



St Matthew's Gospel this week enabled us to consider our talents. The children shared that they had gifts of friendship, kindness, sharing amongst others – which was lovely to hear as a response. The children were very keen to be sharing their gifts further and we have had lovely examples of skills such as knitting being shared.

This Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King which marks the end of the Church Liturgical Year A. I hope you all have a restful weekend.

**Mrs A M Black, Head of School**

**"Let us pray for peace and let us bring it about, starting in our own homes!"**

**Pope Francis**

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

**St Bernadette** – 146 points

**St Francis** - 123 points

**St Paul** – 148 points

**St Theresa** – 114 points

**St Thomas More** – 141 points

**St Anne Line** – 145 points



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

Year R – Gabi

Year 1 – Adorer & Jemimah

Year 2 – Jesh

Year 3 – Cliyon      Year 5 - Whole Class

Year 4 – Carol      Year 6 – Ashley



#### Latest

**Travelling Crib:** We are pleased to be able to invite you again to take our nativity crib into your home for one night. As a family, you can unpack the box and set up the crib scene. 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. If you would like to take part, please email the school office and your name will be added to the list.



**Foodbank and Donation Box Collections:** The Mini Vinnies have been helping to prepare for our Foodbank and Donation Box collections. They have made posters for the classroom doors and attached to the newsletter here. If you wish to make a donation of food or items for the Donation Boxes, please hand it in at the school gate or office. We are collecting until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Clubs:** Please note that Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November will be the last staff led club for this term.

**Shinseikyu Karate Academy Class:** Last session this term will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Facebook:** Don't forget that we have our own official Facebook page [St Alban's Catholic Academy](#) It's updated regularly so make sure you have a look if you haven't already

**Winter Reading Challenge:** Join Lyrta the penguin as she travels around the world, finding out all about endangered animals. There will be 12 challenges for children to choose from. Lyrta will be leaving on Saturday 25 November 2023 and returning on Saturday 3 February 2024, but you can join her on her travels at any time. Find out more on the [Essex Libraries](#) website.

**Term Time Leave:** Children should not be removed from school during term time without having first requested a leave of absence in writing. Forms can be obtained from the Office and need to be completed in advance.

**Reception 2024/2025 Applications:** You can now apply online for your child's Reception school place. Information on this can be found [here](#) on the Essex website. Closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. **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.**



#### Catholic Community

**Wednesday Word** – Please find attached the Wednesday Word which is an invitation to share this week's Gospel at home as a family.



#### Tech Tips

**E-Safety:** As part of a healthy digital life, the [Children's Commissioner](#) advocates time to switch off too - take a break and get creative or active. As we have been thinking about talents, gifts and skills this week, perhaps it is a good opportunity to have planned break slots where new skills, or current, can be explored and developed.



#### Medical

**Illness:** If your child has a sickness bug (vomiting/diarrhoea), please ensure they have a period of 48hrs without an episode before sending them back to school. With 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. Please see find information on "Is my child too ill for school" [here on the NHS website](#).

#### Community

**Harlow Homework Club:** Using games the whole family can get involved in, these fun and interactive tutor led sessions are designed to make learning fun and give you and your child skills to use at home! These **free sessions** run on a Wednesday 15:30-17:15 [require booking](#).

**Essex Carbon Cutting app:** The pioneering app helps us all to keep track of our carbon footprint and provides suggestions for how to reduce it in our daily lifestyles. Through a range of fun activities, quizzes and videos, the app enables us to learn more about how we can reduce our carbon footprint. It also motivates positive actions by providing rewards which can be used to enter prize draws or donated to a charity. Find out more information [here](#).

#### School Life

**Dinner Menu:** Next week (w/c Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November) we will be on Week 2 of the Winter Menu, located [here](#) on the school website.

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

**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](#)

#### 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

