



St Helen's Catholic Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026



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Prayer of the Week: Class RS

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for letting the children come to see you.
We love praying to you from the Peaceful Garden.
Amen

With Jesus alive in our hearts, we celebrate each other and learn together as a family.

**Best Attendance:
Class 2S – 96%**

**Whole School Attendance:
95%**

Dear families,

This week Class 1Mc led our Celebration of the Word telling the parable of Jesus at the temple. The singing was beautiful and lifted all our hearts! Thank you to Mrs McCarthy, Miss Porter and Mrs Nolan for supporting the children and thank you to all the families for joining us.



Prospective Nursery Parents 2026-27 (3-4 year olds)

There will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Nursery 2026) on **Wednesday 28th January 9.30am** and **Thursday 29th January 9.30am**. Please contact the school office to book a slot.

 Essex County Council
Early Years and Childcare

Take a closer look at **Changes in Childcare**

Funded Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)

Funded Early Education Entitlements are expanding!

Announced by the Chancellor in Spring 2023 as part of the Childcare Reforms Expansion, this will help enable more parents and carers in/back to work.

What do these expansions to Funded Early Education Entitlements mean for you and your family?

From April 2024, eligible working parents will be able to access up to 15 hours of funded childcare from the term after their child turns two-years-old.

In September 2024, the offer will extend further, and eligible working parents will be able to access up to 15 hours of funded childcare the term after their child turns 9-months-old.

From September 2025, eligible working parents will be entitled to up to 30 hours of childcare a week from the term after their child turns 9-months-old.



Find out more about the support you may be eligible for and how you can access a funded place here:

www.essex.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/early-years-and-childcare

Nursery Wishlist

As you are aware, we are actively seeking support resourcing our school nursery ready for September 2026. We are hugely grateful for any support families can give. As well as supporting the nursery with financial contributions, we now have an Amazon Wishlist which is solely dedicated to resourcing the nursery classroom. If you would like to show your support by purchasing a resource for the nursery, the link to the list is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/registries/gl/owner-view/CE4GY31VU4JM?ref=gr_universal_landing_ggr

St Helen's Catholic Infant and Nursery School: Nursery Applications 2026-27

The nursery admission round is now open for parents of children to apply for a nursery place for the academic year that starts in September 2026. The application form is available on the school website and applications must be made directly to the school. The closing date for applications is: 20th March 2026.

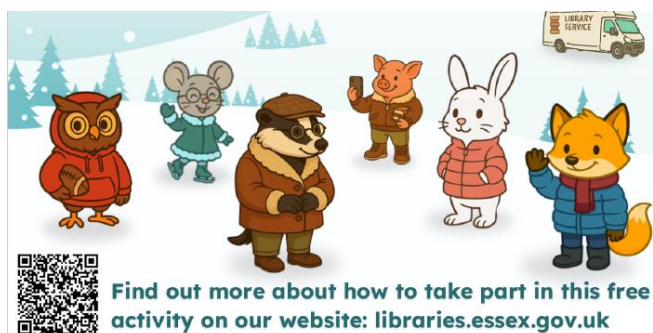
Parent Consultations: Tuesday 10th/Thursday 12th February 2025: 3.30pm-6.30pm

Parents/carers are now able to book a 10 minute appointment **on site** to discuss their child/ren's progress this term. Alternatively If you wish to arrange a **telephone** meeting to discuss your child/ren's progress, please contact your child/ren's teacher directly via the year group email address to arrange. ***If you want a telephone appointment please book early to avoid disappointment.***

The Winter Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Challenge is a fun activity put together by Essex Library Service for children aged 0-12. It encourages children and families to keep reading over the winter and to visit their local library.

Children are invited to complete 6 challenges from a list of 12 reading and creative activities, and it's **FREE** to take part. Their mission is to help some friendly animals that work in different professions across Essex! The challenge starts on Saturday 10 January and runs through to the end of the February half term on 22 February. For more information head to your local library to sign up!



This Week's Awards

Stars of the Week		
Reception Class RS – Cillian Class RR – Aadhiv	Year 1 Class 1Mc - Mila Class 1A - Aras	Year 2 Class 2S - Harry Class 2B - Alessia
House	This Week	This Term
St Bernadette	158	295
St Clare	164	**301**
St Francis	172	**301**
St Martin	163	297

Safeguarding Update

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs C. Morris (Deputy Headteacher)
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms A. McAuliffe (Headteacher)
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs J. Seaman (EYFS Leader)



Reminders

- The school dinner menu next week is week 1

Diary Dates

- **Wednesday 28th January 9.30am:** Tours for Prospective Nursery Parents/Carers
- **Thursday 29th January 9.30am:** Tours for Prospective Nursery Parents/Carers
- **Friday 6th February:** Number Day
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th February:** Children’s Mental Health Week/ E-Safety Week
- **Tuesday 10th February:** Safer Internet Day
- **Tuesday 10th/ Thursday 12th February: 3.30pm – 6.30pm:** Parent Consultations on-site or telephone appointments available)
- **Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February:** Half Term
- **Monday 23rd February:** Children return to school

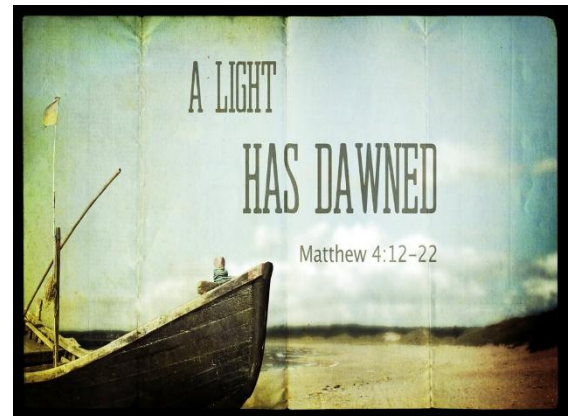
St. Helen's PA presents

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

ENJOY A WELCOME DRINK UPON ARRIVAL (BEER, PROSECCO OR SOFT DRINK). FRESH PIZZA AND A DJ SPINNING TUNES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. TICKETS ARE LIMITED!

20 MARCH 2026
7.30PM UNTILLATE
BRENTWOOD KITCHEN
WILSONS CORNER,
BRENTWOOD HIGH STREET

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FOR £25 VIA THE PA PLATFORM
£10 FROM EACH TICKET SALE WILL BE DONATED TO OUR SCHOOL FUND



God Bless all our families,

Ms A. McAuliffe

Headteacher



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

