



Thank you to you all for your support – particularly over this last week with it's snowy challenge. Your understanding and patience is appreciated. It has been heart warming to have received messages of thanks – which I have passed on to the staff. The students have been absolutely excellent and the Christmas Spirit, with the Joy celebrated with Gaudete Sunday this week, can be felt all around school – especially with our staff who have helped in so many ways. Well done to all the students and staff too for the lovely Nativities and Services this week. Again, I thank you all.

This is our last newsletter of 2022! We are still in school on this Monday 19th Dec and Tuesday 20th Dec– finishing at 1pm.

I wish you and your families a very restful, Happy Christmas.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"The beauty of Christmas shines through in the sharing of small gestures of concrete love." **Pope Francis**

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

Year R – Victoria
Year 1 – Whole Class
Year 2 – Whole Class
Year 3 – Jo-Simeon
Year 4 – Sophia
Year 5 – Whole Class
Year 6 – Kacper



House Points: Well done to joint winners this week **St Francis** and **St Paul!**

St Bernadette – 111 points

St Francis – 132 points

St Paul – 132 points

St Theresa – 125 points

St Thomas More – 112 points

St Anne Line – 128 points



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

School term 2022-2023 dates are available on the [school website](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk).

Our Lady of Fatima and St Thomas More

Christmas raffle: Our Mini Vinnies will be selling raffle tickets at the gate after school on Monday 19th December.

Tickets are £2 for 1 strip (5 tickets).

Raffle tickets are also available at weekend Masses. Donations of prizes (new gifts only) are most welcome, and can be taken to the Presbytery or left inside both church porches after Mass. Draw to take place in January 2023.

Dinner Menu: Our school dinner menu can be located [here](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk) on our website. Next week we will be on week 2 (Monday 19th December).

We are expecting Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club to be on Monday 19th December, please book as usual.

Our School Site: Keeping our school site clean and safe can take a great deal of work. With the arrival of snow this week this has kept Mr Wood incredibly busy. I am sure you would join with me in thanking him for the remarkable job he does.

Harlow Holiday Lunch Club invite all budget stretched families to their FREE Family Christmas Lunch Clubs which include full Christmas Dinner/Crackers/fun, games, crafts etc. Children must be accompanied by an adult and all family members are catered for but must be booked so special diets/needs can be catered for. More information can be found at <https://www.harlowlunch.org.uk/> and bookings can be made [here](https://www.harlowlunch.org.uk/).

Community Day on 8th January: 1pm-9pm at Paringdon Sports Club, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4SG. Find out what's going on in Harlow from various community groups. A day of fun, sharing and coming together with crafts and activities for children. Call 07760288198 or email butterflyeffectwellbeing@yahoo.com

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!**

Uniform: Please ensure children return back to school in January in full school uniform as detailed in our [Parent Handbook](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk).

School shoes must be always worn in school with the exception playtime or PE.

Please ensure labels are still legible as sometimes names wear out over time.

Cost of Living: Many people are understandably worried about rising costs and may be struggling. Support is available nationally and locally in Essex.

-Help for Households is offering support to help residents prepare for a challenging winter.

-Your Essex has a [special newsletter](http://www.youresex.co.uk) which gives information on help and support available for families across Essex

-You can also get advice on [money, debt and benefits](http://www.moneydebtsupport.co.uk).

Reception School Admissions: Applications for Reception 2023 school places must be completed by **15th January 2023**. Applications can be made [here](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk).

All applications to St Alban's will additionally require a SIF form to be completed which can be found [here](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk) on our website or requested from the school office.

OLF Church Christmas Services

18th December at 5.30pm – Reconciliation Service (Confession)

6pm	OLF Children's Mass	Saturday 24th Dec
10pm	STM Liturgy of Office	Saturday 24th Dec
10.30pm	STM Mass	Saturday 24th Dec
11.30pm	OLF Polish Mass	Saturday 24th Dec
8.30am	STM Mass	Sunday 25th Dec
10.30am	OLF Mass	Sunday 25th Dec
12.15pm	OLF Polish Mass	Sunday 25th Dec

Church of the Assumption - Old Harlow

The Christmas Carol Service will take place this Saturday 17th December at 3.30pm and will be followed by a Christmas Social of Mince Pies and Mulled Wine, all welcome.

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve
5.00pm – Family Mass

10.00pm Bethlehem Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day
10.00am Sung Mass

Upcoming Dates:

[Click here for St Alban's Key Dates 22-23](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk)

