



On the first week of Advent, the Gospel tells us 'Be Ready'. We considered how we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday – the advent wreath – a circle to represent God's love has no end; evergreen to represent everlasting life. The Christmas tree is evergreen too and the crib reminds us of the Nativity.

We can prepare ourselves during Advent in 3 ways too: prayer, doing good and repentance. Our CAFOD and Missio Advent calendars help guide these good actions and prayer.

As we lit the first Advent candle for Hope – we remember that Jesus is the light of the world and we can be a light to others through our actions.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man." - Pope Francis

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

Year R – Kuba
Year 1 – Zuzanna Year 4 – Krupa
Year 2 – Archie Year 5 – Maria
Year 3 – Sophia Year 6 – Keziah



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

St Bernadette – 153 points
St Francis – 148 points
St Paul – 217 points
St Theresa – 193 points
St Thomas More – 161 points
St Anne Line – 172 points



Travelling Crib: Please email the school office or advise on the gate if you would like to take part in our Travelling Crib and your name will be added to the list.



Mini Vinnies Cake Sale: Thank you to everyone who supported the Mini Vinnies cake sale. **£177.21** was raised to support local homeless charity Streets to Homes buy tents. The Mini Vinnies are also challenging themselves with the attached reverse advent calendar. They may need help with a few extra items like socks and hats - if you would like to help, please hand these in at the gate. In addition, if you would also like to join in, you are most welcome. Boxes will be collected in the first week back in January and delivered to Streets to Homes.

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day: We will be having our school Christmas Dinner Day next week on **Wednesday 8th December**, children are also invited to wear a Christmas Jumper on this day with their school uniform.

Clubs: The staff led clubs along with Karate club have now all finished for this term. Let's Play Football last session is 8th December.

Poetry Week: This week has been poetry week and the children have been amazing at learning a class poem as well as reading and writing lots of their own. Take a look at this [Sway](#) where you will find voice recordings of each year group reciting a poem. You can also use this [website](#) to listen to some more fantastic children's poetry.

Aladdin: Today our children have really enjoyed the pantomime. Hurricane Productions delivered a fantastic performance of Aladdin this afternoon... Oh no they didn't, Oh yes they did! It was amazing to see the children enjoying the show so much. What a great way to get us all in the festive spirit.

CAFOD World Gifts: Can't think of what to buy someone this Christmas? CAFOD has a wonderful range of gifts from only £10 to teach someone to read to providing water for a family for £33 you will be doing a wonderful service to others and sharing it with a friend. Follow the [link](#) to find out more.

Covid-19: Please be reminded that any child presenting one of the stated symptoms will be sent home for you to arrange a PCR test. The government documentation states the following - "If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice." Please also note: If you or any member of your family test positive for Covid, there is not a need for your child to isolate. Children only isolate once they test positive. However, NHS Track and Trace could direct a class or school closure, if the numbers of positive cases rise – please be aware that you may still need to collect your children at short notice. Please do let the school know if you or a family member contract Covid 19, then we can be extra vigilant around the school.

Twice weekly LFT: With the rise in COVID-19 infections in primary school age children, we encourage you to help limit the spread of the infection by testing your child twice-weekly. You can collect Lateral Flow Test kits from your local pharmacy using one of the codes provided [Here](#).

Recycle your Old Stamps: Remember you can hand your used stamps in at the school gate to help raise vital funds for [Support Dogs](#). Ensure you **leave a 1cm border around** your used stamp.



Winter Reading Challenge: Essex Libraries Services have launched their [Winter Reading Challenge](#). Don't forget to visit the local library and sign up, the aim is to read six books.

Dinner Menu: Our dinner menu can be located [here](#). Next week (w/c 6th December) we will be on Week 3, **please be reminded Wednesday 8th December is our Christmas Dinner Day.**

Mass Times:

Usual Sunday Mass times are 10am and 6pm
<http://www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk/>

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Mass times are
STM Church 8.30am

OLF Church: Saturday 6pm

Sunday 10.30am, 12.15pm (Polish)

<https://olfstm.weebly.com/>

HARLOW CATHOLIC CHURCH' CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Church	Location	24th December		25th December
		First Mass of Christmas: For Family / Children	Early-Midnight Mass	Christmas Day
St Thomas More	CM20 1TN		10.30pm	8.30am
Our Lady of Fatima	CM20 2NS	6pm	11.30pm in Polish	10.30am - 12.15pm in Polish
The Assumption of Our Lady	CM17 0HA	5pm	10pm	10am
Holy Cross	CM18 6JJ	6.30pm	11pm	11am

Attending larger school events: We would like to ask that all parents who attend a school event show/provide proof of a negative LFT test.

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesdays KS1 and KS2 PE (PE kit reqd)

Weds 8th Dec Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day

Thurs 9th Dec Year 1 Library visit

Mon 13th Dec KS2 Carols & Reading Service (OLOF Church, parents welcome)

Weds 15th Dec Year 1 & 2 Christmas Production

Fri 17th Dec EYFS Nativity

1pm Finish for End of Term

Tue 4th Jan Inset Day - no school for pupils

