



Reflecting on the Gospel this week we considered what it is to be a 'witness to the light' and thought about the roles of John the Baptist and the angels.

Well done to all the students for sharing beautiful Carols and Readings from KS2 and nativity performances from KS1 and EYFS.

Thank you to all the staff in preparing these and to our families who supported them as well as also preparing and support our Santa at St Alban's event last Friday. This was so well attended and I thank you all for making the event so successful.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"Confession: Jesus is there ... and He receives you with so much love."

Pope Francis

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

St Bernadette – 113 points

St Francis – 107 points

St Paul – 103 points

St Theresa – 74 points

St Thomas More – 96 points

St Anne Line – 80 points



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

Year R – Whole Class

Year 1 – Henry

Year 2 – Whole Class

Year 3 – Hailey

Year 4 – Rebecca

Year 5 – Nicholas

Year 6 – Bartosz



Latest

School Finish: Reminder that we will finish for the Christmas holidays at **1pm** on Wednesday 20th December. Please note that nurse will finish at **11.45am**.

Christmas Fete: Thank-you to everyone that came to the Christmas Fete last Friday and helped raise an incredible **£723.92** for the PTA.

'Christmas Teddy': Had a wonderful time being a resident of St Alban's and is looking forward to Christmas with Julia, well done.

Grotto Photo's: Don't forget to request the photo's paid for by contacting the photographer at ewasphotography@gmail.com. If you lost your details to pay online, please also contact on this email and they will try to help!



Breakfast Club: Breakfast club will restart on Friday 5th January, please ensure you have booked and paid for any places required in advance.

CAFOD Card Recycling: Our CAFOD club are leading a Christmas Card Recycling Challenge for everyone to recycle their cards. Please support them by bringing your recycling into school in the new year. Attached a poster of what can be recycled and a prize will be earned by the school with the most recycling!

Reception 2024/2025 Applications: You can 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.

Free School Meals: If you would like us to check eligibility for free school meals, please contact the school office as there is an instant check system we can use. Please also contact the office if you have No Recourse to Public Funds.

Presentation of Children: Please take a moment to refresh with school policies on Uniform, Jewellery, Crazes/Fads/Fashions located in our [parent handbook](#).

Arbor Details: Please check your Arbor contact details and emergency contacts are up to date and correct. If you require assistance with amendments, please email the school office.

Winter Reading Challenge: This year's Essex Libraries' Winter Reading Challenge is now underway. The challenge invites children aged 0-11 to take part in various activities, which support literacy and creativity, to earn stickers to fill up their special booklet. More information about the challenge can be found [here](#).

Essex Activate Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme is run by Active Essex. This programme supports the delivery of FREE holiday activity and food clubs for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and working families. The Christmas holiday provision is LIVE to book. Please see attached for further details.

Tech Tips

E-Safety: Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. #StaySafe



Catholic Community

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society: BCCS have a lovely selection of religious themed Christmas Cards in stock for purchase to aid with their fundraising. An order form is attached for your perusal and all information can be found on their [website](#).

Community

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 18th December) we will be on Week 2 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.

Children return back to school on Friday 5th January 2024.