

St Helen's Catholic Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter

Friday 20th November

Email: admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk Tel: 01277 215626
Website: www.st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk/
X: @StHelensInfant

Prayer of the Week: Class 1M

Heavenly Father
Please help us to be kind with our words and actions.
Amen

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

Best Attendance: Class 2S – 97%	Whole School Attendance: 95%

Dear families,

Each year, we urge families to avoid sending Christmas cards wherever possible.
As a Catholic community we are called to take swift and unified global action to protect our environment.





As an alternative to sending in Christmas cards, we are asking families to donate boxes of Christmas crackers for the children to share during their Christmas dinner on Wednesday 9th December 2026. Please bring your donations to the school office by Monday 7th December 2026.

We are hopeful families will provide crackers instead of cards as the crackers will enhance the Christmas dinner experience. If Christmas cards are sent in, they must be brought into school by Friday 11th December and will then be given out on Monday 14th December 2026. They will not be accepted after this date.

Christmas Dinner: Wednesday 9th December 2026

If you have already selected a school dinner for Wednesday 9th December, then your child will automatically be given the Christmas dinner, either turkey (meat option) or Roasted Vegetable Strudel (vegetarian option).

If you haven't booked a meal for Christmas Dinner Day and you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner, then YOU MUST BOOK IT BY MONDAY 30th November 2026.

Reception/ Year 3 Admissions for September 2026

The primary school (Reception and Year 3) admission round is open for parents of children to apply for a Reception or Year 3 school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026. The

statutory national closing date for applications is: **15th January 2027**.
Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Phonics Workshops for Parents/ Carers: Wednesday 25th November 2026

The aim of the workshop is to introduce parents/ carers to our phonics scheme, Little Wandle and provide support for parents/carers when reading with their children at home. The sessions will run virtually via TEAMS:

- Nursery and Reception: 6pm - 6.20pm
- Y1: 6.30pm - 6.50pm
- Y2: 7pm - 7.20pm

The TEAMS link is:
Meeting ID: 317 341 013 054 774
Passcode: d2WM25cd

This Week's Awards

Stars of the Week			
Nursery	**Reception**	**Year 1**	**Year 2**
Freddy	Class RR - Mathilde Class RS – Finn	Class 1M - Marie Class 1Mc - Olivia	Class 2B - Alfie Class 2S - Luca

House	This Week	This Term
St Bernadette	125	434
St Clare	152	429
St Francis	111	584
St Martin	114	**585**

Safeguarding Update

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)



Prospective Reception Parents 2027-28

There will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2027) on**, Wednesday 25th November, Thursday 26th November and Friday 27th November at 9.30am.** Please contact the school office to book a slot.



Upcoming PA Events

Autumn Term
Friday 4th December — Elfridges Shopping Day

Wednesday 9th December — Christmas Fun Morning – Infants

Spring Term
Friday 12th February — Make the Rules Day
Friday 5th March — Mother's Day / Someone Special

Friday 19th March — Easter Egg Hunt (during the day)
Summer Term
Friday 18th June — Father's Day / Someone Special
Friday 25th June — Summer Picnic
Wednesday 14th July — Infant Disco

Reminders

- The school dinner menu next week will be **Week 1**

Diary Dates



- **Wednesday 25th November 6pm-7.20pm**: Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers
- **Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November**: Tours for Prospective Reception Parents 2027
- **Wednesday 2nd December**: Y2 Trip to Basildon Towngate Theatre
- **Friday 4th December 2.30pm**: Y1 Advent Service
- **Friday 4th December**: Elfridges Shopping Event (PA Event)
- **Wednesday 9th December**: Christmas Dinner Day/ PA Fun Day
- **Friday 11th December 2.30pm**: Y2 Traditional Nativity
- **Tuesday 15th December**: Y1 Trip to Brentwood Theatre
- **Wednesday 16th December 2.30pm**: Reception Nativity Through Songs
- **Thursday 17th December 2.30pm**: Nursery Christmas Songs
- **Friday 18th December** 3.15pm: School closes for Christmas holidays

God Bless all our families,

Ms A. McAuliffe

Headteacher