



"What's in a name?" asks Romeo in the famous Shakespeare tragedy Romeo and Juliet. This is what we focused on in our gospel assembly this week. What is the meaning behind what our parents chose for us? Is it through family tradition or the meaning behind the name that we may have been given it. John the Baptist of course came as one to baptise but his name JOHN means – loved by God. As Jesus' cousin he prepares the way for Jesus' coming, so that we make ready ourselves to listen and pay attention to his word. In this second week of advent we try to listen closely to the word of God and do not become distracted by the sometimes frantic Christmas rush. - **Mrs A M Kendal, Head of School**

"John the Baptist teaches us to bear witness to Jesus" **Pope Francis**

Pupil of the Week:

Pupils who gained a certificate this week are:
Reception- Presley

Year 1 – Max Year 2 – Fiona
Year 3 – Alexandra Year 4 – Amenze
Year 5 – Michael Year 6 – Charlie C

House Points: Well done to **St Anne Line** this week's winners with **172** points!

St Bernadette – 123
St Francis – 95
St Paul – 108
St Theresa – 103
St Thomas More – 74
St Anne Line – 172

Book Mark Competition The Reading Champions launched their 'St Luke's loves Reading' bookmark competition this week. Children are asked to design a bookmark to show how much they like reading. It could show favourite books, a message about reading or show characters from books you have read. All entries are due by Wednesday 14th December and winning bookmarks will be announced on Friday 16th. The winning designs for KS1 and KS2 will be made into bookmarks for everyone to be able to buy.

Nursery Crafts: The Nursery had a wonderful Christmas Craft afternoon on Thursday with lots of parents joining in and creating some wonderful decorations and fluffy snowmen. Thank you for joining us parents we had a great time.

Reconciliation: On Tuesday we had a beautiful reconciliation service for our key stage two children. This is a chance to reflect on any mistakes we have made and consider ways to reconcile with others. The chaplaincy led us in readings and reflections

and Fr Bernard joined us and offered the sacrament for those in school.

Attendance: Please be aware that that there has been a substantial increase in requests for term time absence. As a school we have a strict policy that does not authorise absences during term time and may move to fining if children's absence exceeds five days. If you are intending to remove your child during school time you **MUST** make an application via a form available at the office and on the website.

Mini-Vinnies: The Mini-Vinnies have been super busy this week again. On Monday the director of the volunteers from Princess Alexander came to visit them to tell them more about life at the hospital. Our children are busy creating some lovely Christmas cards for the patients and staff and it is always really lovely to hear what it is like there.

They have also been busy on the road. I am sure you spotted them on Tuesday as they looked at how safe it is to cross at the end of the day. As you will remember they have already written to our local councillor to look at a crossing. Their main concern when we watched on Tuesday was cars parked on double yellow lines and blocking pavement space. Please consider our children when you collect your children at the end of the day. We all want them to be safe.

Christmas Dinner: On Wednesday we all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner in our classes. The afternoon was spent making Christmas Crafts. Thank you to Mrs Fullen and Mrs Platt for doing such a marvellous job...it really was delicious.

Travelling Crib: There is still time to put your name down to take our nativity crib into your home for one night. There will be a candle, song, prayer and a book of the Nativity story, which can be read to the children, telling the Christmas story. The children can also draw a picture or write a prayer inspired by the night your family had the travelling crib (these may be displayed in our school too). The crib scene will then need to be carefully packed away and taken back to the school office the next day so that it can visit another family's house. If you would like to take part, please email the School Office.

Reception School Admissions: Applications for Reception 2023 school places have opened and must be completed by **15th January 2023**. Applications can be made online via [Primary school places - Essex County Council](#). **All applications to St Luke's will additionally require a SIF form to be completed which can be found [here](#) on our website or requested from the School Office.**

Dinner Menu: Our School Dinner Menu can be located [here](#). W/C 12th December is week 1.

Upcoming Dates: Tickets for Christmas performances were handed out on Friday.

Monday 12th Dec: Y3-Y6 Carol Service 9.30am.

Tuesday 13th Dec: Y3-Y6 Carol Service 9.30am.

Tuesday 13th Dec: Y1 & Y2 Christmas Nativity 2pm.

Thursday 15th Dec: Nursery & Reception Nativity 9.15am.

Thursday 15th Dec: PTA film night

Thursday 15th Dec: Y2 Theatre Trip

Tuesday 20th Dec: Last Day of term 1pm Finish

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

