



The story of the prodigal son is one we have heard many times. This week our chaplaincy team re-told it for us and helped us think about how important it is to continue to love each other, even when we make mistakes. It can be very hard when we are upset by friends but we must try. God wants us to leave peacefully together and this is where it starts. -Mrs A M Kendal, Head of School

"Praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength!" **Pope Francis**

Pupil of the Week:

Pupils who gained a certificate this week are:
Reception: Anastasia R Year 1 – Francesca
Year 2 – Nathaniel Year 3 – Bradley
Year 4 – Priscilla Year 5 – Olivia

House Points: Well done to **St Bernadette** this week's winners with **195** points!

St Bernadette – 195
St Francis – 101
St Paul – 160
St Theresa – 133
St Thomas More – 60
St Anne Line – 182



Year 5 Mass: On Tuesday 27th September, Year 5 celebrated the first class Mass of the Year based on the theme of Love One Another having focussed on how to be a good and holy person in their first RE topic. There was excellent reading and wonderful singing. Thank you to Father Bernard for coming to celebrate with us and to the parents who came to join us.

Reading Festival: This week the pupils have been developing their love of reading through the Reading is Magic Festival. Inspiration for the name came from Waterstones Children's Laureate 2019-2022 **Cressida Cowell's** key message 'Reading is magic, and magic is for everyone'. Authors and illustrators have shared their own thoughts and ideas about stories and how pupils can write their own. Year 5 listened to Sharna Jackson, Robin Stevens and Serena Patel explain their own planning process for writing mystery stories before writing their own next week. You can access any of the videos from this year's festival for free by visiting [Reading is Magic Festival](#) and signing up.

[Our School Reading Survey](#)
[Pupil Library Survey](#)

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Thank you so much to all the parents and children who donated some wonderful cakes to sell in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The Mini-Vinnies have done a marvellous job of organising and selling today. We

will let you know our total money raised next week.

French Week: Monday 26th September is European Languages Day where we celebrate the many languages spoken within Europe and look for the opportunities we have to learn a new language for ourselves. The children listened to some of their favourite stories in French such as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and tried to learn some passages off by heart. They also listened to some French songs. During our Key Stage Assemblies, we explored the different languages that can be heard in Europe and explored some of the many languages spoken in our school.

Jigsaw Theme -Being Me in my World: Each half term in our Personal Social and Health education lessons we have a set theme. The current topic is: Being Me in my World. Each week all the children throughout the school reflect on an area that they can see in their everyday behaviours. This week we are celebrating people who: Care about other people's feelings.

Year 6 Residential: This week our Year 6 have been away on their outdoor and adventurous activity week. They have had a wonderful time swinging from high ropes and climbing very high walls. They have been a pleasure to be with. If your child is in Year 5 do find time to speak with our Year 6 parents and children to see how brilliant this trip is. It really develops the children's team building and resilience skills.

Harvest Assembly: Next week we will be celebrating Harvest. As we remember how lucky we are in receiving God's gifts we also remember those in need. Mini-Vinnies will be doing a collection for the food bank on FRIDAY 7th OCTOBER. Do bring in what you can. Suggestions can be found [here](#).

Tours for Reception Intake 2023: If your child will be Reception age for September 2023, we are running tours of the school on the following dates and times. Do contact the Office if you would like to book a place. 01279423499
Wednesday 19th October 9am
Tuesday 8th November 3.30pm

Wednesday 23rd November 9am

School Governor: Our school is appointing a Local Governor to support the ongoing improvement in our school. We are particularly looking for people with skills in strategic leadership and business support. If you feel you can help, please speak with our Head of School, who can give you a little more information and who will then arrange a meeting with Mr Kendal.

Secondary Applications for September 2023: Year 7 applications for September 2023 are now open. Please note that for St. Mark's Secondary School a SIF will also need to be completed found [here](#). Applications can be made online via [Secondary school places - Essex County Council](#)

Census Day: Thursday 6th October is the School Census day. Please encourage your child to try a school dinner on this day, remember, school meals are delicious and nutritious. Our menu for this day is:

All Day Breakfast
Veggie All Day Breakfast
Jacket Potato
served with Cheese, Beans or Tuna toppings
Salad Bar also available
Krispie Cake/Fruit/Yoghurt

Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#). W/C 3rd October will be week 3.

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday 4th Oct: Year 6 Mass 2.30pm (Parents Welcome)
Tuesday 11th Oct: Year 4 Mass 2.30pm
Wednesday 12th Oct: Reception Class, Gruffalo Tea Party 2pm (Parents Welcome)
Tuesday 18th Oct: St Luke's Feast Day Mass 10.45am
Tuesday 18th Oct: Year 1-6 Face to Face Parents Evening (More details to follow)
Wednesday 19th Oct: Year 1-6 Virtual Parents Evening (More details to follow)
Friday 21st Oct: Year 5 Class Assembly 9.05am (Parents Welcome)
Tuesday 1st Nov: All Saints Day Mass 10.45am
Tuesday 8th Nov: Year 3 prayer service 2.30pm

See the link for further key dates within the academic year. [Key Dates 2022-2023](#)

