



The Gospel this week led us to explore why we have been given our names. We thought too about why John the Baptist had been named so and how he prepared the way for Jesus.

The Mini Vinnies have been very busy this week. Representatives from the group met with the director of the volunteers from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, who came to visit them, to tell them more about life at the hospital. Our children are busy creating some lovely Christmas cards for the patients and staff and it is always really lovely to hear what it is like there.

The Mini Vinnies also prepared for the Cake Sale - thank you for your support with this. The Mini Vinnies wanted to raise money to help everyone who needs it this Christmas and one of the best ways to do so is through our local SVP group.

*Mrs A M Black, Head of School*

*"Our life spreads light when it is given in service. The secret of joy is living to serve."*

**Pope Francis**

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

Year R – Malakai  
Year 1 – Peppe  
Year 2 – Hailey  
Year 3 – Elaina  
Year 4 – Nicholas  
Year 5 – Bryan  
Year 6 - Serena



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

**St Bernadette** – 129 points  
**St Francis** – 111 points  
**St Paul** – 150 points  
**St Theresa** – 108 points  
**St Thomas More** – 100 points  
**St Anne Line** – 94 points



**Travelling Crib:** There is still time to put your name down to take our Nativity crib into your home for one night. There will be a candle, song, prayer and a book of the Nativity story, which can be read to the children, telling the Christmas story. The children can also draw a picture or write a prayer inspired by the night your family had the travelling crib (these may be displayed in our school too). The crib scene will then need to be carefully packed away and taken back to the School Office the next day, so that it can visit another family's house. Please advise on the gate if you would like to take part and your name will be added to the list.



**The Winter Reading Challenge,** themed around the journey of Lyra the penguin, has been launched by Essex Libraries. Make sure to visit the local Library and sign up. The aim is to complete 6 of the 12 challenges in their interactive booklet. **Children should also share their completed challenges with their class teacher at school to earn house points!**

**School Productions and Nativities:** Tickets are required for all the performances being held next week (EYFS Christmas Nativity, Year 1 & 2 Nativity and KS2 Carols & Readings) These have now been allocated. Please contact the Office if you have any queries.

**Mini Vinnies:** Thank-you for the donations of cakes received for our sale afternoon this week and for all that were able to attend. We appreciate all your support.

**Christmas Dinner:** On Wednesday, we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner. Thank you to Mrs Brady and Mrs Crafton for the lovely meal... it truly was delicious.

**Colder weather:** Please make sure all children have suitable outdoor coats, hats, gloves and scarves as the weather gets colder. The children are outside for some time at lunch and need to stay warm.

**Flu Immunisations:** Local clinics are now available for any pupils who missed their vaccination when the immunisation team visited the school. Please see attached flyer for details.

**Dinner Menu:** Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#) on our website. Next week we will be on week 1 (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December).

**Term Dates:** School term 2022-2023 dates are available on the [school website](#).

**Children finish at 1pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and all children return to school on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

**Your Essex** Please find a [special newsletter](#) which gives information on help and support available for families across Essex who are struggling with the rise in the cost of living. Further information can also be found at [Helping you with the cost of living - Essex County Council](#)

**Reception School Admissions:** Applications for Reception 2023 school places opened on 7<sup>th</sup> November and must be completed by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. Applications can be made online via [Primary school places - Essex County Council](#). **All applications to St Alban's will additionally require a SIF form to be completed which can be found [here](#) on our website or requested from the school office.**

**Gate Opening Times:**  
8:40am – 8.55am - after this time your child will be marked as late.  
3.15pm – End of the school day

**Mass Times:**  
Old Harlow - **Sunday** Mass times are 10am and 6pm  
<http://www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk/>  
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Mass times are STM Church **Sunday** 8.30am  
OLF Church: **Saturday** 6pm  
**Sunday** 10.30am, 12.15pm (Polish)  
<https://olfstm.weebly.com/>

**Upcoming Dates:**  
[Click here for St Alban's Key Dates 22-23](#)

