



We focused on the word "homage" in our gospel assembly this week. We were told the kings paid Jesus homage. They were so in awe of the wonder of this great King, born as a simple child in a stable, that they knelt down before him. We took the time to consider why we must pause and pay homage to him in our prayer. Through this we hope and pray 2024 is a time of peace and reconciliation all over the world.- **Mrs A M Kendal, Head of School**

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

Pupil of the Week:

Pupils who gained a certificate this week are:

Reception – Elizabeth

Year 1 – Sam

Year 2 – Freddie

Year 3 – Dasia

Year 4 – Maya

Year 5 – Michael

Year 6 – Louis



House Points: Well done to **St Bernadette** this week's winners with 99 points!

St Bernadette - 99

St Francis – 82

St Paul – 80

St Theresa – 97

St Thomas More – 68

St Anne Line – 90

Aspirations Week: Earlier this week we informed parents about this year's Aspirations Week. We are asking if any parents can support us by giving up their time week commencing 29th January **to come into school** and share their work with the children. If you are able to support us please complete [Aspirations Week Parents Form](#).

Aspirations Take Over Day will be **Thursday 1st February** when the whole school will celebrate their aspiration with a dress up and take over. Children are invited to wear clothes and costumes related to jobs and careers (however creative!).

Nursery Welcome: Welcome to the 10 new members who have joined our Nursery class this week. It is lovely to meet new families as well as some of our siblings. Please remember that all applications for reception places for September 2024 must be made [here](#) by **Monday 15th January**. If you have applied for St Luke's you must also complete a supplementary application from which can be obtained from the front office.

Epiphany Mass: This week we celebrated the feast of the epiphany and welcomed Fr Bernard to say Mass for us on Tuesday. It was lovely to start 2024 reflecting on the great gift of Jesus that Christmas brings us.

Masses and Prayer Services: New masses and prayer services have been added into our calendar for the term. Parents are always very welcome to attend. The children enjoy sharing prayer with their families.

RSPB Big School's Birdwatch: The Big School's Birdwatch is 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. [RSPB-identify a bird](#)
Recording sheets can be requested from the class teachers next week, and should be returned by 7th February 2024.
Happy Birdwatching!

School Readiness Programme: The school readiness morning run by Julie from Harlow Council takes place in our school hall on Friday mornings between 9-10am. It is for any child aged 3-5 preparing to start school. All children and parents are welcome to attend, this includes families not already in our school community. **Please note it is not on Friday 18th January.**
See the attached flyer for more free activities taking place in Harlow for 3-5 year olds.

School Drop Off: We are asking again that if your child is in Year 5 and below they are escorted by an adult to the class room door in the mornings and supervised until in class. Please do not drop children younger than Year 6 at the school gates.
For all our children's safety please ensure you enter the premises via the pedestrian gate and exit via the car park.
Please can the above messages be shared with family members who also collect and drop off.

Colder weather: Please make sure all children have suitable outdoor coats, hats, gloves and scarves as the weather gets colder. The children are outside for some time at lunch and need to stay warm. In order to ventilate classrooms windows and doors and opened

for periods of time so if your child does get cold ensure they wear a vest under their shirt.

House Team Meet: Our Year 6 House Captains and Vice-Captains lead our House Meetings this week. The theme was 'Kindness.' They discussed different ways we can show kindness through our words and actions. We will all try to show acts of kindness as often as we can!

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. See here [Positive parenting \(nspcc.org.uk\)](#)

Dinner Menu: Our school dinner menu can be located [here](#). W/C 15th January will be week 2.

Try a school dinner day: Thursday 18th January is "try a school dinner day". Please encourage your child to try a school dinner on this day, remember, school meals are delicious and nutritious at just £2.50 for KS2 children. Children in KS1 with a packed lunch will be encouraged to try something on this day. Our menu this day is:

Beef Burger and wedges

Veggie Burger and wedges

Jacket Potato

served with Cheese, Beans or Tuna toppings

Salad Bar also available

Fruit or Yoghurt

Next 2 weeks:

W/C 15th Jan: RSBP Bird Watch Starts

Mon 15th Jan: KS2 After School Clubs Start

Tue 23rd Jan: Y5 at St Mark's watching Annie.

Key Dates: Please see the link for [class assemblies, Mass/Prayer Service, and other school events](#) [Key Dates: 2023-2024](#)

Mass Times:

Holy Cross Parish Mass Times are:

Saturday 5.30pm Sunday 9am and 11am

holycrosschurchharlow.co.uk

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Mass times are:

STM Church **Sunday 8.30am**

OLF Church: **Saturday 6pm**

Sunday 10.30am, 12.15pm (Polish)

<https://olfstm.weebly.com/>

