



This week, Mrs. Stuart (SENDCo) and I have met with each class teacher to discuss the progress of every child. These meetings help us ensure that we are meeting the needs of all our pupils, particularly those who may be more vulnerable. Working together in this way helps us give every child the best possible chance to flourish.

It has been lovely to see so much enthusiasm for learning across the school. Year 1 enjoyed a musical appreciation session exploring drumming, before having a go themselves. Year 2, ended their DT topic, by building their own 'Moon Buggies', using wheels, axles and other key components to make their vehicles move. Meanwhile, Year 4 enjoyed cooking Jollof rice!

Congratulations to all the children who received certificates during our 'Gifts from God' Celebration Assembly. It was wonderful to hear about the many ways you are living out our School Values through your kindness, positive behaviour and approach to learning. We are very proud of you all!

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday evening to discuss your child's progress and next steps. Your involvement, encouragement and support make a real difference to your child's learning and development, and we greatly value our partnership with you.

Yesterday, we said farewell to Mrs H. Edwards and wished her every success as she embarks on an exciting new venture in nursery education. We would like to thank Mrs Edwards for her four years of dedicated service, supporting our children both at lunchtime and in the classroom. The whole school came together for a special assembly to say goodbye and show our appreciation for all Mrs. Edwards has contributed to our school community. We wish her every happiness and success in this next chapter!

Finally, I wish all our families a happy, healthy and restful half-term break. I hope you enjoy some special time together, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2nd November.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 25th October 2026

30TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A



"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all
your heart." (Matthew 22:37)

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

Half Term

Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Friday 13th November

Flu immunisation YR – Y6

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
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 Carols
6pm Junior Carols

Thursday 17th December

Christmas Dinner
Christmas Parties

Friday 18th December

9am Gifts from God Assembly
(For those invited)



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.

Attendance Winners for Last Week

1st

Year 3 St. Simon's 96.2%



Newsletters

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

Gifts From God Assembly



Wet Weather Coats

Please ensure that your child brings a coat in to school to wear at break and lunchtimes.



Breakfast Club

Some parents have been leaving their car in the middle of the car park when dropping their children off to Breakfast Club. This prevents other parents and staff gaining access to parking spaces.

Please ensure that you park in the parking bays and escort your child to the door of the hall. Thank you

All breakfast club sessions must be pre-booked for each child using Arbor.

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.



Foxes Den-After School Care

If you are registered for wrap-around-care, you are now able to book for the next term (Term 2) in Arbor. This is a change to the way you booked in Term 1.

You must have the funds in your Arbor account to pre-book the sessions.

Cancelled or moved sessions will not be refunded (the system does not allow this) so ensure you have the correct dates you require when booking.

Thank you.



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



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.

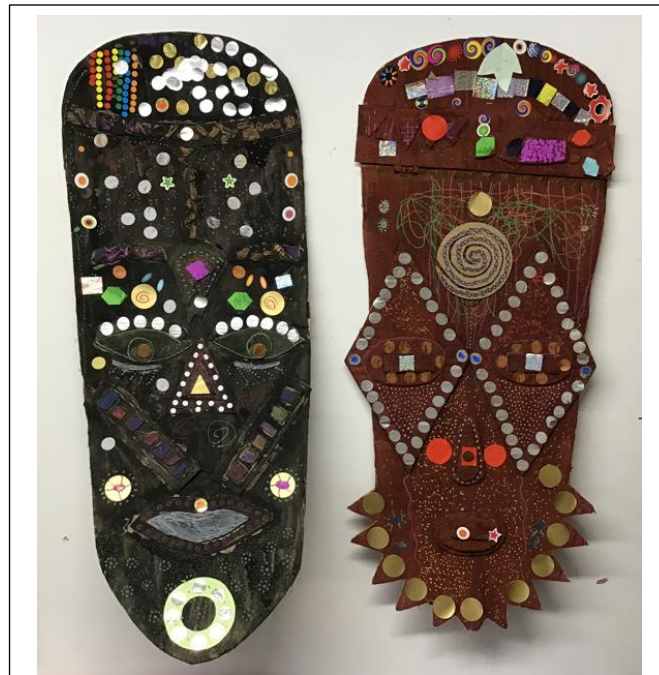
Complete the survey here:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture

CLOSING DATE IS TODAY!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Music

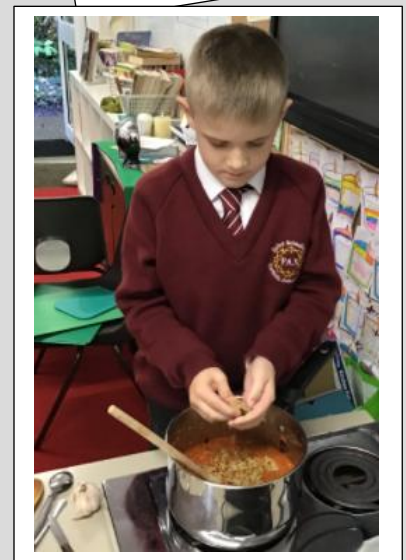


Peripatetic Guitar Lesson



Drumming Workshop

Year 4 Jollof Rice





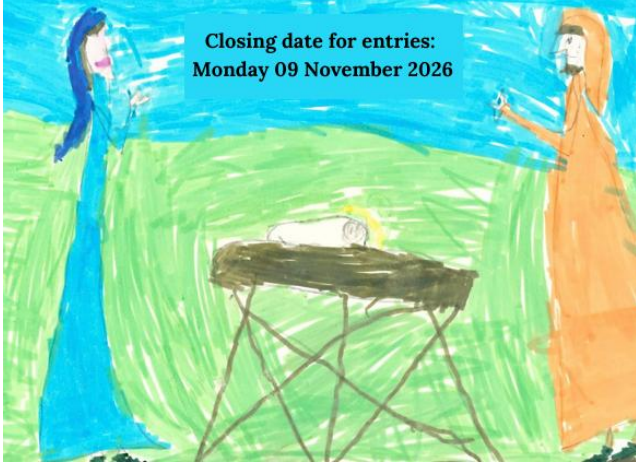
KCSP's 'Design a Christmas Card' Primary schools' Competition 2026

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

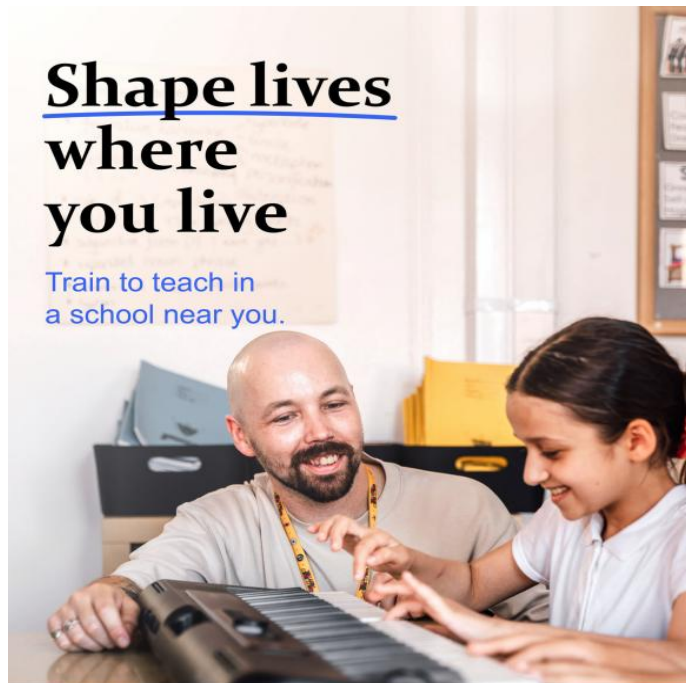
This competition is, as always, open to **all** pupils, and there are just a few
rules/guidelines for entries:

- 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)

Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership

Shape lives
where
you live

Train to teach in
a school near you.





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
Friday 6 th November 2026	9:30am
Thursday 26 th November 2026	1:15pm

Please book via the office:

01634 669700

office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk



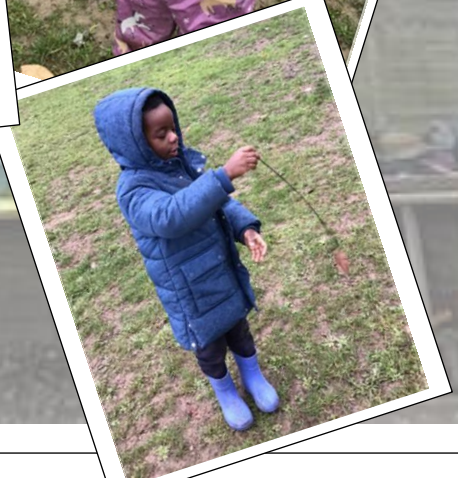
Forest school Year 1



Forest School Year 2



Forest School Year R



KENT AUTUMN / WINTER MENU 2026-2027

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

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



Parish Of St Simon Stock

18th October 2026

29th 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.

On this 100 years of World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo XIV writes: **One in Christ, united in mission**. As we reflect on being one in Christ and united in mission, let us allow ourselves to be guided and inspired by divine grace, "to renew in ourselves the fire of our missionary vocation" and advance together in the commitment to evangelization, in this new missionary age" in the history of the Church. This calls us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, so that he may truly be at the centre of our lives and communities.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 21ST NOVEMBER 2026

This is fast approaching with only 5 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. Please leave your donations in the parish hall.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MEAL AT AYLEFORD PRIORY MON 14TH DECEMBER, £42.50pp 12.30pm for 1pm. If you would like to go please give in an envelope to parish office with your names and £10 deposit for each person. See Menu in foyer.

I am on annual leave from Mon 19th Oct and will resume in office on Fri 20th Nov. In my absence, Fr Michael Ryan and the Eucharistic Ministers will cover Sunday Masses and Weekdays Liturgy of the Word respectively. 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' 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)

Faith 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.





Support and Information All Year Round

The Medway [SEND Information Hub](https://www.medway.gov.uk/localoffer) provides information, advice and guidance for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25, and their families. It brings together information from across education, health and social care, and can help you find local services, understand available support and access trusted SEND information whenever you need it.



Choices and Opportunities 2026

Are you a young person in Year 9 or above, or a parent/carer supporting them as they prepare for adulthood?

Join us next week at our Choices and Opportunities event:

Wednesday, 28 October 2026

10am to 4pm (Come along between these hours as you like)

Glassbox Theatre, MidKent College, Medway Campus

This free event will help you explore the education, training and employment opportunities available to young people as they prepare for adulthood. You'll be able to meet a range of organisations, ask questions and find out about the support available for the next stage of their journey.

If you'd like to attend, please [book your place](#).

Alternatively, please scan the QR code to sign up.



E-scooters

Enforcement

The police are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances, the police have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the E-Scooter being seized. If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected. If you purchase an E-Scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's consent.

Fire Safety

Kent Fire and Rescue Service always advise people to use, charge and store lithium-ion batteries safely and responsibly to help reduce the risk of a fire.

Lithium-ion batteries, or li-ion batteries (sometimes called LIBs) are found in many household items, including mobile phones, laptops, e-bikes, e-scooters, vaping devices, and vacuums.

If used or stored incorrectly, there is a risk these batteries could ignite or start a fire.

To help avoid an emergency, remember to:

- Buy electrical items from a reputable retailer
- Follow the manufacturer's guidance on charging and storing
- Only charge during the day when you are at home, and on a non-flammable surface
- Always unplug after use or when charged
- Avoid storing, using or charging batteries at very high or low temperatures
- Protect batteries from being damaged, such as being crushed, punctured, or immersed in water. If a battery has been damaged, don't use it.

And make sure to register electrical items at www.registermyappliance.org.uk/.

Additional information

For further detailed information regarding e-scooters please visit GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters>



**Kent
Police**



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

