St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Newsletter No 9
Friday 6th November 2026

It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to St Benedict's after our half-term break. I hope you all enjoyed a restful week and are feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting new half-term. This week, we have reflected on the Feast of All Saints, a special Holy Day of Obligation in our Church calendar. It is a time to remember all those who are already in heaven and to reflect on our own calling to be saints. As Pope Leo XIV reminds us, holiness is for everyone. We are all called to bring love, mercy and peace into our everyday lives. Peace is not simply something we pray for in the wider world; it begins much closer to home – in our families, friendships, workplaces and communities. Peace begins with each one of us.

Throughout the month of November, we take time to remember those who are no longer with us, including all those who gave their today for our tomorrow. As the month progresses, we will provide a number of opportunities for the children to reflect on those who gave their lives during wars and conflicts to protect the freedoms and values we hold dear. We will also remember our own loved ones who, although no longer physically with us, remain forever in our hearts.

Our Pupil Chaplains invite families to send in a photograph, prayer or the name of a loved one they would like us to remember. These precious contributions will be displayed in our focal prayer area in the school hall, creating a special space for remembrance and reflection.

May this month of remembrance provide us all with an opportunity to pause, give thanks for the lives of those we have loved and lost, and keep their memories alive in our hearts and prayers.

Have a blessed weekend,
Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 8th November 2026



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

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

Friday 13th November
Flu immunisation YR – Y6
Children in Need
(Children can wear merchandise with their school uniform).

Tuesday 16th November
Odd Sock Day

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

Thursday 19th November
Used clothing collection

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):

SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:

Becky Howell



Assistant Headteacher

Claire Read



Assistant Headteacher

Jayne Stuart



SENDCO



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: Heavenly- for wonderful progress with sound blending, becoming increasingly confident with lots of new words.

Superstar: Jireh – for fantastic progress in his attitude to learning and working extremely hard to follow the class rules.

Year 1

Learner: Winnie – well done for your super work in math's completing your number bonds to 10.

Superstar: Thank you, Rosie, for showing integrity by always trying to do the right thing, even when no one is looking.

Year 2

Learner: Elizabeth for her fantastic imagination and the exciting predictions she wrote using the front cover of our story, inspired by clues from the front cover. Well done Elizabeth!

Superstar: Karina, for being such a mature and hardworking learner who consistently makes good choices. Shows great responsibility in both her behaviour and learning, always trying her best and setting a fantastic example to others.

Year 3

Learner: Jacob, for being really focused and hard working all week, answering questions enthusiastically and especially impressing me with his Maths!

Superstar: Henry, for showing our school value of Integrity by being so kind, honest and reliable all the time, even when no one is watching!

Year 4

Learner: Sam – you have persevered and made great improvements with column subtraction methods this week. You are now much more confident and accurate – well done.

Superstar: Sonny – thank you for working so hard and trying your best every day. You are always ready and prepared to learn.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Isaiah for his increased participation in class discussions. We are very proud of your progress- keep it up!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is John for having an excellent attitude to his learning and for always showing integrity!

Year 6

Learner: Dylan is our Learner of the Week for his conscientious approach to learning and the consistent effort he puts into his work. He is working hard in Maths, demonstrating a positive attitude and determination to deepen his understanding. In English, he has produced a fantastic balanced argument, incorporating the key features of the genre. Well done, Dylan!

Superstar: Bella is our Superstar of the Week for consistently demonstrating our school values through her positive attitude and actions. She has arrived each morning ready to learn, gets straight on with her work and has shown great initiative and independence. She has also been a reliable and committed member of our Chaplaincy Team, demonstrating kindness, responsibility and a willingness to support others. Well done, Bella! You are a wonderful role model to your peers!

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week



Value of the Week Next Week



We are
self-motivated.

Attendance Winners Week Before Half-Term

1st

Year R 99.12%



School Dinners

Please remember to pre-order your child's school dinner each week. **You must check out the basket** after you have made your choices to submit to our system. You can book as many weeks ahead as you wish as long as you have enough funds to cover the bookings in your account. (KS1 universal free school meals do not have to pay for meals).

Please see the new Autumn Winter menu for Term 2 menu further in the newsletter.

Christmas dinner is on 17th December. There will be no jacket potatoes or sandwiches available on this day.



House Team Winners for Term 1

Joint Winners 362 points

St. David

St. George

Times Table Rockstars

Fastest - Rocco Year 6
Highest- Rocco Year 6
Most Improved – Isa Year 5
Star – Oscar Year 6

Children in Need

Next Friday, is Children in Need Day. Children may wear an accessory e.g. socks, hairband, badge etc. to school on Friday. School uniform must be worn as well.

Parents may pay donations directly to the charity if they wish to. Please do not send any donations into school.



Rememberence Sunday

8th November 2027









Remembrance Day

Children who are members of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows and Brownies are invited to wear their uniform to school on Wednesday to represent their associations.





Poppy Appeal

Our Pupil Chaplains will continue selling poppies and other Remembrance items next week.

If your child would like to purchase a stick-on poppy or any other items available, please send in some money in a clearly labelled envelope. They can then place this in the collection box.

The suggested donation for snap bands and bracelets is £1 each. Please note stocks are limited.

Thank you for your support.



Medway Messenger First Class Picture Special- Reception Class

KM KentOnline

This is a reminder of the First Class photos will be in your local **Medway Messenger** newspaper next week on **Thursday, November 12, 2026**.

You can get the Medway Messenger with the **First Class 2026 picture special** from your local newsagent, or supermarket.

You can also get a digital copy of the Medway Messenger, and to celebrate the First Class 2026 picture special, parents of children in the First Class photos can take advantage of an exclusive offer just for them. They get a full year's worth of access to the KentOnline premium website, our app, and all of our digital newspapers and supplements for just £20, that's better than half price, by using the offer code **FIRSTCLASS** at www.kentonline.co.uk/subscribe



Lunchtime Club



CHESS CLUB

JUNIOR VINNIES

geography club

SCIENCE CLUB



Music Club



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 wonder cannot be reproduced by our printers unfortunately)

Flu Immunisation Programme

The consent portal will close at 4pm on **10/11/2026.**

Whether parents wish for their child to receive the vaccination or not, it is important that they complete a consent form with their decision. This helps us ensure that we bring sufficient vaccine supplies and that no child is missed on the day.

www.kentimmunisations.co.uk

School's unique code: **KT149979**





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

















KENT AUTUMN / WINTER MENU 2026-2027

caterlink
feeding the imagination

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE 02.11.2026 23.11.2026 14.12.2026 18.01.2027 08.02.2027 08.03.2027	**Option One**	Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread	Pork Hot Dog with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Tortilla Stack with Rice	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Autumn Vegetable Lasagne With Garlic Bread	Veggie Hotdog with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetable Pasta Bake	Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Baked Beans & Peas	Carrots & Swede	Vegetable Medley	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Cheese and Crackers	Apple Crumble with Cream	Fruit Medley	Syrup Sponge With Custard	Jelly With Mandarins
WEEK TWO 09.11.2026 30.11.2026 04.01.2027 25.01.2027 22.02.2027 15.03.2027	**Option One**	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza With New Potatoes	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice	Veggie Spaghetti Bolognaise	Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice	Veggie Sausage with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Baked Beans & Peas	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Cabbage & Carrots	Vegetable Medley	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Gingerbread Cookie	Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Fruit Salad	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Golden Syrup Snap
WEEK THREE 16.11.2026 07.12.2026 11.01.2027 01.02.2027 01.03.2027 22.03.2027	**Option One**	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Wrap with Paprika Wedges	Sausages with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Crushed Potatoes & Gravy	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry with Rice	Vegetable Wrap with Paprika Wedges	Veggie Sausage and Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato Pasta	Cheese& Bean Puff with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Vegetable Medley	Carrots & Cabbage	Peas & Swede	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Oaty Cookie	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Fruit Salad	Ginger Cake with Custard	Jelly with Mandarins

MENU KEY:

- Whole grain
- Plant based
- Added plant protein
- Chef's Special

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

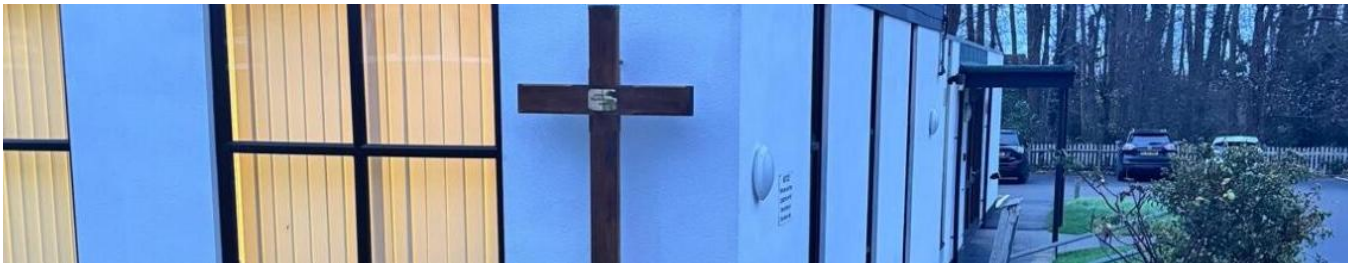
If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We 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.

Please note Christmas dinner will be served on Thursday 17th December.

Please be advised on this day jacket potatoes or sandwiches/baguettes will not be available.



Parish News



COMMUNITY FUND

Parish Of St Simon Stock



Feast of All Saints

1st Nov 2026
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.

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

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 21ST NOVEMBER 2026

This is fast approaching with only 3 weeks to go, so can we please ask you to bring in donations of luxury food items for our Christmas Hampers. Also, please bring in any unwanted unopened gifts. We also need bottles for the Bottle Tombola and good quality toys for the Toy Stall. 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. Also, if you are able to bake us a cake for the cake stall that would be wonderful.

Young Adult Mass in Kent

Following the popularity of our Young Adult Masses in London, SCYS is delighted to introduce a monthly Young Adult Mass in Kent for those aged 18-35, taking place on the third Sunday of each month. Our first Mass will be celebrated by Fr Stephen Trafford on **Sunday 15 November at 6pm** at Sacred Heart Church, 63 West Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 1AN. Confessions will be available during Mass, with refreshments and an opportunity to socialise afterwards.

I am on annual leave until Fri 20th Nov. For emergency sick calls, ring Josie on 07915601076/the parish office or email Deacon Martin. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

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!

JOIN THE MEDWAY DISABILITY REGISTER

Helping improve services for children and young people with disabilities (0-25 years)

EVERY CHILD COUNTS
By joining the register, you help Medway understand local needs and improve SEND services. Registration is voluntary, free and confidential.

Who Can Join?

Children and young people aged 0-25 living in Medway with a disability, diagnosed or undiagnosed, including learning disabilities, autism, sensory impairments, physical disabilities, mobility difficulties and long-term health conditions.

Benefits of Registering

- Information about local services, support and activities
- SEND newsletters and disability service updates
- Information about charities, organisations, training and events
- Opportunities to influence future services and share your views

Why Is the Register Important?

The register helps Medway understand local need, plan services, target support effectively and improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

REGISTER NOW

Scan the QR code or visit:
www.medway.gov.uk/xfp/form/709

Your Information Is Safe

Information is protected under the Data Protection Act 2018. Information used for planning is anonymised, personal information is not shared with other organisations, and you may request removal from the register at any time.

Need More Information?

Email: disability.register@medway.gov.uk

Together we can ensure the voices of children and young people with disabilities help shape better services across Medway.

Medway Childcare Services Survey

Medway Council are inviting parents, carers, and childcare providers across Medway to take part in our childcare surveys.

Your feedback is extremely important in helping us understand the current childcare landscape, identify any gaps in provision, and ensure that childcare services meet the needs of local families. Whether you currently use childcare, provide childcare, or are looking to access childcare in the future, your views matter.

The surveys are **short and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete**, but the information you and your families provide will make a valuable difference to future childcare planning across Medway.

By taking part, you will help us to:

- Identify where there may be shortages in childcare places.
- Understand the types of childcare families need and when they need it.
- Gather feedback on the challenges and opportunities facing childcare providers.
- Inform future planning and development of childcare services across Medway.
- Ensure the voices of parents, carers, and providers are heard.

We are keen to hear from as many people as possible to build an accurate picture of childcare provision across Medway. Every response helps us better understand local needs and supports future decision-making.

Please complete as soon as possible using the link or QR Code below:

School Age Childcare **Parental Survey**
https://surveys.medway.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=179207382519