



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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The joy of advent is with us!

Together we have spent a lovely third week of advent. Our older pupils joined me for a Reflection Prayer Service. We have shared Class Christmas Poems, Nativities and our KS2 Stations of the Nativity Service. For our final assembly we heard the Christmas Story in our Candlelight Service – a time to hear and remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas

I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and offer this prayer for you all:

Lord, may your light shine in us, may your joy fill us, so we may share these gifts with others this Christmas time. Keep all our families in your care. Amen

*Mrs A M Black, Head of School*

**“This is the meaning of Christmas. If the Lord continues to come among us and give us the gift of His Word, it is so that each of us can respond to this call: to become saints in love”.**

- Pope Francis

**Farewell:** St Alban's send good wishes to Mrs Payne (MDA) who retires today after 17 years of working at our school. We thank her for helping so many pupils during this time and for her work as part of a Team.

We also say farewell to Mr Wilshere (LSA) for his work in helping pupils with their learning. We wish him all the best for his future.

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

Year R – Zuzanna

Year 1 – Leon

Year 2 – Joe

Year 3 – Bartosz

Year 4 – Onyi

Year 5 – Sylvia

Year 6 – Orla

**House Points:** Well done **St Thomas More!**

St Thomas More- 211 St Bernadette - 165

St Theresa – 211

St Anne Line – 206

St Francis – 158

St Paul – 124

**Nativity:** Please remember to have a look at the wonderful Christmas Performances in the Parents' Secure Area of the school website.

**Poems:** Please listen to the Performance Poems from our Poetry Competition. These are available in the Parents' Secure Area of our school website and are also being played to patients on the wards at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Molly y6 who entered Robert Halfon's Christmas Card competition and her design was selected as a winner. Congratulations too to Michelle y6 who has been selected for Essex County Cricket Under U11 County Girls Performance Squad. Well done to you both!

**New Year New Idea!** We invite you to send in a picture of a unique construction you make over Christmas on the theme of 'recycling'. This could be made from packaging materials, wool, fabric, lego etc. You may use new hobby skills or old ones! It should be a unique creation from your own ideas (not following a pattern or given instruction). It could involve recycling waste e.g. reusing fabric; or it could be about encouraging others to recycle something e.g. a lego scene. Parents, please email in pictures to the home learning email address and indicate if you are happy for the picture to be shared on our website. A winner and runner up will be chosen to receive a book related to your construction / recycling.

**Twitter:** Don't forget to find us on Twitter @stalbansHarlow



**Safeguarding Support:** If you are struggling and need our support, please email or leave a voice message on the main school number.

**COVID-19 and Christmas Holidays:** If over the holidays, your child, yourself or a member of your family become ill with Covid 19 – please email the school or leave a voice message. These will be monitored, by the Heads of School and Mr Kendal, throughout the holiday (including Christmas day).

**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 1<sup>st</sup> December and finishes Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and is great fun to do.

**Diocese of Brentwood Online Carol Concert:** This will be available throughout Advent. More information can be found at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)  
[Virtual Carols with BCYS \(video.link\)](#)

**Upcoming Dates:**  
4<sup>th</sup> January – Inset day  
5<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school  
26<sup>th</sup> February – Individual & Class Photos

**St Alban's would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

