



Members of our Chaplaincy Team led us on beginning our advent journey. They shared what advent means and we reflected on the meaning of the first candle lit - **Hope**. This word has been used a lot in the last year. It is so important to remain hopeful - in our lives and as we grow in our spiritual journeys. We shared in assembly how advent is a time for preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus and in doing so we can prepare our hearts with love, kindness and giving. The pupils are able to share lots of examples of how they intend to show these during advent - many examples include helping their families.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

“Hope needs patience, the patience of knowing that we sow, but it is God who gives growth. Jesus helps us understand God’s patience, opening our hearts to hope.”

- Pope Francis

Christmas Nativity The children have been busy preparing their nativity to share with you on you on our website. Please ensure your permissions for both the website and filming are updated on Arbor by Monday 7th December otherwise you will not be able to see your child.

Christmas Dinner Day -Wed 9th December

All pupils from yR-y6 can enjoy a hot Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. If your child does not want a Christmas dinner they can bring in a packed lunch instead.

On this same day it is **Non-**

Uniform/Christmas Jumper Day (please do not feel you must buy a Christmas Jumper - it is optional). We are collecting donations (suggested £1) on the gate in the morning for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. This local charity helps support children's wellbeing in schools and offer good support to parents and staff too. They have been working with children in our Diocese for over 35 years. Their holistic approach of supporting the child, the family and the school allows us to keep the needs of the child central to collective thinking.

Christmas Cards: If your child wishes to send their class Christmas good wishes they can send in their own creation of a Christmas card to the home learning email.

Christmas Cribs: Please do continue to send in pictures of your nativity cribs to the home learning email - we would like to share these on our website and in assemblies.



Re-opening of Churches

Churches are hoping to re-open for Masses this weekend with restrictions as before: Our Lady of Fatima Church 6pm Saturday and 10.30am Sunday, 12.15pm Mass in Polish-Sunday, St Thomas More Church 8.30am and The Church of the Assumption 10am and 6pm Sunday

Brentwood Youth Service:

The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service are holding a Virtual carol service on Sunday 6th December at 4pm. Please see the link here if you would like to participate.
<https://bcys.net/events/adventcarols/>

Winter Reading Challenge: This winter Essex Libraries are running the 'Reading Agency Winter Reading Challenge'. It will be held online and FREE to complete! [The Winter Challenge](#) starts Tuesday 1st December and finishes Friday 15th January 2021 and is great fun to do.

Pupil of the Week: Pupils who gained a certificate this week are:

- Reception – Sophia
- Year 1 – Michael O
- Year 2 – Igor
- Year 3 – Kitty
- Year 4 – Sonny
- Year 5 – Rio
- Year 6 – Keisha



House Points: Well done to St Therese!

- St Paul – **278 points**
- St Bernadette – **281 points**
- St Francis – **248 points**
- St Anne Line – **372 points**
- St Therese – **390 points**
- St Thomas More – **325 points**

Poetry Competition: Key Stage 2 children do not forget to send in your entries for our poetry competition by Wed 9th December to homelearning@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk marked **Poetry Competition**
Please see attached leaflet for more information

School Dinners: Tuesday 5th January 2021 there will be a slight increase in the dinner charges. The meal price will increase to £2.10 per day. This price will have no impact on those children entitled to Free School Meals.

Upcoming Dates:
9th December– Christmas Dinner
(Christmas Jumper/Non-uniform day)
18th December – End of Term 1pm finish
4th January – Inset day
26th February – Individual & Class Photos

