



The end of a busy week and a busy productive academic year has been marked in school with lots of celebration and joy. It has been so lovely to see the students enjoying their learning, supporting and encouraging each other and caring for their community. Thank you to all the staff who work so hard to foster a strong Catholic learning ethos at St Alban's. Thank you to all our families for your continued support and for the lovely positive messages and thanks received. I wish you all a happy, relaxing summer break. Year 6, best wishes for your future, you have so many gifts to share with this world, we look forward to hearing how you use them.



Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"The witness of the elderly unites the generations of life... The alliance of the elderly and children will save the human family."

Pope Francis

Final House Points: Well done to **St Francis!**
St Bernadette – 150 points
St Francis – 238 points
St Paul – 237 points
St Theresa – 154 points
St Thomas More – 150 points
St Anne Line – 206 points



Latest

Summer Reading Challenge 2023: Ready, Set, Read! Running from 15th July to 2nd September and open to children of all ages. This year children will be helping a superstar team and their mascots complete an obstacle course. They will earn stickers for every book they read and a medal and certificate if they complete the challenge by reading 6 books. A free book for every child aged 7+ who signs up (while stocks last). Visit the [website](#) for further details.

Summer & Water Safety: This week the whole school received a special assembly from Essex Fire & Police Education in Schools Programme.

Please see attached relating Water Safety leaflet. Harlow is lucky to have a number of Paddling Pools (Norman Booth, Town Park, Bush Fair, Potter Street Splash Park, Great Parndon Splash Park, Summers Paddling Pool) the dates for these are:

Pools filled – From Monday 17/07/2023
Officially open – Saturday 22/07/2023
Last day open – Sunday 03/09/2023
Emptying – Monday 04/09/2023

Goodluck: We wish Mr Williamson well as he continues on the next step of his studies towards becoming a teacher and thank him for his work with many classes and students this year.

Arbor: Please ensure all meal arrears have been settled in full by today.

Free School Meals: Automatic entitlement to free school meals finishes at the end of Year 2 and only children from low income families are eligible from Year 3. An application for your child to receive a free school meal must be made [here](#) or by calling 0345 603 2200.

Please note, families can apply for Free School meals at any time from yR onwards and at any point in the school year. Do speak with the school office or Mrs Black if you have any queries on this.

Year 6 Leavers: We have enjoyed celebrating with year 6, through their production and Leaver's Mass, their time at St. Alban's. We wish them all the best as they begin their secondary schools. We hope they always remember our school values, rooted in God's love for ourselves and others. Through the words of Oscar Romero 'May you aspire to be more rather than have more.' Year 6 each chose a Bible verse that inspires them with hope and have made these into a cross for school, blessed at the Mass.

Facebook: [St Alban's Catholic Academy](#) is launching its own official Facebook page from September. This will be updated weekly with events and school news including children's school activities and photos. Please check your Arbor permission is correctly completed. This can be located under your child's Profile in Arbor. Please scroll down to Consents section and relating consent is ***Photo consent for Social Media**. Please contact the school office if you would like to withdraw consent.

School Meals: The price for pupil school meals will increase in the new academic year starting on our return in September. The new school **dinner charge will be £2.50 a day**. Please ensure Arbor accounts are topped up accordingly in line with the new pricing.

Key Dates: Please remember to keep check of the upcoming dates link in this newsletter which advises dates for all the key events we have planned for this academic year.
[Click here for St Alban's Key Dates 23-24](#)

Term Dates: School term 2023-2024 dates are available on the [school website](#).

Pre-School and Y1-Y6 return to school on Tuesday 5th September 2023. YR return as individually communicated.

Gate Opening Times:

8:40am – 8.55am - After this time, your child will be marked as late.

3.05pm – Pre School sessions finish

3.15pm – End of the school day

Catholic Community

London Marathon 2024: Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a number of Charity places for London Marathon runners taking place on SUNDAY 21st April 2024. If you would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. **The closing date for completed applications is Friday 28th July** and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid).

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:

This Sunday 23rd July is a celebration of grandparents, the Sunday before the feast of [Sts. Anne and Joachim](#), the grandparents of Jesus, and the theme for the day, selected by Pope Francis, will be "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). Pope Francis has often emphasized the important role of grandparents in passing on the Catholic faith.

Tech Tips

Keeping Children Safe Online: With the Summer holidays ahead no doubt there will be an increase in children's time spent online. Please find link to [NSPCC's Keeping children safe online](#) for online safety guidance and resources.

School Life

Dinner Menu: Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#) on the website. When we return in September we will be on week 2 (w/c Monday 4th September).

Wishing you a wonderful summer break.

Through God's love we learn together, grow together and achieve together.

