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'Be Ready!' we heard in the Gospel this week. Be ready to greet Jesus – and we consider how we can prepare our hearts for this. Through kind actions, words and deeds, through loving others as Jesus loves us.

Great Open Doors visited this week and spoke with some members of the Chaplaincy Team about the work we do in sharing Faith.

A prayer to share this week: We pray for the intentions of the community, that all may be helped by the Holy Spirit in their work and encounters with others - always to see the human need in front of us. Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"Dear Young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" **Pope Francis** 

House Points: Well done to our winners this week

St Bernadette – 156 points St Francis - 151 points St Paul - 178 points St Theresa – 127 points St Thomas More – 133 points St Anne Line – 159 points



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

Year R – Akpesiri Year 1 – Victoria C Year 2 – Elsie Year 3 – David Year 5 – Anthony & Edith Year 6 – Sandra Year 4 – Noreen

### Latest

**Foodbank and Donation Box Collections:** 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.

Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance: This will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.15pm and is a ticketed event.

KS2 Carols and Reading Service: This will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall at **2.30pm**, parents are welcomed.- do note the slightly later start time.

Water Bottles & Valuables: There are some very expensive water bottles being marketed such as AirUp which we do not expect to see in school (see Parent handbook extract below). Please do not buy these for school use.

Valuables: The school strongly discourages children to bring anything valuable into school, especially of financial or sentimental value as they can easily get lost or damaged... The school cannot be held responsible for anything lost or damaged.

'Christmas Teddy': Is a resident of St Alban's until the 15<sup>th</sup> December to meet all the children. For your chance to win Christmas Teddy you can purchase a colouring sheet to be coloured in and a name given for Christmas Teddy. Each entry is £1, and the winner will be notified on the 15<sup>th</sup> December and get to take Christmas Teddy home that day.

Travelling Crib: Our travelling Crib has already been making its way around many homes in our community. If you would like to

borrow it for an evening to set up the crib scene and share a family prayer and Christmas story please email the school office and your name will be added to the list.

Christmas Dinner: Thank you to the fabulous Mrs Brady and Mrs Crafton for a truly marvellous Christmas dinner on Wednesday. The food was delicious, and children enjoyed creating some special Christmas party hats and Christmas crafts to bring home and share with you too.

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 15th January 2024.

# Catholic Community

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.

## Tech Tips

E-Safety: The 2 Johns are running a session on Sunday evening (10 December) at 7pm to launch the ESCB online safety week. The virtual session and Q&A will be hosted on Zoom and also The 2 Johns Facebook page. To find out more and join click here.

## Community

Jingle Bell Sleigh: Santa and his sleigh, with traditional horses 'reindeer' and carriage will be spreading some festive cheer with a team of elves on Saturday 9th December from 4.30pm-7.30pm collecting donations on route for St Clare Hospice. There will be a Santa's Grotto, kids disco, brass band, hot food and festive fun at their final destination of New Ground Cafe, Newhall.

The BIG Convoy: Starting at 1.30pm and arriving at The Playhouse at 2.30pm on Saturday 9th December Santa on his sleigh will be leading a convoy of 15 decorated limousines, fire brigade, police and the hairy bikers!

Harlow College: English and Maths courses for adults at Harlow College starting in January 2024. These courses could be FREE to those who do not currently hold a grade C or 4 (or above) in English or Maths. Click to find out more.

Essex SEND Roadshow: These are in person event for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. You do not need any diagnosis to come and get help at the roadshow. The next local event will be Tuesday 19th March at The Harlow Hotel. Further information here.

#### School Life Facebook: St Alban's Catholic Academy

Dinner Menu: Next week (w/c Monday 11th December) we will be on Week 1 of the Winter Menu, located here 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



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

