturday 28th Sunday 29th November – First Sunday of Advent

December 2026

- 14th – 19th December 7.30pm – 8.30pm Holy Family Week (NB): Weekly Masses at 10am except on Friday – 8pm; Wednesday Adoration 2pm to 10pm
- Monday 21st December – Advent Penitential Service & Confession 7.30pm
- Thursday 24th December – Children's Nativity Mass 6pm Midnight Mass 11am
- Friday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord Mass 9am, 11am
- Sunday 27th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph & Renewal of Marriage Vows at all Masses
- Thursday 31st December Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (10pm) & Vigil Mass (11pm)

January 2027

- Friday 1st January – New Year Mass 10am, 8pm
- Sunday 10th January – Epiphany Carol Carol Service 3pm
- Saturday 9th January – First Reconciliation Service 11am
- 11th – 17th January – Fr Joseph's Christmas Break

February 2027

- Wednesday 10th 06 February Ash Wednesday Mass (10am and 8pm), Adoration 2pm – 10pm)
- NB: During Lent, there will be stations of the Cross on Mondays after 10am Mass and on Fridays at 7.15pm.

March 2027

- Monday 1st – Saturday 6th March Mothers' Week (UCM facilitators)
- Sunday 7th March Penitential Service & Confession 7.30pm
- Holy Thursday 25th March – Mass of the Lord's Supper 10am
- Good Friday 25th March – Children Stations of the Cross (10am): Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm; Stations of the Cross 7pm (led by KSC)
- Saturday 27th March – Easter Vigil Service 8pm
- Sunday 28th March – Easter Sunday Mass 9am – 11am
- 29th March to 4th April Fr Joseph's Easter Break

May 2027

- 6th May Ascension of the Lord – 10am and 8pm Mass
- 7th – 15th May Pentecost Novena (Programme will be available nearer the date)
- 11th May – Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Mass at 11am
- 16th May Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Mass at 11am (Bishop Paul Hendrick to Preside)

Feast of St Simon Stock

- Saturday 22nd May – Vigil Mass 6pm
- Sunday 23rd May – Mass 10am followed by Parish Celebration until 3pm
- Friday 28th May – FHC (Group 1) Rehearsal & Reconciliation 5pm
- Saturday 29th May – FHC (Group 1) Mass Noon
- Sunday 30th May – Corpus Christi Mass

June 2027

- Friday 4th June – FHC (Group 2) Rehearsal & Reconciliation 5pm
- Saturday 5th June FHC Mass 12 Noon (Group 2)
- Sunday 13th June FHC Thanksgiving Mass 11am (Group 1 and 2 to attend)
- Monday 14th – Saturday 19th June Fathers Week (KSC facilitators)
- Sunday 20th June Father's Day Mass (11am)

August 2027

- Fr Joseph's Annual Leave

A welcoming community centred around Christ, seeking to help the people grow in faith, live in hope and love.



MedwayGo
FREE ACTIVITIES DURING
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

 MEDWAY PARK SPORTS CENTRE
MILL RD, GILLINGHAM ME7 1HF

Tuesday 27th Oct 2026

11:00 - 12:00: SEND Hour

12:00 - 14:00: Open to All

Inflatables - Multisport - Facepainting

Book using the QR code
go.medway.gov.uk/



Visit Kent Police Museum in Faversham and become a detective!

**FREE
entry**



Follow clues, explore real crime stories, discover fascinating police equipment, and enjoy interactive displays.

Learn how crimes were solved in the past and see unusual objects from more than 200 years of Kent Police history.

**Looking for something to do this
October half term?**

The museum will be open from **Tuesday 27 October to Saturday 31 October, 10am to 4pm**. For the latest opening times and visitor information, please check the museum website before you visit.



Bringing Our History to Life

 [kentpolicemuseum](https://www.facebook.com/kentpolicemuseum)
 [@kpolicemuseum](https://twitter.com/kpolicemuseum)

www.kent.police.uk/kent-museum
Email: museum@kent.police.uk
Telephone 01795 433028

**A BETTER
MEDWAY**
Easier ways to be healthy

ONLINE SURVEY



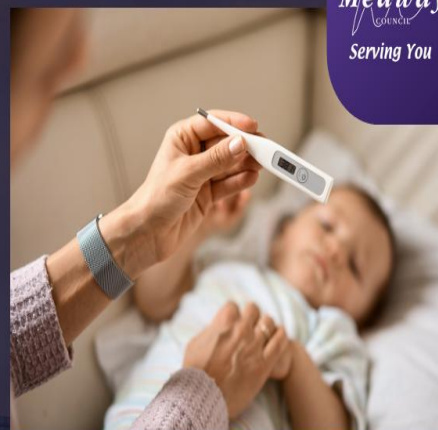
Understanding Sepsis in Children

Medway Public Health would like to understand what parents and carers know about sepsis in children and where they get their health information.

Your responses will help us improve information, support and awareness campaigns for families in Medway.

The survey should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

START SURVEY



Medway
Serving You

WIN

All participants have the option to be entered into a prize draw to win one of five £50 Amazon vouchers

