



Pope Leo prayed the rosary at Lourdes yesterday with 700 children and is calling on children and their families to join in throughout October. Pope Leo said when doing this we are asking Jesus and Mary for "a special gift: peace for all the children of the world, especially those who live in places where there is war, in so many countries around the world."

We will be praying a decade of the rosary together every Wednesday morning at 9am in the hall (as we usually do in October and May) and parents, you are most welcome to join us.

"The Rosary Priest," Venerable Father Patrick Peyton, Lynch said, "The family that prays together stays together." Pope Leo really encourages families to pray the Rosary at home as well. Through 'Aid to the Church in Need' Pope Leo's dream is to have a million children praying the Rosary with him.

Mrs A M Black, Head of School

"Prayers must also be accompanied by good deeds and acts of love, that is how peace grows."
- Pope Leo XIV

Key Dates

Please do ensure you keep check of the upcoming dates link below for all the key events we have planned.

This link is regularly updated.

[Key Dates 2026 to 2027 for St Alban's](#)

School Life

Dinner Menu: Located [here](#) on the website. Next week we will be on week 3 of our Autumn Term menu (w/c 5th October).

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

Year 1 – Syllas
Year 2 – Godspower
Year 3 – Jax
Year 4 – Victoria

Year 5 – Lia
Year 6 – Amen



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

St Bernadette – 136 points

St Francis - 126 points

St Paul – 116 points

St Theresa – 82 points

St Thomas More – 123 points

St Anne Line – 107 points



Travelling Rosary: Our statue of Our Lady may visit houses during October. Please let the office know if you would like to take this home for your family one evening.

The Rosary: In the month of the rosary the chaplaincy team lead us in prayer. See this [link](#) where you can pray the ROSARY challenge.

Rosary: During October, we will be saying the Rosary on Wednesdays. Children are invited to bring in their rosary for this, if they have one.

Harvest Food Bank: The Mini Vinnies are now collecting for our local Food Bank, a donation basket is in the main office foyer. Please see posters from our Mini Vinnies around the school for suggested items to bring in up until Wednesday 14th October.

Year 6 PGL: This week, our Year 6 pupils went on their residential trip to Grosvenor Hall in Kent. They took part in a range of adventurous activities including climbing, archery, fencing, zipline, leap of faith and more. All the children showed such respect, resilience, positivity and encouragement for the entire 3 days. They were a credit to our school. **Well done Year 6!**

Aspirations Week

25th January – Friday 29th January 2027

We have started planning for our Aspirations Week at the start of 2027 and need our parents and community support to make the week absolutely amazing for our children. Therefore, if any parents can support us by:

- Giving up any time during this week **to come into school** and share your work with the children.
- Can speak to your employers about how they can support
- Police/Fire/Ambulance- who may be able to meet us live or virtually.

Please do email the school office to find out more information.

October Half Term: Please be reminded that **Friday 23rd October is an inset day** and there will be no school for children. Children will finish on Thursday 22nd October at 3.20pm and return on Monday 2nd November at 8.40am.

The school term 2026-2027 dates are available here on the [school website](#).

School Collections: If you have made arrangements for someone else to collect your child and they are not listed as an emergency contact, you must ensure the school has been prior made aware and the person collecting knows where they are collecting from and the child's collection password. **This especially includes collection from afterschool clubs and activities.**

Reception September 2027: If your child is due to start Reception in September 2027 and you would like to book in for our Reception Tour please contact the Office to book onto one of the following dates:

Thursday 22nd October 26 at 10am

Tuesday 10th November 26 at 9.10am

Wednesday 18th November 26 at 2.30pm

Tuesday 1st December 26 at 9.30am

Wednesday 13th January 27 at 9am

Secondary Applications for September 2027: Year 7 applications for September 2027 are now open for parents, of current Year 6, to apply for a Secondary School. Applications can be made online via [Admissions for September 2027 | Essex County Council](#)

The statutory national closing date for applications is **31st October 2026**.

Please note that for **St. Mark's Secondary School** a 'gold form' will need to be completed alongside your Essex application.



Internet Safety

What is this app? If your child is wanting a particular app you have not heard of or unsure of then Common Sense Media can help. Choose 'apps' from the menu at the side and it gives an age rating and summary for so many apps to help you decide if it is appropriate - it also gives alerts to problems with apps. [Search | Common Sense Media](#)

Community

The [Essex Activate Holiday and Activity Food Programme](#) is running again during the October Half Term for young people who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and working families. Please click on the above link for further information and details on booking.

MHST: Please find [link](#) to MHST September Newsletter.

ACL: Please see attached information on FREE online courses available to Parents/Carers/Grandparents.

Christmas Card Competition: Chris Vince MP has launched a Christmas Card Competition for primary school pupils across Harlow and the surrounding villages. The winning design will be featured on Chris Vince's official 2026 Christmas card and they will also be invited to Parliament with their parent(s) or guardian(s) for a tour in the New Year. The theme is **Harlow** and young artists are encouraged to interpret this in their own creative way while keeping their design festive and full of Christmas spirit. A template is attached, note entries must be **A5** in size. Completed entries can be brought to school office to be passed on no later than **Monday 19th October 2026**.

