St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Newsletter No 10
Friday 13th November 2026

During the month of November, we take time to remember those we have loved and lost. Each morning, all families are invited to gather in front of Our Garden of Memories, where our prayers will focus on remembrance.

Together, we will pray:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.



Thank you to all our families who supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by purchasing poppies and other merchandise. On Remembrance Day, the children proudly wore their club uniforms (Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows and others) and participated in a two-minute silence and prayer service, honouring those who have served and sacrificed so much.

As you know, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors into our school family this week. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your kind messages, encouragement and for taking the time to complete the parent questionnaire. Having such a caring and supportive community behind us means the world to our whole team.

Above all, we were so proud of our children. They were a real credit to you and to the school, showing the inspectors how kind and caring they are towards one another and how enthusiastic they are about their learning. It was lovely to see their personalities shine through and their enjoyment of school was clear for all to see.

As soon as the official report is published, we will share a copy with you all.

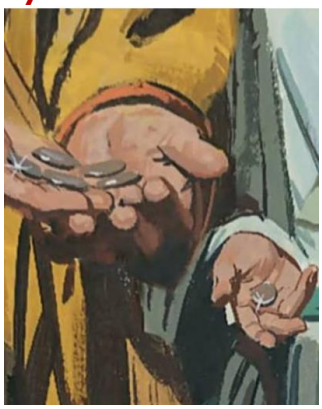
Monday 16th November marks the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week, and we will be celebrating with Odd Sock Day! This year's theme is *'Break the Silence'*. We invite all children to come to school wearing odd socks as a fun way to celebrate what makes us unique, embrace our individuality and show our support for standing up against bullying.

The children looked fantastic in their Pudsey gear today! Thank you for your continued support of this important cause.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 15th November 2026



"Well done, my good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Prayer of the Month – November

Let us pray **for the proper use of wealth.** That people use their money and blessings unselfishly to help the common good and support those who have less.



Contact Information
Email - office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk
Phone 01634 669700
Website: https://www.st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk/

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 16th November
Odd Sock Day

Monday 16th - Friday 20th November
Anti-Bullying Week
Maths Week England

Thursday 19th November
Used clothing collection

Wednesday 25th November
9.10 am Year 3 Assembly

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

Wednesday 9th December
10 am Infant Nativity
Cross Country Event
3:30pm Christmas Market

Thursday 10th December
2pm Infant Nativity
Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December
Grandparent's Tea Party

Tuesday 15th December
9 am Pre-school Advent Craft and Play
2.30pm EYFS Nativity

Wednesday 16th December
2pm Junior Carol Concert
6pm Junior Carol Concert

Thursday 17th December
Christmas Dinner
Christmas Parties

Friday 18th December
9am Gifts from God Assembly
(For those invited)
2pm School Finishes

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.

Key Assessment Dates

Key Stage 2 Tests (Year 6)
The statutory Key Stage 2 tests are timetabled from Monday 10th May 2027 to Thursday 13th May 2027

Multiplication Tables Check (Year 4)
Schools must administer the Multiplication Tables Check within the 2-week period from Monday 7th June 2027 – Friday 18th June 2027.

Phonics Screening Check (Year 1)
Schools must administer the Phonics Screening Check within the 1-week period from
Monday 14th June 2027 – Friday 18th June 2027.

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 21st December – Friday 1st January *
February Break
Monday 15th February- Friday 19th February*
Easter Break
Friday 26th March- Friday 9th April
Late Spring Break
Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June
Summer Term Ends
Wednesday 21st July

Future Inset Days
*Monday 4th January 2027
*Monday 22nd February 2027
Monday 21st June 2027

Learners and Superstars of the Week

Year R

Learner: Lavinia for excellent effort with blending and letter formation. We are proud of you!

Superstar: George- for showing wonderful confidence and enthusiasm during carpet time, sharing his knowledge beautifully.

Year 1

Learner: Our learner of the week is Gabby for showing great independence when completing her work and for always trying her very best.

Superstar: Our superstar is Joey for being very focused this week and sharing his wonderful ideas with the class.

Year 2

Learner: Marley, for showing fantastic independence and determination in your learning! You are working hard to complete your tasks and have even asked for extra challenges so you can keep practicing and improving your skills. What a brilliant attitude to learning! Keep up the fantastic work!

Superstar: Mia, for always showing such a cheerful and enthusiastic attitude towards your learning! You consistently work hard, give everything your very best effort and take such pride in your work. Your beautiful writing never fails to amaze me! What a wonderful attitude to learning. Keep shining!

Year 3

Learner: Amelia, for a fantastic piece of descriptive writing about the Iron Man.

Superstar: Luke O. for trying really hard to do the right thing and for showing kindness to everyone.

Year 4

Learner: Tommy for amazing maths work this week when learning about area.

Superstar: Teni for being so helpful, kind and thoughtful every single day. Thank you Teni.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Nancy who has made incredible progress with her number bonds in Maths. She has such a positive attitude towards her learning which should be celebrated.

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Francis for his consistent engagement within lessons and incredible work ethic. He has shown our value of independence this week by showing initiative in class.

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Lilah for the progress she has made in developing her mathematical understanding of adding and subtracting fractions. She has approached her learning with a positive attitude and shown increasing confidence when applying her knowledge to solve mathematical problems. Well done, Lilah – keep up the fantastic work!

Superstar: Our Superstar of the Week is Leontine for the wonderful way she represents our school and demonstrates our values. She has contributed confidently and maturely to pupil discussions, shown pride in her learning and conducted herself with kindness, respect and integrity. Well done, Leontine – you are a fantastic ambassador for our school!

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Everyone should have a say
Subsidiarity

Value of the Week Next Week



We learn from our mistakes and keep trying our best.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 4 - 99.4%

2nd Year 3 - 99.2%

3rd Year R - 98.6%



Grandparents Tea Party



Grandparents are invited to come into school for a Grandparents Tea Party on **Friday 11th December from 1:45pm**. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis until all tickets go. There will be a charge of £3 per person to help with the cost of refreshments.

Please purchase your grandparents place in the Arbor Shop.

Each class will pop in and sing a carol as entertainment. Children do not stay in the hall with their grandparent/s. Bookable by purchasing in the Arbor Shop from Friday **20th November from 6pm**

Times Table Rockstars

Fastest – Rocco Year 6
Highest- Audrielle Year 5
Most Improved – Elsie Year 5
Star – Zion Year 5

Anti-Bullying Week

2026 Theme: 'Break the Silence'.



Next week, assemblies and class discussions will focus on asking for help, listening and taking action together.

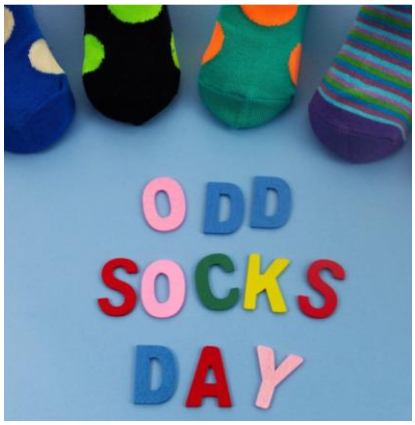


100% Attendance Term 1

Well done to the following children who have 100% attendance.

Zion	Year 1 St. Michael's
Frederick	Year 1 St. Michael's
Reggie	Year 1 St. Michael's
Ada	Year 1 St. Michael's
Gabriella	Year 1 St. Michael's
Divine	Year 1 St. Michael's
Henry	Year 1 St. Michael's
Olivia	Year 1 St. Michael's
Chloe	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
Sophia	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
Elizabeth	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
Aria	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
Oscar	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
Hezekiah	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
Kiara	Year 2 St. Bernadette's
William	Year 3 St. Simon's
Oluwatobi	Year 3 St. Simon's
Muna	Year 3 St. Simon's
Ethan	Year 3 St. Simon's
Rhyan	Year 3 St. Simon's
Amelia	Year 4 St. Therese
Stephanie	Year 4 St. Therese
Faith	Year 4 St. Therese
Callum	Year 4 St. Therese
Ashley	Year 4 St. Therese
Lucrece	Year 4 St. Therese
Joshua	Year 4 St. Therese
Cleo	Year 4 St. Therese
Janet	Year 5 St. Clare's
George	Year 5 St. Clare's
Amirah	Year 5 St. Clare's
Grace	Year 5 St. Clare's
Caris	Year 5 St. Clare's
John	Year 5 St. Clare's
Nancy	Year 5 St. Clare's
Noelle	Year 5 St. Clare's
Tise	Year 6 St. Francis
Medeea	Year 6 St. Francis
Jasmine	Year 6 St. Francis
Olly	Year 6 St. Francis
Leontine	Year 6 St. Francis
Lily	Year 6 St. Francis
Olusegun	Year 6 St. Francis
Oscar	Year 6 St. Francis
Yan	Year 6 St. Francis
Adam	Year 6 St. Francis

Odd Sock Day



As part of Anti-Bullying Week, a special day called 'Odd Socks Day' takes place.

Odd Socks Day is all about embracing and celebrating people's differences.

Enjoy being as creative as you like with your socks on **Monday 16th**!

Flu Immunisation

The Immunisation Service would like to invite parents to book an appointment at one of their community clinics if your child missed the flu vaccination during the recent school visit.

If you gave consent but your child was not immunised, you will have received an automated email with a link to book an appointment.

Alternatively, if you missed the opportunity to consent for your child to be vaccinated at the school session you can complete a consent form via our website at https://www.kentimmunisations.co.uk/ using the school code: KT149979 please contact the team directly on 0300 123 5205 option 1 for more information about community clinic availability & bookings.

If your child was vaccinated on their recent visit, you are invited to complete the following survey
Parent / Carer Survey

You can also visit the Immunisation Service website for further details: https://family.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms

Children in Need





Lunchtime Clubs











Geography Club

Geography has turned into dance club! The children have been selecting different cultural dances to follow. They had a lot of fun.

Mrs Franklin









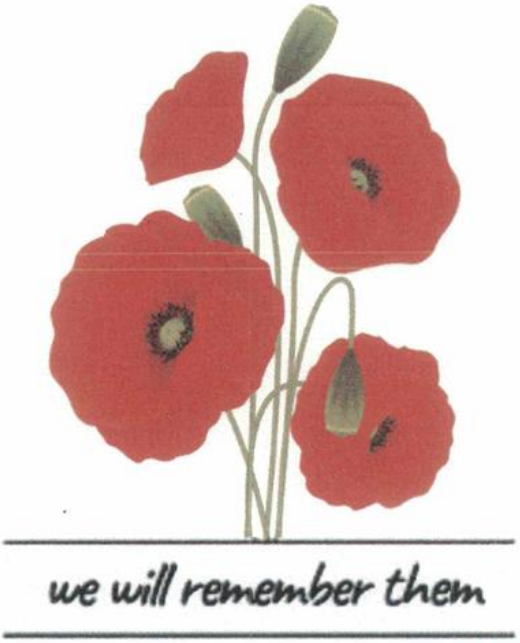
Rememberance Day 11.11.2026





Anabel

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ
we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and may you give them
eternal joy up in Heaven; pray for their
families and bless their souls; fulfil in them
~~and~~ the purpose of your love: I pray that the
soldiers who sacrificed their lives for their
country Rest in Peace and we forever keep
them in our hearts. Bring us all, with them,
to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.





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 15th October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 22nd October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 5th November 2026	9:30am
Friday 6th November 2026	9:30am
Thursday 26th November 2026	1:15pm

Please book via the office:
01634 669700
office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk

Kent Catholic Schools Partnership

Forest school Year 1















Forest School Year 2



















THE LITTLE RECYCLERS

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

More clothes - more funds for your organisation.
1 kg = £0.45

YOUR COLLECTION IS ARRANGED ON:

19 NOVEMBER
THURSDAY

FILL ANY BAGS WITH CLOTHING AND BRING THEM TO SCHOOL/ORGANISATION WE WILL COLLECT AND WEIGH THEM

✓ WE ACCEPT

- Good quality clean clothing (adult's, children's, baby)
- Shoes (paired)
- Bags
- Hats & scarves
- Belts
- Fashion accessories
- Swimwear, lingerie
- Jewellery
- Perfumes

✗ WE DON'T ACCEPT

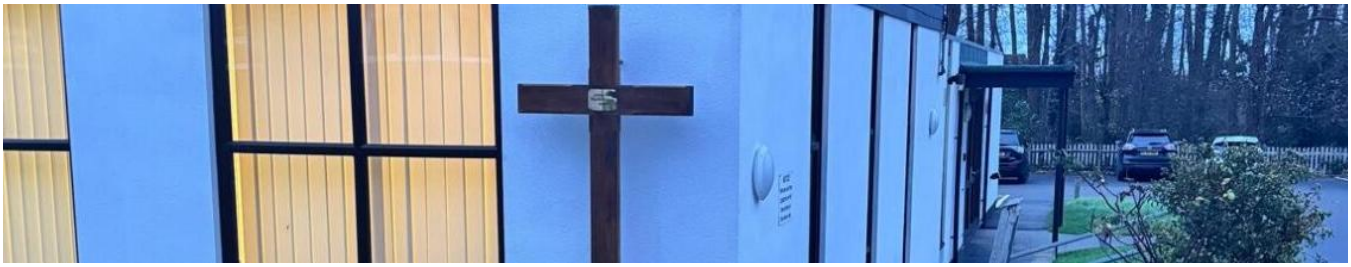
- Uniforms
- Dirty, wet, ripped, damaged clothing
- Traditional clothing
- Duvets & pillows
- Single shoes
- Toys, stationery
- Bric-a-brac & electrical items
- Books, CDs, DVDs
- Workwear
- Carpets, rugs, mats, curtains
- Hygiene items, diapers
- Linen & towels

PLEASE NO UNIFORMS & DUVETS!

RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR SCHOOL BY GIVING AWAY YOUR UNWANTED CLOTHES

hello@thelittlerecyclers.co.uk • 0330 043 0550 • thelittlerecyclers.co.uk

Parish News



COMMUNITY FUND

Parish Of St Simon Stock

8th November 2026



32nd Sunday Yr 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.

Please welcome Fr Michael who will be saying all the Masses this weekend.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 21ST NOVEMBER 2026

ONLY 2 WEEKS TO GO and we are DESPERATE for your donations of luxury food items for our Christmas Hampers, unwanted unopened gifts, bottles for the Bottle Tombola and good quality toys for the Toy Stall. We have had a few donations but NOT ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE. Please leave your donations in the box in the parish hall. We will also need volunteers to help on the day and a list is on the disabled toilet door for people to sign up. We also need cakes for the cake stall. SO PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DONATE NOW.

Archbishop's Appeal Second Collection Sat 7th / Sun 8th November

This funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2026. Every gift is welcome. Find out more, or donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal or:

- Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
- Cash / Cheque – use the Archbishop's Appeal envelopes at the back of church. Thank you for your generosity of heart.

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

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's 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 11a
- 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 & Reconciliat 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.



Children's Liturgy

"Let the little children come to me"

Who It's For

We welcome children from **Preschool through Key Stage 1** (Ages 3–7) to join us for engaging and accessible worship designed especially for them.

When & Where

- **Frequency:** Every other Sunday during term time
- **Time:** Begins at the start of Mass
- **Structure:** Children are invited forward at the beginning of Mass and return to their families during the Offertory, after showing Father their creations.

What We Do

We help young children discover the message of the Gospel in a warm, friendly, and nurturing environment:

- **Interactive Storytelling:** The Sunday Gospel brought to life at an accessible level for young minds.
- **Creative Activities & Crafts:** Hands-on projects and artwork to help reinforce the weekly message.
- **Play & Discussion:** Group activities and open conversations that nurture faith and friendship.

Special Christmas Nativity

At Christmas, the **6:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve** is our special Children's Mass, where the children perform the Nativity play for the whole parish!

Rehearsals: We rehearse throughout Advent at approximately **10:15 AM** on Sundays, finishing in time before the 11:00 AM Mass.

Good to Know

- **Safe & Supportive:** Led by experienced, background-checked volunteers with over 25 years of experience working in our Parish Schools.
- **Parents Welcome:** Parents of younger preschoolers are welcome to accompany their child until they feel comfortable.

Group Leaders

Leaders: Alex Wilson & Catherine Law

St Simon Stock Parish

Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, ME5 0NF

21st November 2026

Christmas Fayre

FREE ENTRY

11am—3pm

Some Great Stalls: Candles, Christmas Crafts and Decorations, Bottle Tombola, Toiletries/Gifts, Christmas Hamper raffle, Christmas Cards - boxed, named and religious, Toys and Lucky Dip, All-new Gifts for £1 or less, Christmas Earrings, Knitted Cardigans/Hats/Scarves for Kids/Adults, Home-made Cakes, Non-alcoholic Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

During the Fayre we will be treated to carol singing by the combined school choirs of St Thomas More and St Benedicts. And Father Christmas will be visiting!

CHILD-FRIENDLY MEDWAY CITY HALL

We want to hear from you! Children, young people, parents and carers welcome

Join us at Hollywood Bowl Rochester!



- **Special Q&A** with the Leader of Medway Council Cllr Vince Maple and Medway Council's Chief Executive Richard Hicks
- Followed by FREE bowling FUN!

We want to hear your ideas!

Help us shape Medway's future and what matters most to children and young people up to 11

HOLLYWOOD BOWL ROCHESTER

Thursday, 19 November

Where:
Hollywood Bowl Rochester, 9 Medway Valley Leisure Park, Chariot Way Rochester ME2 2SS

When:
4:45pm doors open
8pm event close

To book, please email:
childfriendly@medway.gov.uk

Please contact **childfriendly@medway.gov.uk** if you have any questions

medway.gov.uk/childfriendly
Child Friendly Medway

CHILD FRIENDLY MEDWAY

Medway Serving You