St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Newsletter No 11
Friday 20th November 2026

We began the week reflecting on Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew's Gospel. We explored how each of us is a unique gift, created in God's image and blessed with our own individual gifts and talents to share. We prayed that we might use these gifts to serve God, show love to others and make a positive difference in the world around us.

It was wonderful to see so many children wearing their odd socks on Monday to launch Anti-Bullying Week. Our Infant and Junior assemblies helped everyone to develop their understanding of what bullying is, the importance of speaking up and how to report any concerns. This year's theme, '*Break the Silence*', encourages us all to start conversations about bullying, speak up, listen to one another and take action together.

Our School Councillors have been taking these conversations back into their classrooms, gathering ideas and suggestions from their class to create this year's Pupil Anti-Bullying Charter. Once finalised, the Charter will be shared with our whole school family and incorporated into our Anti-Bullying Policy. It is wonderful to see our children playing such an active role in ensuring everyone feels safe and valued.

As part of Maths Week England, the children have enjoyed a range of creative and exciting opportunities inspired by this year's theme, '*Maths on the Move*'. All classes have been putting on their thinking caps to tackle a new puzzle each day, challenging themselves and one another to find clever solutions. From outdoor Maths activities to our Junior children showcasing their times tables skills in the national TTRS England Rocks competition, it has certainly been an exciting week of mathematical thinking!

I have been away for the last two days attending the Diocesan Headteacher Conference, which has provided many inspirational opportunities to reflect on how, as a diocese, we can continue to develop and move our schools forward. One particular thought from today's speakers really resonated with me and I wanted to share it with you: "If the only prayer you ever prayed was, 'Thank you', it would be enough." A beautiful reminder of the importance of gratitude and of recognising God's blessings in our everyday lives.

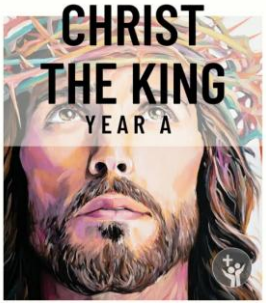
From next week, Mrs. Kerrigan will be away from school until January as she undergoes and recovers from an operation. I know you will join me in keeping Mrs. Kerrigan in your thoughts and prayers, wishing her a successful operation and a smooth recovery. In the meantime, Mrs. Thexton has very kindly agreed to increase her hours during this period. We are extremely grateful for Mrs. Thexton's flexibility and support. As we will be working with reduced staffing in the school office for a little while, I would ask for your understanding and patience if responses to emails, queries or concerns take a little longer than usual.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Parish Christmas Fayre tomorrow, from 11am to 3pm. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a parish and school community, enjoy some festive fun and begin our Advent preparations together. I hope to see you there!

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 22nd November 2026



"Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40)

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

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



Monday 4th January
INSET Day (No children to attend school)

Tuesday 5th January
Children return to school for Term 3

Thursday 7th January
Year 6 Trip to the Houses of Parliament

Friday 22nd January
Year 6 Young Voices

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: Mason, for super progress with his blending in his Read Write Inc assessment this week we are so proud of you!

Superstar: Sofia, for working hard all week and producing some fabulous independent writing in her letter for Santa - go Sofia!

Year 1

Learner: Reggie – for showing great resilience when completing your subtraction number sentences in maths.

Superstar: Chester – for trying your best, staying focused on your learning, and making good choices with your behaviour. Keep up the fantastic work!

Year 2

Learner: Myla-you have worked so hard to include all your wonderful ideas in your setting descriptions. Your determination to always try your hardest and produce your very best work is wonderful to see! Keep up the amazing effort, Myla! Well done!

Superstar: Reuben- I am so proud of how independently you are working Reuben! You are getting stuck into your learning, showing fantastic focus and putting in lots of effort. Your setting description sentences were absolutely brilliant! Keep up the amazing work! Well done, Reuben!

Year 3

Learner: Grace is a super learner who always comes to school ready and excited to learn. She approaches every lesson with enthusiasm, a positive attitude and a fantastic willingness to challenge herself. Well done!

Superstar: Parker showed fantastic resilience in English this week. He always tries his best-even when faced with tricky words or challenging tasks! He keeps going, embraces mistakes as learning opportunities and shows great determination – well done, Parker!

Year 4

Learner: Well done Olive you showed great resilience when applying the 3/6/9 times tables this week. I am very proud of your determination and progress.

Superstar: Faith G you work so hard each and every day in all you do. Thank you – you are a joy to teach.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Audrielle for her increased participation within lessons. She is keen to share her answers with the class.

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Jayson for consistently being engaged in lessons, being proactive in class and independent with his work. Thank you for being a wonderful year 5 role model!

Year 6

Learner: Our Learner of the Week is Myles in recognition of the fantastic progress he has made in Maths, particularly in Arithmetic. His recent outcomes have been excellent and are a reflection of the hard work, commitment and growing confidence he has demonstrated. Well done, Myles – keep up the brilliant work!

Superstar: Our Superstar of the Week is Lily G for demonstrating fantastic resilience and embracing the challenges she has been set. She has approached her learning with a positive attitude and been willing to push herself beyond her comfort zone. Super job, Lily!

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Everyone is special
Human Dignity

Value of the Week Next Week



We forgive others when they have made a mistake.

Attendance Winners Last Week

1st Year 3 100%

2nd Year R 99.6%

3rd Year 5 98.1%



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.**

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

Times Table Rockstars

Fastest – Frankie year 6
Highest- Rocco Year 6
Most Improved -Bonnie Year 5
Star – Isabella Year 6

Christmas Dinner 17th December

Please remember to pre order a **Hot Main** or **Hot Main Vegetarian** for your child for 17th December.

Although you will have the option to order jacket potatoes and school packed lunch, **these will not available on 17th December** so please do not order them. If your child does not want the Christmas dinner options, they will require a packed lunch from home.



100% Attendance Term 1

Well done to the following children who have achieved 100% attendance.
Apologies to any children who were missing from last week's list.

Zion
Frederick
Lawrence
Reggie
Ada
Gabriella
Eliora
Divine
Araoluwa
Chester
Henry
Olivia
Luna
Skylar
Rosie
Chloe
Lucas
Natasha
Jaren
Abigail
Nellie
Myla
Sophia
Reuben
Elizabeth
Rafferty
Aria
Tamilore
Chloe
Oscar
Tabitha
Hezekiah
Oceana
Kiara
Darcie
William
Oluwatobi
Henry
Jack
Zakai
Muna
Zayne
Ethan
La Rosa
Harry
Rhyan
Ali
Marco

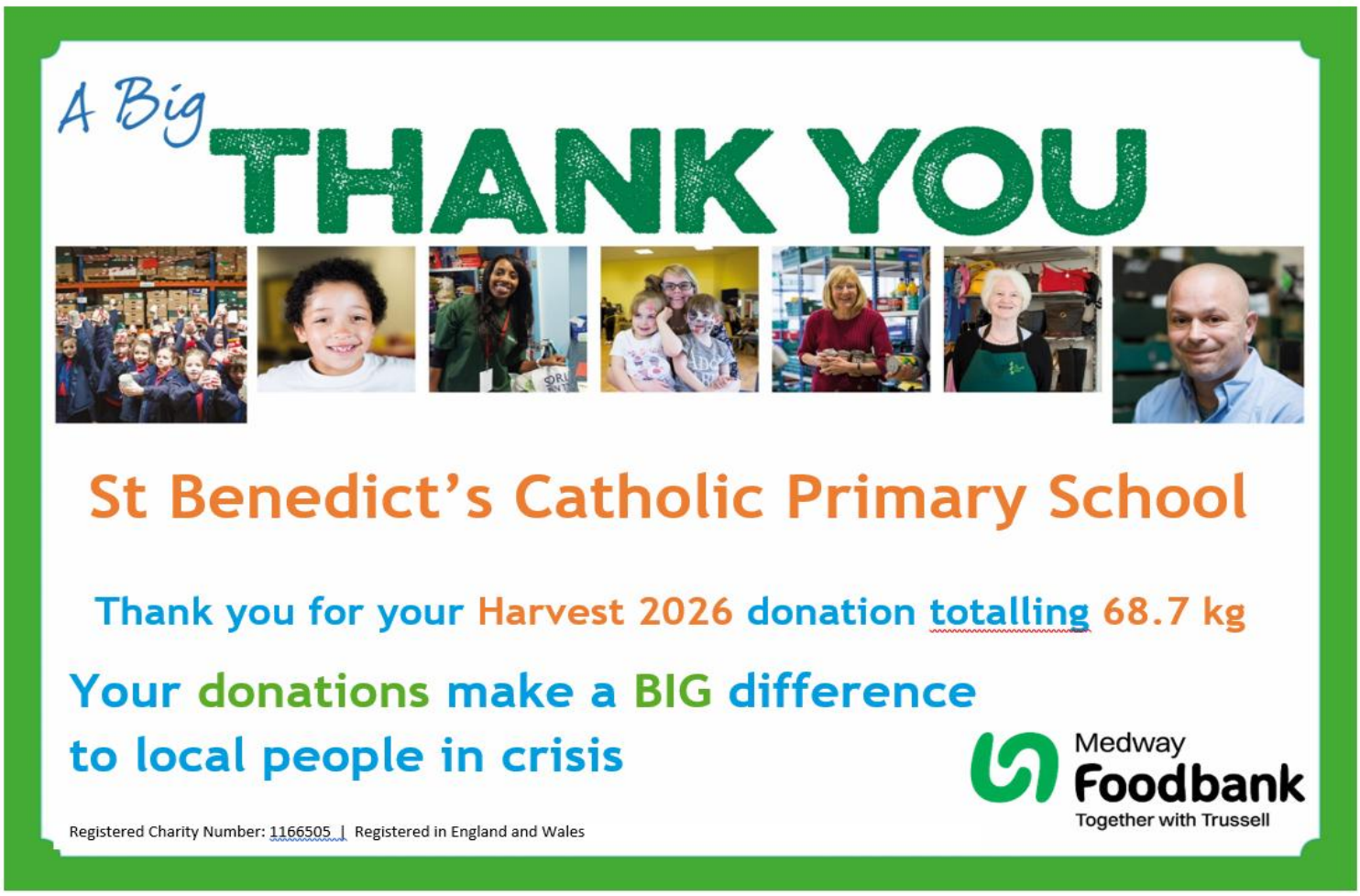
Reggie
Nokutenda
Ismael
Amelia
Isabella
Maison
Emilia
Sonny
Stephanie
Faith
Florence
Olive
Callum
Ashley
Lucrece
Olivia
Joshua
Matthew
Cleo
Ralph
Rae
Maryam
Elsie
Grace
Audrielle
Janet
Freddie
Elisha
Bonnie
George
Amirah
Malakai
Grace
Caris
Evie
John
Nancy
Zion
Noelle
Francis
Tise
Mason
Medeea
Oliver
Myles
Aiva-Rose
Jasmine

Cameron
Olly
Leontine
Lily
Lily
Olusegun
Anabel
Rocco
Oscar
Dylan
Yan
Isabella
Adam
Jake
Deborah
Light
Bella
Ezra
Emily
Moyin
Hope
Henry
Mason
Lucas
George
Tiwaloluwa
Martha
Dax

The Little Recyclers Unwanted Clothing Collection

Year 2 are the winners of the most bags of used clothing given to the school. They will receive an extra playtime as a reward. Thank you to all those who donated their unwanted clothing to the school for recycling.





MATHS WEEK ENGLAND

We are celebrating all things Maths this week, and having fun participating in Maths Week England 2026.

GREATER THAN, LESS THAN CHALLENGE

YEAR 2

As the theme for Maths Week England this week is **'Maths on the Move'**, we decided to get active and put both our brains and bodies to work during our Maths Challenge!

Working in teams, we took turns to run and collect four <, > or = symbol cards and place them on our grids. We then continued taking turns to run and collect digit cards, carefully deciding where to position them to create correct greater than, less than or equal to number statements. We had to use our mathematical knowledge, reasoning and teamwork skills to complete the challenge! We had so much fun putting our maths skills to the test and were certainly puffed out by the end of the lesson!











MATHS WEEK ENGLAND

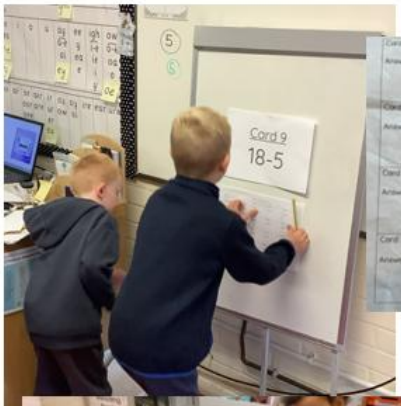
We are celebrating all things Maths this week, and having fun participating in Maths Week England 2026.

NUMBER CHASE

Maths on the Move!

YEAR 2

Today we put our addition and subtraction skills to the test with an exciting Maths challenge! Working in pairs, we raced around the space solving calculation cards. Each answer gave us a clue about which numbered card we needed to find next. Our challenge was to complete all 20 calculations and make it back to the card where we started! We had lots of fun combining Maths with movement, whilst practising our mental Maths skills, teamwork and problem-solving!







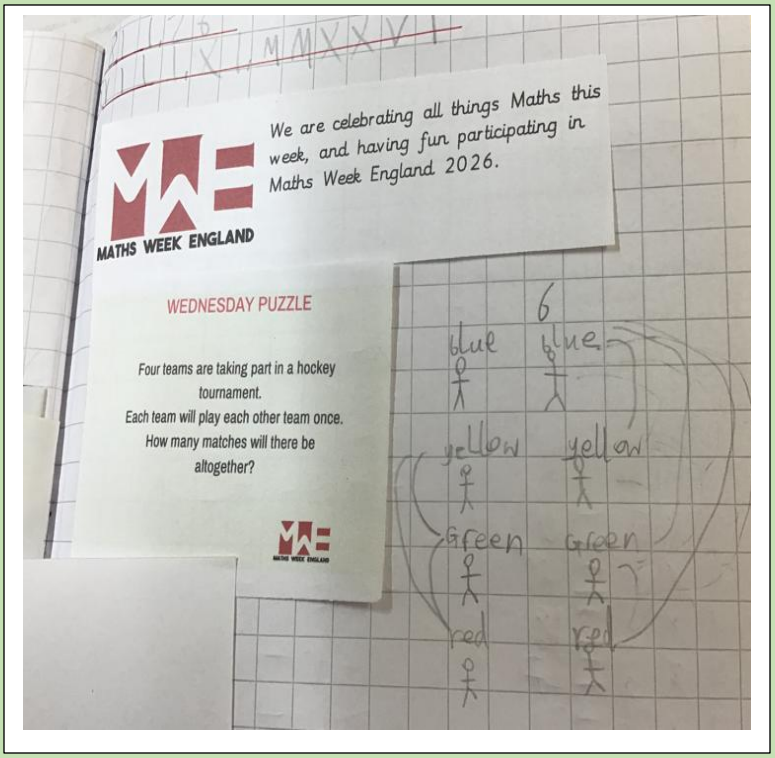


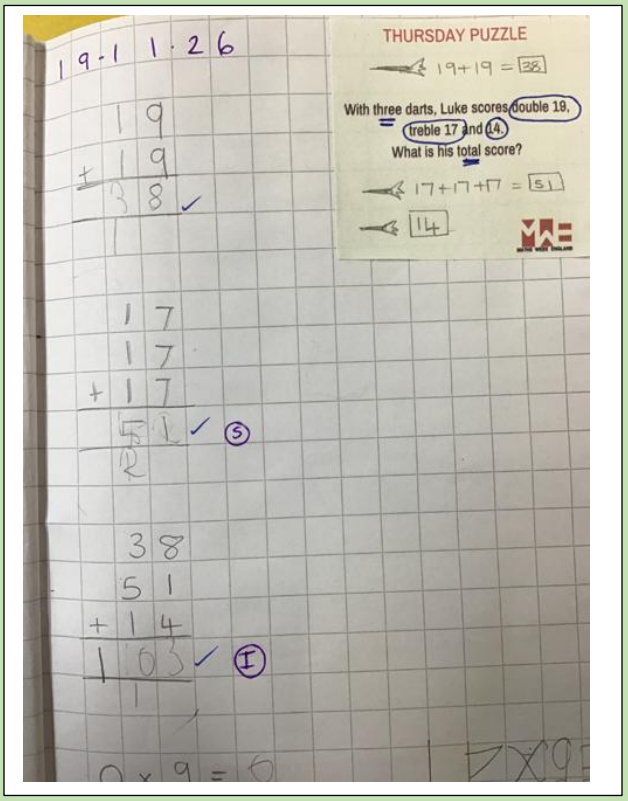


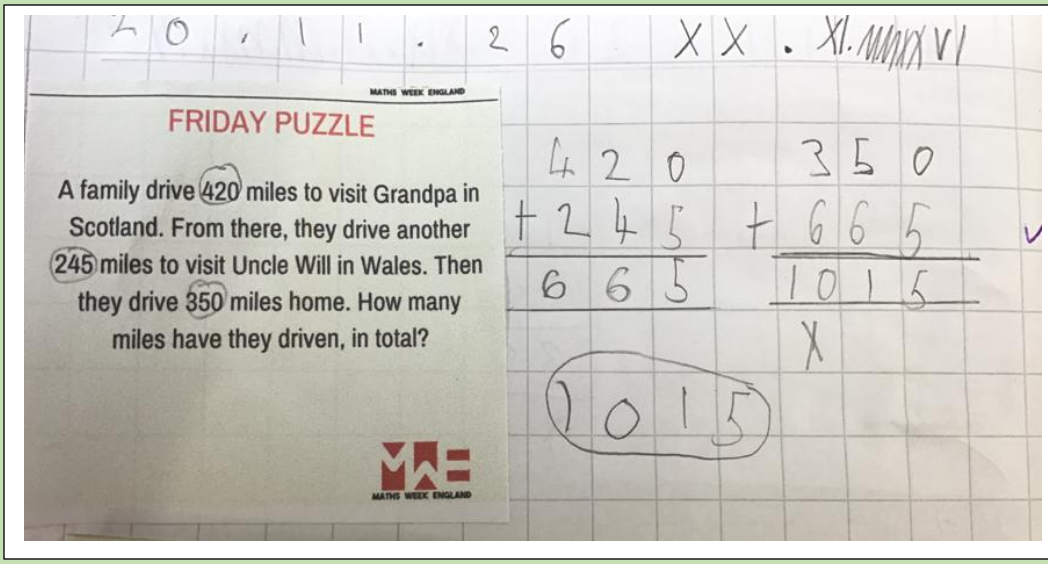




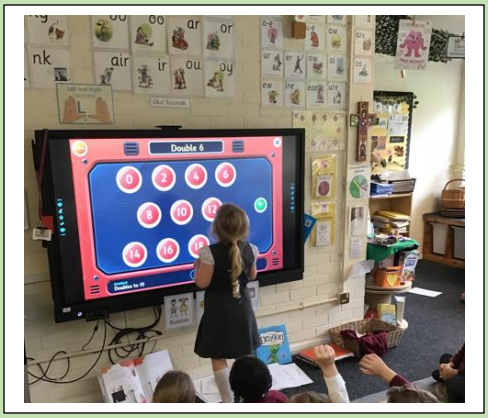






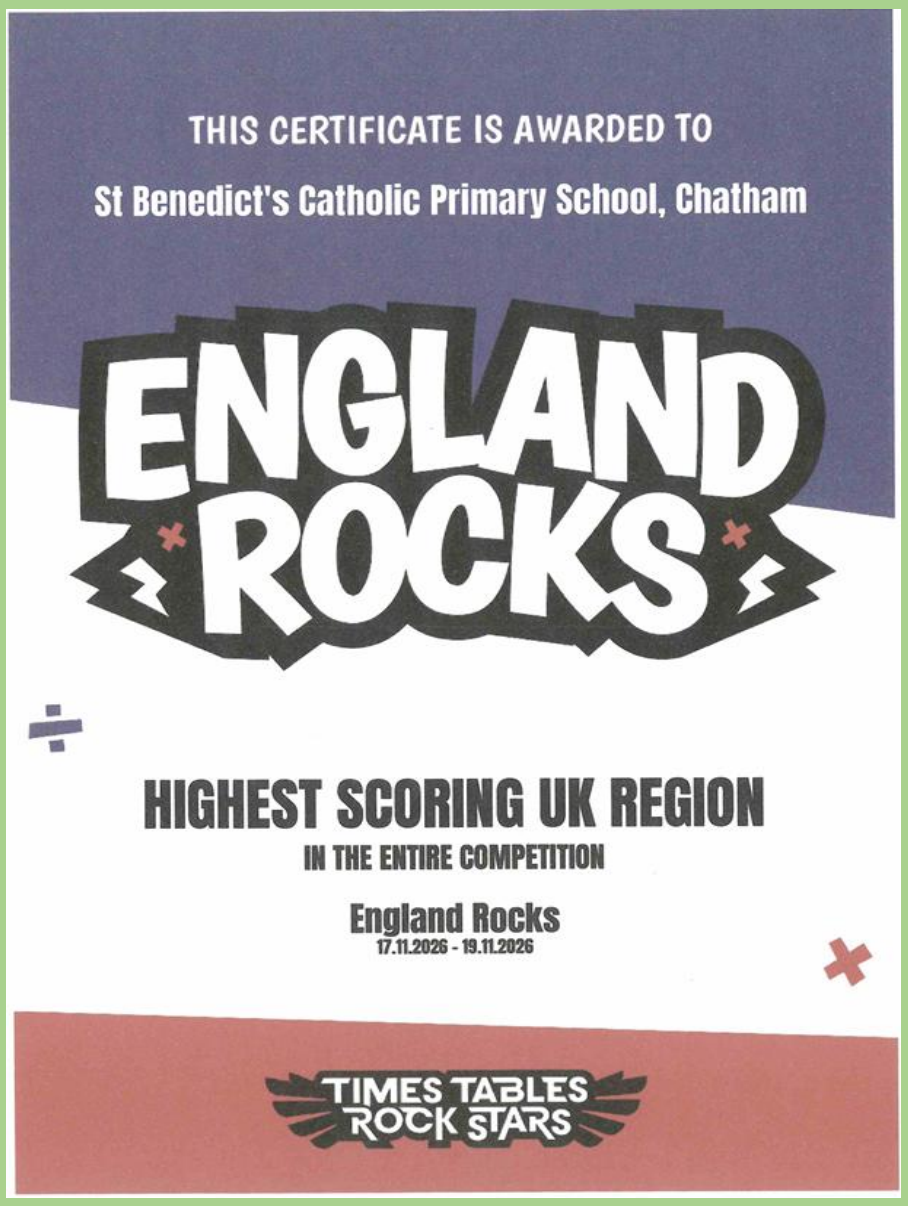






Maths Treasure Chest Game


ENGLAND ROCKS
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
ENGLAND ROCKS
2ND MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
ENGLAND ROCKS
ENGLAND ROCKS
3RD MOST VALUABLE PLAYER


THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO
St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, Chatham
ENGLAND ROCKS
HIGHEST SCORING UK REGION
IN THE ENTIRE COMPETITION
England Rocks
17.11.2026 - 19.11.2026
TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Odd Socks Day


















Elfridge's
SBA SHOP
Tokens are available to purchase now on the PTA Events Website
Due to popular demand from our Mother's Day and Father's Day shop,
St Benedict's are introducing a
Christmas Shop
where children can purchase gifts for adults.
Tokens on sale now.
Sales close 11pm on 23rd November.

Forest school Year 1

















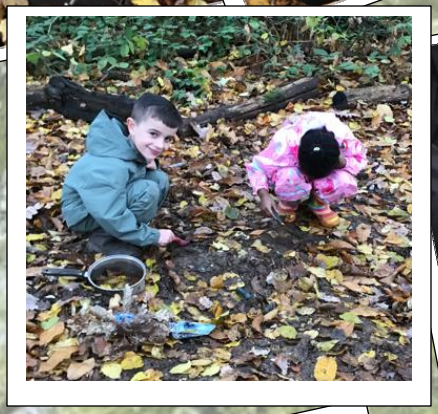
Forest School Year 2







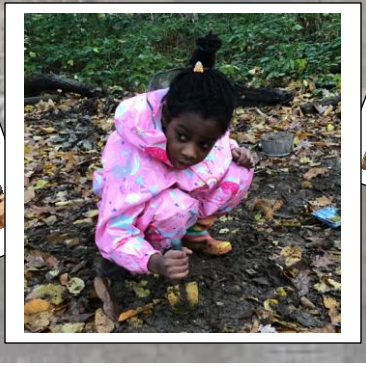














Parish News



Parish Of St Simon Stock

COMMUNITY FUND

15th November 2026



33rd 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 A WEEK TO GO and we STILL need your donations of luxury food items for our Christmas Hampers, unwanted unopened gifts, and ESPECIALLY bottles for the Bottle Tombola. We have had very few toys for the Toy Stall so we need more. We have had a few donations but need more please. Please leave your donations in the box in the parish hall. We will also need more 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. We are very grateful for all your generosity.

Daily Reflection for Advent: As an aid to personal prayer during Advent, the Spirituality Commission have produced a helpful daily reflection based on the readings for the day. Each is short, practical and calls us to action. All who register will receive an email each morning directly to their inbox! To sign up go to http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv or www.southwarkdsc.org.uk and click on the box marked ADVENT REFLECTIONS.

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.



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!