



In the Gospel this week, John the Baptist told people to turn away from sin, to live good lives. Our Chaplaincy Team members this week shared reflections on how we can make a fresh start through positive actions – reflected in our school values. By doing good deeds and sharing kind words we can share love with others.

I do love this Advent time – preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth. There is much excitement around. This Sunday is Gaudate Sunday- Joy – represented by the third pink candle on our advent wreath. May you and your families have much joy in this coming week and Christmastime.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

“Let us ask the Lord, in this time of Advent, to revive in us faith in Christ who comes to save us”.

- Pope Francis

Poetry Competition: Congratulations to all those who sent in entries for the poetry competition – you made it hard for judges to decide! The winners are:

1st – Rose

The True Meaning of Christmas Poem

2nd – Bernice

3rd – Danika

Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day: We all enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner on Wednesday. A big thank you to Mrs Brady



and Mrs Leonard for preparing this meal for us and to all the staff - a great team - for their extra efforts on the

day. A wonderful array of Christmas jumpers were worn and we raised **£181.66** for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

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

Year R – Antoni

Year 1 – Jo-Simeon

Year 2 – Oliver

Year 3 – Juliana

Year 4 – Kacper

Year 5 – Archie-Lee

Year 6 – Michelle



House Points: Well done to **St Francis!**

St Francis – 232

St Anne Line – 224

St Theresa – 215

St Bernadette - 206

St Thomas More- 206

St Paul – 184

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. homelearning@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk

Twitter: Please don't forget to find us on Twitter @stalbansHarlow to see some wonderful activities our children have been up to.



Free School Meal Christmas Vouchers: If your child receives free school meals at school the government are going to be issuing vouchers to all Year 3 – Year 6 children. You will be contacted via email if you are entitled.

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](https://www.winterchallenge.org.uk) starts Tuesday 1st December and finishes Friday 15th January 2021 and is great fun to do.

RHS Campaign for School Gardening: Food is in much shorter supply for wildlife over the winter months so why not decorate your outdoor space packed full of treats for your feathered friends! Visit the website for more information <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/home>

Essex Family Support Service: Helping families with children age 8 to 19 and low level needs to feel more resilient and happier. For more information visit <https://www.community360.org.uk/efss/>

Changing Lives Free Christmas Activity Camp: This Christmas Holidays Essex County Council has committed to supporting Active Essex to expand its level of provision through holiday hunger programmes. There will be two sports camps held in Harlow at Pemberley Academy and GPCA on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th of December. All families involved will be provided a free food hamper with no cost for the children to take part. Spaces will be limited each day to please visit to book a place. <https://www.changinglivescommunityservices.com/events/christmas-halfterm-programme-pemberley/>

Diocese of Brentwood Online Carol Concert: This will available throughout Advent. You are warmly invited to join the young team from the Walsingham House at Abbotswick chapel for a beautiful concert of carols and readings for Advent, led by very talented young musicians. The concert is free and donations are welcome to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and the Trussell Trust (who support and run foodbanks across the Diocese). [Virtual Carols with BCYS \(video.link\)](https://www.brcys.org.uk) More information can be found at www.brcys.net – including a booklet with the words of the carols, so you can sing along at home!

Upcoming Dates:
18th December – End of Term 1pm finish
4th January – Inset day
26th February – Individual & Class Photos

