



28th November 2025



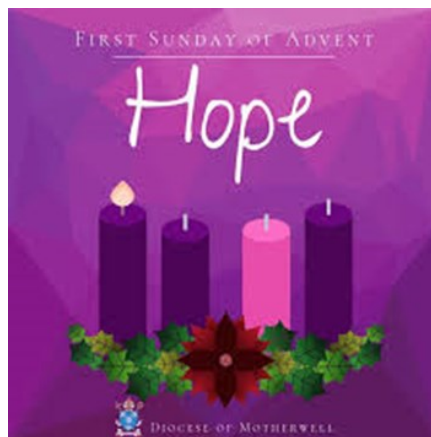
GOSPEL VALUE: Our Gospel Value for next week is Hope. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection

We were excited for the children arriving into school this morning and for them to see the lights and decorations. We are entering the final three weeks of the autumn term and we have eager anticipation for our Nativity plays, Carol Concerts, Christmas dinner days and parties. The school will be full of love joy and happiness.

It is important that we remember that this Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and that we will be journeying with Mary and Joseph in these next weeks. Just as they prepared for the birth of Jesus so we are preparing to welcome Jesus this Christmas into our hearts and our lives so that his bright light can shine out through us to the world. In the words of the carol, 'Christmas isn't Christmas, 'til it happens in our hearts.'

I am looking forward to welcoming parents and family members to many of the special celebrations over the next weeks and to share with you the magic of this very special time in our school. We pray for Hope in our Hearts, Hope in our school, Hope in our lives and Hope in our world.



I wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Cold weather

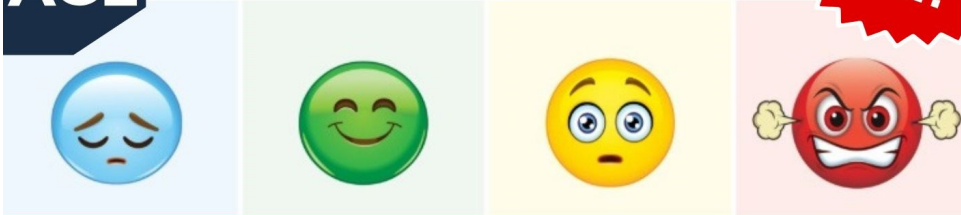
We have had freezing temperatures this week. Please make sure that your child has a warm coat, hat, scarf and gloves when they come to school so that they can be warm when they are outside at break and lunchtime. Please make sure that everything is named.

Parents in Partnership

It was great to meet with parents this week to discuss any concerns or issues that have been shared with the Year group representatives. I am pleased to say that Yorkshire Puddings will be served with the roast dinner from next week. Parents who attended will be sharing the minutes with you in your class WhatsApp groups.

Christmas

Please be sure to read all of the communications and check the newsapp everyday for updates on what is happening everyday at school. There is a huge amount and we would hate for your child to miss out on something.



Zones of Regulation Online Course

This engaging two-week course is designed to give parents and carers valuable insight into the Zones of Regulation framework. You will learn practical strategies to help children and young people:

- Recognize and understand their emotions
- Develop self-regulation skills
- Build resilience and emotional intelligence
- Strengthen communication and relationships

Date: 02/12/2025

Time: 09:45 - 11:45

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website aclessex.com and type "ZONES" in the 'Find a course...' box



aclessex.com
0345 603 7635





Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children for trying really hard with their times tables this week.

Hedgehogs:	Olivia	Squirrels:	Lilah
Badgers:	Chloe	Foxes:	Arthur
Hares:	Zara	Rabbits:	Emilia
Kingfishers:	Joel	Robins:	Hayley
Eagles:	Jalynn	Owls:	Dominik

The ACL logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark blue, trapezoidal background.

Community & Family Learning Courses



COURSE TITLE	VENUE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME
FL FAMILY FIRST AID	ACL HARLOW & THE LIBRARY	01/12/2025 (2 WEEKS)	10:00	12:00
FL ZONES OF REGULATION	ONLINE LIVE	02/12/2025 (2 WEEKS)	09:45	11:45
FL UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING ANGER	ONLINE LIVE	4/12/2025 (2 WEEKS)	19:00	21:00
FL MANAGING BIG EMOTIONS	ONLINE LIVE	10/12/2025	19:00	21:30
FL UNDERSTANDING DYSLEXIA	ONLINE LIVE	10/12/2025	12:30	14:30
FL ROUTINES RULE	ONLINE LIVE	12/12/2025	12:30	15:00
FL BRINGING STORIES TO LIFE	CHIPPING ONGAR LIBRARY	16/12/2025	11:00	12:00

If you would like to enrol on to a FREE course please Visit our website acessex.com and type the course title in the 'Find a course...' box

acessex.com
0345 603 7635



Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS
programme

Friday 28th November
Non Uniform day for the Christmas Extravaganza

Monday 1st December at 2pm
EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity

Tuesday 2nd December at 2pm and 6pm
EYFS and Year 1 Christmas Nativity

Wednesday 3rd December at 2.30pm
Violin concert

Thursday 4th December - 3.30pm to 5.30pm
Christmas Extravaganza

Friday 5th December
9.15am EYFS and Year 1 Christingle
2pm KS2 Christingle



Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS
programme

Saturday 6th December at 11am
Choir to sing at Abbott Care Home

Tuesday 9th December
EYFS AND KS1 Christmas lunch

Wednesday 10th December
Whole School Christmas Pantomime

Wednesday 10th December at 2pm
Rocky Steady concert

Thursday 11th December
Christmas jumper day

Thursday 11th December
KS2 Christmas lunch



Holy Cross
CHRISTMAS
programme

Monday 15th December at 6pm
Year 2 and Choir Christmas concert

Tuesday 16th December at 6pm
Year 3 Christmas Carol concert

Thursday 18th December
Non uniform day
Class Christmas celebrations

Friday 19th December
School finishes at 1.30pm

Monday 5th January
Back to school



Christmas HAMPERS

Please bring items in for our class hamper.
Hamper items need to be in by Monday 8th December



MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025
AT 3PM

Jolly Christmas Jumper sale

The Eco Council will be having a
PRE LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE.
Any Christmas jumpers that you no longer
need please bring them into school.





HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
PRIMARY ACADEMY


CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

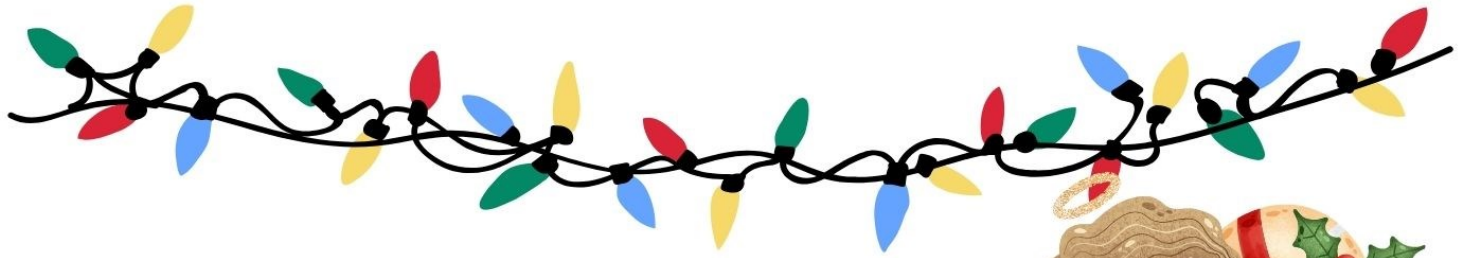
Have a jolly holly holiday season at our extravaganza

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER
3.30PM TO 5.30PM

Admission is completely free, so bring your entire
family!

Come and enjoy our Christmas stalls and crafts and
even a visit to Father Christmas!!
Refreshments will also be available.





THE GIVING TREE



Pick a tag off the tree
and buy a gift for someone in
need



**12th November
to 10th December**

This year all our tags are for
the local children's home,
Abbot Care home, Manor
Hatch and the Women's
refuge.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies achieving 100% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Kingfishers, attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at 8:30am until 8.55am.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Arbor report absence option on every day of absence. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

Butterflies	100%
Ladybirds	89%
Dragonflies	97%
Grasshoppers	99%
Hedgehogs	94%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	98%
Hares	93%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	99%
Robins	95%
Eagles	92%
Owls	98%

Gospel Value Awards

Peace

tranquillity, quiet, reflective, grateful



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" John 14:27

Congratulations to the following children who received the Gospel values certificate this week.

Dragonflies:	Ksawery	Grasshoppers:	Leo
Hedgehogs:	Justin	Squirrels:	Jimmy
Badgers:	Zora	Foxes:	Phoebe
Hares:	Gerald	Rabbits:	Jan
Kingfishers:	Evan	Robins:	Afi
Eagles:	Phoebe	Owls:	Harry



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

God, in revealing Himself, established a bridge between heaven and earth. He did so in order that our hearts might change, becoming like His. #AspostolicJourney



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 30th November 2025
 The First Sunday of Advent — Matthew 24:37-44

Relax

Make the Sign of the Cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Then read the Gospel — preferably aloud and slowly — paying attention to any words that stand out to you.



Read

This Sunday's Gospel : LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT



Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the house-holder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Did any words or phrases stand out to you in the Gospel? If so, take a few moments to meditate on them.

Reflect

Now read the Gospel again and consider what the Lord might be saying to you, or asking of you, through it. Then continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection...



In each year of the three-year cycle the Advent Sunday gospel-readings have the same pattern: the first is about the final Coming of Christ. In the second John the Baptist is preparing a community of repentance to welcome Jesus' mission. In the third John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah. On the fourth Sunday we look to Mary preparing for the birth of her Son. In this Sunday's reading about the Second Coming the accent is the same as in the Paul's letter to the Romans (today's second reading): we have a pressing and urgent need to take action without delay. The Second Coming will be sudden and unexpected as when a thief breaks in at night and no protective preparations have been made; it will also seem random and apparently without discernible cause, as when one person is taken, another left behind. We do not even know whether that final confrontation (when each of us is brought face to face with the awesome presence of God) will be a unique event for each of us at death, or whether it will be a group event, as is suggested by Matthew's parable of the sheep and goats sent to right and left. There is no time in eternity, no waiting-room! It will not be as any human mind can envisage it.

Should we look forward to or dread the final meeting with the Lord?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Rest

Now call to mind the Lord's love for you, remembering that through this scripture the Lord is truly present. Then silently and prayerfully listen for God's voice and rest in God's love.



Respond & Request

Thank God for any insight you may have received, and respond by asking the Holy Spirit to bless you with a spiritual gift or help you to grow in a particular fruit of the Spirit. You might pray for wisdom, courage, faithfulness, self-control, patience, generosity, joy, kindness, love, peace, faith, chastity - or another grace - to help you live out your faith this week.



Remember

This Wednesday's word for our families is **ADVENT!**
 (To see the Family Version, please visit: wednesdayword.org)



As you pray for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and for the families connected to our schools.

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



First Reading: *The Vision of Peace*



Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation; there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

With the beginning of Advent we focus on the coming of Christ, in history (that is, at Bethlehem), in mystery (that is, in the Church) and in majesty (that is, at the end of time). Today's first reading helps us to reflect on the peace which Christ brings, and for which we all yearn. The hill on which Jerusalem lies is not a particularly high one, but when Christ comes it will become like a towering mountain (as in Isaiah's vision), dominating the whole country. All nations will realise its importance and come to Jerusalem as the source of all salvation. Teaching about the salvation of the gentiles, which first comes to the fore in the writings after the exile in Babylon, reaches a high-point in today's reading. The permanent ending of war and strife is signalled by the re-moulding of the weapons of war. You can't make war if you have converted your tanks into chicken-houses and your aircraft-carriers into skateboard-parks – the modern equivalent of swords into ploughshares and spears into sickles. So Advent is a time of peace, peace between nations but also peace between families and within families, a time for reconciliation of quarrels as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

What can I do this Advent to increase peace?



Second Reading: *The Time is Near*



Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

After his great exposition in the Letter to the Romans about the saving work of Christ, Paul goes on to encourage the Christians of Rome to be faithful. With the Resurrection the final era of the world has begun. There is no room for delay: the night is nearly over and the children of light are coming into their own.

Paul sees a pressing need for action, and much of his moral advice, especially in First Corinthians, is grounded on the assumption that the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world is imminent. Did Paul get it wrong? He never says exactly how imminent it is, how soon the Second Coming will occur, but we can safely say that he would have been surprised to discover that two thousand years would pass without any sign of it happening. However, it is equally safe to say that timing is not his concern. The Second Coming remains imminent, in that there is no time to delay in mending our ways and preparing for this event. We are given an important reminder of this by our celebration of Christmas. Each year there must really be a coming of Christ into our lives and our society.

How can Christmas be to me a coming of Christ?

“Each year there must really be a coming of Christ into our lives and our society.”

The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School and Parish through the Word of God



Dear Parents and Carers,

The season of Advent begins this Sunday.

Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth - God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

Advent is also the season of hope: a time to think deeply about Jesus' return at the end of time, which we read about in this Sunday's Gospel.

Wednesday 26th November 2025

So let's use this season of Advent to be open to welcome the Lord, to make a fresh start and to draw closer to God. The message is clear for all of us: we are to stand ready!

Enjoy exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **ADVENT**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from
the **Saints**

"Advent is like a springtime, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy." St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 30th November 2025



Jesus said to his disciples, "As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking and having a good time, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood. So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this: that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because you do not know when the Son of Man is coming."

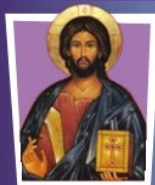
*Adapted from Luke Matthew 24: 37-44
The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year A*

Come and learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church and say a prayer for your family & friends: all are very warmly invited.

2025 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf

Having Hope
in our **Families**

Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Traditional Advent wreaths have a candle to light on each Sunday of Advent which reminds us of the light that Christ brings into our world.



Good News for Families TOGETHER TIME



1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay alert! Nobody knows when I will come back so you must always be ready. You can be sure that if the owners of a house knew at what time of night a thief was coming, they would stay awake and wouldn't let the thief break in. So, you must always be ready, because you do not know when I shall return."

What did Jesus say we must always be?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in each one of us memories of goodness." Pope Benedict XVI

ADVENT



Advent helps us get ready for Christmas and reminds us that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, into our world. Ask your child what else they know about Advent. What do they like best about this season which leads up to Christmas? Advent is an opportunity to be spiritually refreshed and helps us get ready for Christmas. You may want to share with your child what you know and like best about the season of Advent.

Advent is a time to make an extra effort to be more loving towards God and our neighbours. As a family, how can you prepare well through Advent - to 'stay awake', to be ready to welcome Jesus? Perhaps you can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need; be a peacemaker; put up a crib, Advent wreath and Advent calendar; make a special effort to let other family members know how much you love them - through your words and actions.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, help us to 'stay awake' and to be aware of your presence in the people that we meet in this Advent season. Amen.

FINDING THREE

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

R	B	A	M	N	J	E	S	U	S	Y	D
R	E	A	D	Y	E	V	J	W	S	P	M
P	G	T	O	V	S	M	C	E	T	E	O
S	I	I	U	F	E	B	R	N	S	C	J
D	N	E	G	R	J	N	E	H	A	U	W
V	S	I	R	E	N	S	T	O	D	T	S
N	W	U	G	E	B	U	M	V	R	S	
G	M	S	N	E	A	N	R	L	E	R	Y
T	H	I	S	D	B	D	N	A	N	S	A
N	P	I	W	N	A	A	D	H	T	M	W
M	H	A	L	W	A	Y	S	J	D	B	L
T	S	D	M	N	E	V	D	A	W	L	A

THIS SUNDAY
ADVENT BEGINS
ALWAYS READY
JESUS RETURN

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **ifl** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

bafelik refadily knolwifs Siffayl

"_____ alert! Nobody _____ when I will
come _____ so you must always be _____."

Advent is a time to do more good deeds.
Even small good deeds bring more of Christ's light into our world and make us ready to welcome Jesus at any time.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Lewis, Alina, Ayla,
Vinnie, Tilly, Giulia, Flynn, Chloe,
Memphis & Elliott



Golden Awards

- Dragonflies: Kai, for working hard in his reading and phonics.
Grasshoppers: Lia, for trying so hard in her phonics learning.
Hedgehogs: Skyla, for her enthusiastic singing in her music lesson.
Squirrels: Olivia, for showing resilience and dedication to work.
Badgers: Zach, for working hard to complete all tasks.
Foxes: Luca, for his fantastic multiplication work in maths.
Hares: Hermione, for a great guidebook to the rainforest.
Rabbits: Amia-Rae, for creating detailed and interesting guidebook on the rainforests.
Kingfishers: Charlotte, for her fantastic writing linking King David to Jesus - fantastic work!
Robins: Eddie, for his amazing maths work comparing fractions.
Eagles: Amelia, for excellent contribution in our PSHE lessons.
Owls: Zachary, for being an excellent chef.

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house this week, St Patrick's

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 1st December

Foxes swimming
Reception & Year 1 Nativity 2pm
* Drama club
Art club
Scrapbook club
Lego club
Coding club
Mindfulness and Yoga club
Board Games club
Girls football team
Boys football team

Tuesday 2nd December

Reception & Year 1 Nativity 2pm & 6pm
* Multisports club
* Dance club
Year 6 Boosters
Young Carers club

Wednesday 3rd December

Violin pupils' concert 2:30pm
* Football club
* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 4th December

* Football club
Cafod club (lunchtime)
Christmas Extravaganza 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm
No After School club

Friday 5th December

Reception & KS1 Festival of Light 9:15 am
KS2 Festival of Light 2 pm
* Musical Theatre club

Saturday 6th December

Choir to Abbot Care Home 11am

* External club, fees apply

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE