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Fr Bogdan also invited the children to come in to Church in the mornings with their family before school to say a prayer or to sit for a few moments. On any morning that the Church is open, do know that you are invited to come inside – even if only for a very little while – you are most welcome.

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Most importantly, I am very proud of our year 6 who were highly praised by St Mark's staff for their participation and manners during their visit. Well done year 6!

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"This is the heart of the Christian faith: God, who is love, has drawn near to you in His Son Jesus, and wants to share in your life, your work, your dreams, and your thirst for happiness."

Pope Francis

Final House Points: Well done to **St Anne Line!**

St Bernadette – 156 points

St Francis – 145 points

St Paul – 141 points

St Theresa – 91 points

St Thomas More – 114 points

St Anne Line – 158 points



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

Year R – Jax

Year 1 – Chris

Year 2 – Peppe

Year 3 – Finley

Year 4 – Kamsi

Year 5 – Jude

Year 6 – Adaobi



Book Swap: Our free book exchange is still in use. You can take or place any of your own books in the Book Swap cupboard on your way out of school.

Donations: Uniform, books and toys are always gratefully received by us at school where we re-use such items for the benefit of the children.

Church Welcome: Fr Bogdan invites the children and their families to come into Church on any morning when the door is unlocked. You may want to say a prayer or simply sit quietly for a moment on your journey towards school. You are most welcome.

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 also note that if your child is in Reception-y2, you may also apply on the same link for Free school meals as if you are eligible, it does then give you access to HAF which provides extra support during the main holidays.

Come and See: As part of our distinctive Catholic Curriculum we use a scheme called Come and See to teach Religious Education. The newsletter for the term is attached today for you to see the topics and themes we cover as well as the special feast days we celebrate over this term.



Parking: Please do not pull in or ask taxis to drop across the school front gate.

Please do park (or get dropped off) at the Church car park (you may give your registration number to our school office) where there is also an additional car park behind the Church hall.

Clubs: Clubs will restart for children in KS2 on Tuesday 19th September. Parents will be informed of the club allocations on Monday 18th September. **Please read all emails in full.**

Please also find attached newsletter from externally provided music lessons held on the school site. All contact for these should be made direct.

Governors: If you are interested in becoming a governor within any of our schools, please email me via the school office. We are particularly seeking governors/trustees with a financial or legal background.

Secondary Admission for September 2024:

Applications for secondary places opened on Tuesday 12th September. This is for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2024.

Applications can be made at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions and will close on 31st October 2023.

School Meals: The price for pupil school meals increased this academic year. The new school dinner charge is **£2.50 a day**. Please ensure Arbor accounts are topped up accordingly in line with the new pricing.

Arbor: If using Breakfast or Afterschool club please ensure accounts are in a credit balance and then book the days required as per information emailed. If you have a query, please contact the school office.

Class Pages: Please do remember to regularly check your [child's class page](#) for all the latest news on what our children have been up to.

Punctuality: It is important that your child attends school on time every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Children's learning starts at 8.55am, please ensure you allow plenty of time for your morning school journeys to ensure your child arrives on time.



Medical

Flu Immunisations: Last week you will have received an email with information on this and [consent forms](#) to complete. Deadline for consent forms is **Tuesday 19th September**.





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Illness: In regard to temperatures the NHS advise "if your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away" With a high temperature being given as 38c or more. If your child has a sickness bug (vomiting/diarrhoea), please ensure they have a period of 48hrs without an episode before returning to school.

Medicines: It is parents' responsibility to ensure relevant medication for your child is in school.

Asthma pumps and Epi Pens should all be in class daily and **new medical forms for this academic year completed** with the school office. The school does not provide any medication and if you would like to have some paracetamol kept at school for if it may be required, please provide and complete relevant forms.



Catholic Community

First Holy Communion 2024: A message for Our Lady of Fatima and St Thomas More Parish: Practising Catholic parents who wish to enrol their children (year 3 or above) in next year's First Communion programme can contact Fr. Bogdan at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Parents have until the end of September to register their interest.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) continues to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children, young people and families and are seeing an even greater need for their services at this time. Please take a minute to read about their work and support them where you can. [BCCS – Autumn Newsletter](#).

If you would like to buy some of their charity Christmas cards, you can do so via their [website](#).

Tech Tips

E-Safety: If someone has acted inappropriately towards you online, or to a child or young person you know, you can report this through the CEOP button link on our [websites](#) (found under safeguarding) - this can be used for anyone - not just those connected with our school.

School Life

Dinner Menu: Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#) on the website. Next week we will be on week 1 (w/c Monday 18th September).

Parent Handbook: Do ensure you have had a read of the [Parent Handbook](#) for this academic year on our school website and familiarised yourself with this.

Facebook: [St Alban's Catholic Academy](#) now has its own official Facebook page. This will be updated weekly with events and school news including children's school activities and photos.

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](#).

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