



We focussed on the word 'Homage' from the Gospel this week. We learnt that it means to show another person special honour and respect and to do it publicly to show how much they value another person. We shared how we can do this in prayer, giving thanks.

We were pleased to receive a visit from Mr Robert Halfon, MP for Harlow, today. He met many students and praised them for their knowledge and insightful questions, sharing with the children information on his role and responsibilities.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"Try reading the Gospel for at least 5 minutes every day."

Pope Francis

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

St Bernadette – 236 points

St Francis - 170 points

St Paul – 157 points

St Theresa – 132 points

St Thomas More – 159 points

St Anne Line – 183 points



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

Year R – Benjamin

Year 1 – William

Year 2 – Patricia

Year 3 – Zuzanna Year 5 – Sophia

Year 4 – Michael Year 6 – Kitty



Reception 2024/2025 Applications: Reception school place applications close on **15th January 2024**. Applications can be made [here](#) on the Essex website. **Please ensure you have also completed a required SIF form for St Alban's.**

Shinseikyu Karate Academy Class: Sessions will restart on Monday 15th January 2024.

KS2 Clubs: Afterschool club confirmations have now been sent out to all children who have secured a club place. Please check your emails for this communication and contact the school office if you have any queries.

Breakfast Club: Please ensure when bringing your child/ren to breakfast club you are handing them over directly in person with the breakfast club team, as required.


CAFOD Card Recycling: Please keep bringing in your Card Recycling, we are collecting until **22nd January 2024**.

What can go in the Card Recycling bin?

Any cards – Christmas cards, Birthday cards, Thank you cards, big cards, small cards, bright cards, muted cards – we don't mind! We are also happy for **white** envelopes to go in the bin too.

RNIB: Please see the attached posted, we are now collecting your used stamps in school.

Big School's Birdwatch: The world's largest schools wildlife survey organised by the RSPB. We are inviting you to take part between now and the 5th February. Choose one hour to watch birds landing in your garden. Record the highest number of each bird species you see at one time. If 4 blackbirds are seen all at once, then later 2 blackbirds, you record 4 blackbirds on the sheet as this was the highest seen at any one time. If you do not have access to an outdoor space and would like to take part, please see your Head of School before Friday 19th January 2024. Recording sheets are attached, **please let us know if you would like a printed version.** Forms should be returned by 7th February 2024.

For help identifying a bird you can use the following link <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>
 Happy Birdwatching!

Aspirations Week: Please refer to the email sent on Wednesday 10th January and complete the [form here](#) if you are able to help support. Dress Up/Take Over Day will be on Thursday 1st Feb.

RE Newsletter: As a Catholic school our RE curriculum is distinctive. Please see attached the RE newsletter for the whole of this term. This covers the topic areas, feast days and ways of supporting your child with the religious development and understanding at home.

Livewire: Offer free weekly sessions in Drama, Dance, Music and Singing and love to see new pupils join them, you just need to turn up!

Dance Wednesday at the Playhouse
4-5pm for years 1,2,3
5-6pm for years 4,5,6

Music Wednesdays at Studio 2 The Playhouse
5-6pm for years 3, 4
6-7pm for years 5, 6

Drama Mondays at Pemberley Academy
4-5pm for years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Choir Mondays at Pemberley Academy
5-6pm for years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Cold weather: With the icy cold weather please ensure you allow plenty of time for your school journeys. Children should have hats, gloves, and scarfs to keep them warm as they are outside at periods throughout the day.

Winter Reading Challenge: If you completed this year's Winter Reading Challenge with Essex Libraries, **please remember to bring your certificates into school in January.** It's not too late to sign up as this runs until Saturday 3rd February.

Nearly New Uniform Donations: We are always taking new donations. As well as school uniform clothing this also includes coats, hats, scarves, gloves, shoes, trainers. **Please remember you are welcome to browse our Nearly New Uniform available at the school office.**



Tech Tips

E-Safety: NSPCC have provided a parent booklet to help with conversations with your child. This then helps build talk for online safety discussions too. It is [attached here](#) for your information.

Community

Affinity Water: A low income fixed tariff is available for customers earning less than £17,005 a year or who are claiming certain benefits. Find out if your eligible and apply [here](#).

Family Line are a free helpline that offer emotional support and practical guidance via telephone, text, email and live chat for all family members over the age of 18.

Families can access the service Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm by phone: 0808 802 6666, Text message: 07537 404 282 or Email: familyline@family-action.org.uk To find out more visit <https://www.family-action.org.uk/familyline>

School Life

Dinner Menu: Next week (w/c Monday 15th January 2024) we will be on Week 2 of the Winter Menu, located [here](#) on the school website.

Facebook: [St Alban's Catholic Academy](#) has its own official Facebook page.

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](#)

