

In the Gospel this week, we heard Jesus speaking with conviction and we thought about what that word meant. This led us on to having a particular mission this week for using our words to share the love of God with others. We thought about how the words we choose can change a situation so we try to use words that make others feel loved, valued and encouraged.

During our Aspirations week the students have heard many encouraging words from our visitors. They have shared insights into refereeing, university lecturing, engineering, local government careers and the variety of digital careers to name a few. We were delighted to receive many offers and so some visits will continue in the next few weeks. The students enjoyed these talks and asked very insightful questions. Thank you so much to all our visitors.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"God calls each one of us, and each call is a gift that should fill us with joy."

Pope Francis

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

St Bernadette – 123 points

St Francis – 129 points

St Paul – 124 points

St Theresa – 78 points

St Thomas More – 80 points

St Anne Line – 98 points



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

Year R – Lucas

Year 1 – Abby Lorraine

Year 2 – Preston

Year 3 – Rachu

Year 4 – Ryan


Year 5 – Keira

Year 6 – Juliana



Latest

Big School's Birdwatch: **This is the last weekend to count the birds** you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park **for one hour**. Please return your completed forms back to school by **Monday 5th February**.

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: Thank you to all the parent volunteers who came in and talked to the children about their careers this week. We also had some special visitors to our school in person as well as virtually and the children have enjoyed special assemblies as part of Aspirations week. We were so proud of all the children on take over day and well done to those who did a wonderful take over job of roles within the school.

Headteacher – Chima and Hailey

Office – Admirer and Lilly

Caretaker – Dereck and Poppy

St Alban's Nursery: Intake at St Alban's is from the term after a child turns 3. We cannot take children younger than this. You may apply at any time for a place by completing an application form located [here](#) on our school website.

Supervision of children: We normally have adults available before and after school near the gates. May I remind parents we are there to meet and greet and answer any questions you may have. We are not security guards and we are not supervising your children. Please ensure your child is fully supervised until they enter the classroom. Older children with permission may come to school on their own, all other children must be escorted to the classroom.

School News: Please do remember to regularly check your [child's class page](#) and the school official [St Alban's Catholic Academy](#) Facebook Page for all the latest news on what our children have been up to.

Parking

Parking: Again, we have received number of concerns from residents regarding inconsiderate parking. Please park respectfully and not across other people's drives even if it is just for a minute.

Tech Tips

E-Safety: The NSPCC is holding a workshop about keeping children safe while gaming online as part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival in February 2024. The workshop, for families and professionals working with children, takes place on **7th February 2024**. Full details available [here](#).



Catholic Community

Brentwood Catholic Childrens Society: We have been asked to share the attached resource from BCCS ahead of Children's Mental Health Week. The theme 'My Voice Matters' aims to support parents and careers engaging in discussion with your child/ren.

Community

Essex Activate: Please see attached the two flyers explaining what Essex Activate is and how to book. Half term holiday clubs are available to 'low income' families who would be unable to attend a holiday club without their support.

Autism Central - Support Provided by Families/Carers for Families/Carers:

[Autism Central](#) offers information, group online sessions and 1:1 support via telephone or Teams. A diagnosis is not needed to access this free service. Upcoming events include:

- Thurs 8 Feb 2024 - Supporting Sleeping
- Thurs 15 Feb 2024 - Holiday Survival

Butterfly Effect Wellbeing Hub, The Bungalow, Latton Bush Centre: Offer parent and social support groups, mindfulness sessions and many more services including food donations. Please have a look at their [website](#).

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	Thursday at Studio 2 The Playhouse 4-5pm for years 3, 4, 5 & 6

School Life

Dinner Menu: Next week (w/c Monday 5th February 2024) we will be on Week 2 of the Winter Menu, located [here](#) on the website.

Key Dates: Please remember to keep check of the upcoming dates planned for this academic year. [St Alban's Key Dates 23-24](#)

School Term Dates: Please find these on our [website](#).

