



Happy New Year to you all!

The students have returned so well back to the school routine. We have been hearing about their lovely Christmas break and have also started to reflect on their 'Dreams and Goals' – our current PSHE topic. As part of this we will be celebrating Aspirations week (30th January) and I hope you have seen the associated mailing with details for this.

Our Caritas Curriculum focus this term is 'Happiness is...' In our Assemblies we have shared the Gospel words on the visit of the three Kings to see Jesus and how happy they were and they left to tell others the Good news. We have reflected on the life of Pope Benedict and considered his 'secret to true happiness': 'If we allow the love of Christ to change our heart, then we can change the world.'

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"Being God's children began on the day of our Baptism, which immersed us in Christ and we became beloved children of the Father." **Pope Francis**

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

Year R – Saffron

Year 1 – Chris

Year 2 – Nathanael

Year 3 – Leon Year 4 – Patryk

Year 5 – Donald Year 6 – Terrell



House Points: Well done to **St Francis** this week's winners!

St Bernadette – 120 points

St Francis – 141 points

St Paul – 120 points

St Theresa – 101 points

St Thomas More – 105 points

St Anne Line – 116 points



Reception School Admissions: Reminder that applications for Reception 2023 school places closes on **15th January**. Applications can be made [here](#) and all applications to St Alban's will additionally require a SIF form located [here](#).

Clubs: Clubs will restart for children in KS2 on Tuesday 17th January. Parents will be informed of the club allocations on Monday 16th January. **Please read all emails in full.**

Aspirations Week 30th January: Do look out for our special letter about Aspirations week that came out on Thursday. We would really like to hear from you.

Contact Information: If you change address or phone number, it is essential that you inform the school office immediately so that we are able to update our records. It is very important that we are able to contact you in case of any emergencies. We do need 2 contact numbers.

RE Newsletter: As a Catholic school our RE curriculum is distinctive. Please see attached the RE newsletter for the whole of this term. This covers the topic areas, feast days and ways of supporting your child with the Religious development and understanding at home.

Harlow Library Homework Club: A new Free Family Homework Club has launched in Harlow Town Library with the next session being 15:30-17:15 on **Wednesday 18th January**. It is a bookable service that will support you and your child with homework based on the curriculum for their age. You will then sit and have food together. Please see [here](#) for more information and booking.

The Big Garden Birdwatch: "Be wowed by your local wildlife. Big Garden Birdwatch is for everyone, whether you're a complete beginner or a birding expert. Simply count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 16th and 29th January 2023." Our school is entered and you are all invited to take part. Students will be bringing forms home next week to assist with counting. For help identifying a bird you can use the following link <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/> Please return forms during the first week of February.

Dinner Menu: Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#) on our website. Next week we will be on week 2 (Monday 16th January). Please note there will be a switch in the menu next week between Tuesday and Thursday.

Tuesday will now be

Mild Beef Chilli Con Carne/Veg & Lentil Con Carne

Thursday will now be

Pepperoni Pizza / Cheese & Tomato Pizza

We do wish to encourage the students to 'Have a try' with school dinners, which are freshly prepared by our wonderful cooks Mrs Brady and Mrs Crafton. If you have any questions do ask the class teacher or Mrs Black on the gate.

Online Safety: Please see attached "Sort your settings" poster from Essex police with QR code to lots of helpful advice and guides covering many subjects to help safeguard our children. This can be used at any time though is particularly useful for new devices.

Rare Productions: Please see attached poster regarding open auditions for **8yrs+**

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

- Families may be able to get free **Healthy Start vouchers** to spend on milk, fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, please visit the [Healthy Start](#) page on the [NHS website](#).

- **Capped Bus Fares** to travel more cheaply by bus for three months at the start of 2023.

- **Your Essex** has a [special newsletter](#) which gives information on help and support available for families across Essex

- You can also get advice on [money, debt and benefits](#).

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

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](#)

