



Our term ends with our many Christmas celebrations and services. The children have learnt that through our Advent preparation of hope, peace and joy we wait for Jesus to enter our lives bringing his love. This love shines to all people and as we enter this special time with our families, we pray it shines in our hearts in all we do. I wish you and all your families a very blessed and peaceful Christmas. - Mrs A M Kendal, Head of School

“Accompanied by the Mother of Jesus on the journey towards Christmas...let us make an effort to rediscover the great hope and joy brought to us by the coming of the Son of God into the world.” **Pope Francis**

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



- Reception – Judah
- Year 1 – Oli
- Year 2 – Beaux and The whole of year 2
- Year 3 – Alexandra
- Year 4 – Shaun
- Year 5 – Olivier
- Year 6 – Nicolas

House Points: Well done to St Thomas More this week's winners with 217 points!

- St Bernadette – 143
- St Francis – 176
- St Paul – 208
- St Theresa – 177
- St Thomas More – 217
- St Anne Line – 141

Thank you: Thank you, parents, for all your kind gifts and messages. The staffroom certainly has been full of lovely treats this week. Thank you to all the staff who have worked tirelessly this term to ensure your children receive the best experience at school.

PTA Christmas Raffle: Thank you so much for your donations and ticket purchasing for the raffle. We had 7 fabulous hampers as prizes and raised £186. Thank you so much for your generosity. Our PTA maybe small but they are remarkable in their fund raising. They will be looking for new volunteers in the new year. Hopefully as restrictions lift, we will be able to do more activities.

Community Embrace: Thank you to Community Embrace Team who donated a raffle hamper. Do not forget the pantry will be open this weekend at The Playbarn of The GPCA in Staple Tye (CM18 6YJ) This supports all families in tackling loneliness and supporting food donations.

Christmas Carol Services and Nativities: Thank you so much for joining us this week for our beautiful services and plays. The children were so excited to have an audience once more. They all performed confidently and re-told the Christmas story with such enthusiasm. We are all very proud of them.

Princess Alexandra Hospital: Currently when once more the NHS is working incredibly hard our children have risen to the challenge. Earlier this month all the classes have recorded carols for the hospital radio. These will be shared with the patients over the Christmas holiday. Each class have also created a large, laminated card with “Postcards to Patients”, sharing messages to cheer up all those who will be in hospital over the Christmas period. I know they will be gratefully received.

Drop off: When dropping your children off in the morning please make sure you are escorting them to their class. Children should not be dropped off at the road side.

BCCS Collection: After all our Christmas performances this week we asked the parents to donate a little something to the Brentwood Catholic Children Society. The BCCS do a lot to support the children in our school and we would like to thank you for the donations, we raised £206.14.

Looking for a present this Christmas? Why not find a great book to sit back and enjoy! Love [Reading](#) website has all the top picks of the last month that your children may enjoy. So dive in and enjoy a great book.

New Reception: Applications are now open for Reception Class September 2022. You will need to apply via: [Primary school places - Essex County Council](#) by the 15th January 2022. **All applications to St Luke's will additionally require a SIF to be completed which can be found [here](#) on our website or requested from the school office.**

Holy Cross First Holy Communion: Holy Cross Church are hoping to start their First Holy Communion programme in March. If your child is in Year 3 and would like to make their first holy communion at Holy Cross please contact Claire Selwood on hxslslyouth@outlook.com

Covid-19: Please be reminded that any child presenting one of the stated symptoms will be sent home for you to arrange a PCR test. The government documentation states the following - "If anyone in your school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, you should send them home and they should follow public health advice." Please also note: If you or any member of your family test positive for Covid, there is not a need for your child to isolate. Children only isolate once they test positive. However, NHS Track and Trace could direct a class or school closure, if the numbers of positive cases rise – please be aware that you may still need to collect your children at short notice. Please do let the school know if you or a family member contract Covid 19, then we can be extra vigilant around the school.

Twice weekly LFT: With the rise in COVID-19 infections in primary school age children, we encourage you to help limit the spread of the infection by testing your child twice-weekly. You can collect Lateral Flow Test kits from your local pharmacy using one of the codes provided [Here](#).

New Dinner Menu: Our new school dinner menu can be located [here](#) on our website. Wednesday 5th January will be pizza instead of a roast dinner.

Upcoming Dates:
Tuesday 4th January: Non-Pupil Day
Thursday 6th January Epiphany – 11am Mass
Thursday 13th January: Year 4 Swimming lessons start

