



Becket Keys Church of England School

6th December 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes...

Christmas!

I love this time of year! I am a traditionalist, as lots of you will know, and I love all the classic Christmas traditions. As a new school, we thought carefully about the things we wanted to set up as traditions around this special festival. Christmas means the holy family statue set come out, the nativity scene is put up in Main Reception, three Christmas trees are erected and our Advent Wreath (which was beautifully created by Toby in Year 10 again this year) is displayed in the Main Hall.

Every day, another tradition through Advent, is to switch the lights off at the end of the day and, in the gloom, to light a candle or two. We also switch on the fairy lights, and we say an

Advent Prayer of Hope. This small pause in our busy day is crucial at this time of year.

These traditions are supported by many others. Our annual Christmas Concert is always a highlight of the season and I do hope you will come along next week to support our students and to enjoy some of the finest carol singing you can hear! You can buy tickets on Parent Pay. There will be readings, prayers and, this year, Bishop John Perumbalath will be attending and saying a prayer of blessing for all of us.

Our Eucharist in St Thomas' Church on 18th December is always one of the best attended by parents and family members. You are all welcome to join us there at around 11:15am. The service will last about an hour, but

.....Contd on Page 2



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Christmas Carol Concert

Details of the concert this year and how to purchase your tickets. This is a wonderful event to begin your Christmas celebrations!

Page 3

The Gift of Reading

We would love your support with this year's book appeal.

Page 4

Biblical Pause

Advent continues with a 'A Week of Peace'.

Page 5

Charities Update

We have been busy raising money for charities chosen for this year. More details about the money raised and the next event.

Page 7

.....Contd. from Page 1

the start and finish time are fairly flexible depending on how long it takes to walk the hundreds of students up to church!

Additionally, we have the wonderful Christmas Lunch on Thursday 12th December. Hopefully your son/daughter has remembered to buy his/her ticket. Today was the final day - we have been sending out reminders! It is incredibly popular and will be a highlight – I can promise you! Staff and students can wear Christmas Jumpers on this day, if they want to, and there should be more Christmas Music from our live band in the Café on the day.

There will be turkey with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding and plenty of other wonderful delicious treats! Feasting at Christmas dates right back to the Roman Times when they used to celebrate Saturnalia at this time of year. After conversion to the Christian faith, Christmas became the replacement “reason for the season”!

In Tudor England, Christmas feasts would sometimes last for eight or nine hours! Some of the students would probably be prepared to give this a go, I think!

Served with the meat was a dish called plum porridge, consisting of meat, broth, breadcrumbs,

raisins, currants, prunes and spices. It was eaten with a spoon. Later, it was made much stiffer and became the Christmas pudding which we know today.

Mince pies were also different to ours.

Originally, they were oval or rectangular and filled with meat and spices. They represented the cradle in which Jesus lay and sometimes even had a figure of Jesus in them! Jesus is God incarnate.

Incarnate has the same root as ‘carne’ (as in Chilli con Carne). Jesus is God

in meat! God with flesh! I wonder whether this was where the idea of the pie came from. Later, the meat was replaced with the mincemeat that we know today, consisting of fruit and peel.

It is interesting to follow the traditions of Christmas and to see how they evolve and develop over time. I look forward to seeing new traditions grow at Becket Keys and to hopefully see many of the same ones still here in many years to come!

However, we must also be careful that as things inevitably adjust and modify that the meaning is not lost. We are celebrating the most incredible miracle ever known to man. That God came in human form! It was so momentous that the calendar was reset to zero and we have been counting the years ever since. It is amazing to think that next year is 2020! 2020?!?! (How did that happen?!?) And yet, here we are two thousand and twenty years later, still writing about, singing about and celebrating the same person’s life!

May your Advent continue to draw you closer and closer to the message of Christmas. Please pray for our students and staff here as we surround ourselves with His story (History) that we will know deep in our hearts what it is that we are really celebrating.

Best regards

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher





This year's Christmas Carol Concert takes place on **Tuesday 10th December** in the Main Hall and will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by Year 7, Stage Band, Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Pitch Perfect, Junior Voices, Junior Wind Band and the Saxophone Choir.

Doors open at 7.15pm, and the concert begins starts at 7:30pm.

Refreshments will be available in the Bistro from 6.45pm. As our main hall can only seat 300, it is first come first served and tickets are £5.00 per seat.

To reserve your seats please pay on Parent Pay and bring the receipt as your concert ticket. All performers will be onstage throughout, so you do not need a ticket for your son/daughter if they are performing.

The Christmas Carol Concert is a wonderful tradition at Becket Keys and we look forward to sharing in the festivities with you and your family.

Mr Romhany
Director of Music

Raise funds for The Friends of Becket Keys every time you shop online

Find us on easyfundraising to start:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood/>



Shop with over **3,300** online stores



£27 Million raised

1.6 Million users

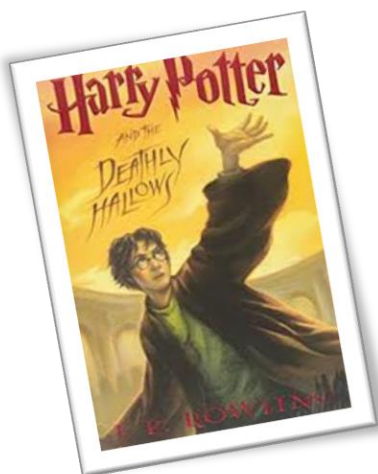
130,000 causes

Christmas Shopping? Why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your online purchases in a few easy steps:

Follow this link:

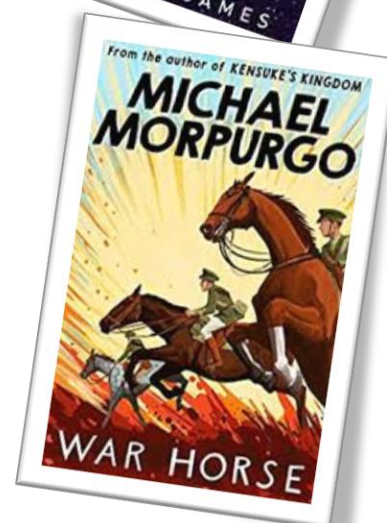
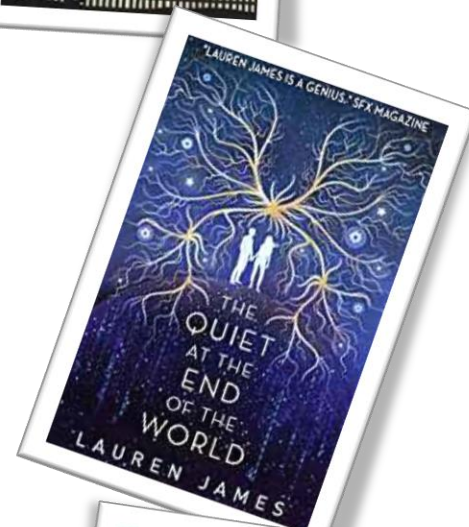
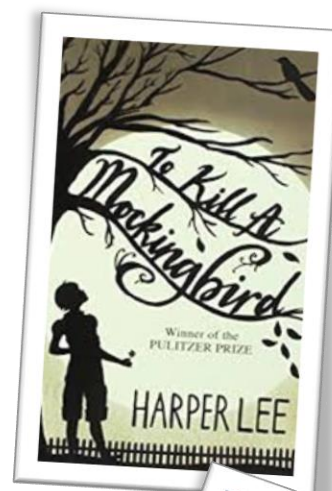
- <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood/?invite=24A809&referral-campaign=s25>
- Click 'Support this Cause'.
- If new to Easyfundraising then set up an account.
- Browse the hundreds of online shops who participate in the scheme and go shopping! As long as you go into the online sites through the Easyfundraising site, you will register a donation to FoBK. You can even get an App for your phone! It will not cost you a penny!

Give the Gift of Reading this Christmas



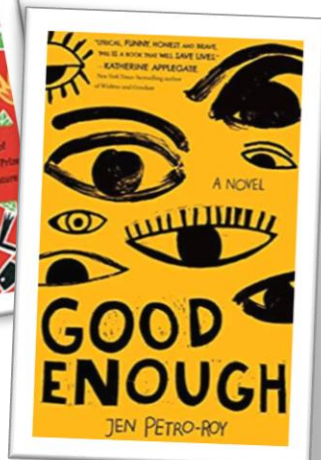
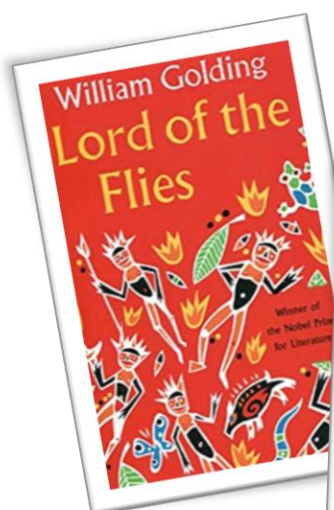
As Christmas Day draws nearer and excitement levels inevitably rise, it is worth taking time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of the season. In an increasingly commercialised and materialistic world, it is often easy to forget the notion of charity and altruism; giving to others in need is far more rewarding than receiving presents oneself, and giving the gift of reading can impact individuals and the community on so many levels.

I would like to appeal to parents, students and staff alike, to donate a book this Christmas. With three Christmas trees located around the school building, this is the perfect opportunity for people to wrap up a favourite or inspirational read, and allow others to enjoy the gift of reading. Whether your chosen read is a work of fiction or non-fiction, intended for enjoyment and escapism or to enhance subject knowledge and academia, all types of literary gifts are much welcomed. There will be a separate Christmas tree in the Sixth Form area for people to donate more challenging and thought-provoking books – perhaps directly related to one of the many A-level courses being studied. It would be so rewarding and beneficial if we could continue to foster the love for reading in the Becket Keys community, and what better time to ignite the flame of literacy than during the Advent season? So, please, consider donating a book this Christmas; the gift of reading is one that we should all be able to enjoy.



Mr A. Fox
Head of English

Mrs Russell
Director of Literacy



PAUSE

A week of Peace

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Next week, our second theme for reflection this Advent will be **peace**. This verse above tells us that Jesus came to be the *Prince of Peace*. The word peace is the Hebrew word *shalom* which means *completeness or well-being*. Jesus did not come just to end wars, but to make us complete by saving us from our sinfulness. All we have to do is trust in Jesus as the Son of God who came to save us and we will have the peace, or *shalom*, of God.



Reflect on these questions:

- Did you know that shalom continues to this day as a Hebrew greeting that wishes someone well? Greet each other this week with a message of peace or simply turn to one another and greet each other with, "Shalom!"
- What are some areas where we do not always have peace in our lives? (Not getting along with our family or friends, overloaded schedule, finances, etc.)
- What are some things that can keep us from having peace with God? (Making the wrong behaviour choices at school or home, arguing with our spouse, etc.)

Let us pray:

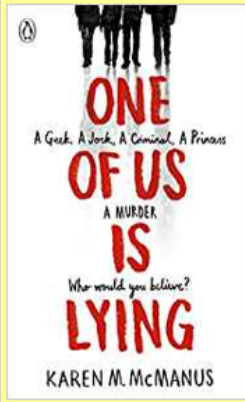
Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus who came to be the Prince of Peace and save us from our sinfulness. Help us to trust in Jesus to make us complete and to show the peace of Jesus to one another.

Amen.

Remember to keep praying with us. Follow our Becket Keys Church of England School Advent Prayer calendar. Slow down. Prepare room for Jesus. As we journey towards the manger, prepare your heart to welcome the child who waits for you and feel the peace that God can give.

Mrs. Sharp
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Russell's
Book of the Month - December



WHAT'S THE STORY?

Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive. Yale hopeful **Bronwyn** has never publicly broken a rule. Sports star **Cooper** only knows what he's doing in the baseball diamond. Bad boy **Nate** is one misstep away from a life of crime. Prom queen **Addy** is holding together the cracks in her perfect life. And outsider **Simon**, creator of the notorious gossip app at Bayview High, won't ever talk about any of them again. He dies 24 hours before he could post their deepest secrets online. Investigators conclude it's no accident. All of them are suspects. **Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you'll go to protect them.**

Lunchtime Eucharist Advent Services



Father Mark North comes in to school every Friday lunchtime to celebrate communion in the John Wraw Chapel (Justin Welby building).

All members of the local community and parents are also invited to these short twenty-minute services.

Please arrive in reception at 12.50pm for a 1pm start.

JUNIOR VOICES
TUESDAY (catch-up) & FRIDAY THIS WEEK
@ 12.50pm in R02



Did you know?

Singing is a natural anti-depressant
Singing lowers stress levels
Singing improves mental alertness

- Singing can widen your circle of friends
- Singing boosts your confidence
- Singing broadens communication skills

Mrs Russell's
Word of the Week

Eloquent

In sentences:

- 1) His speeches were always **eloquent** and powerful.
- 2) He is said to have been a good talker and an **eloquent** writer.
- 3) He learned to be **eloquent** on the right occasion in order to be successful.

Definition of eloquent in English:
fluent or persuasive in speaking or writing. clearly expressing or indicating something.

Use the adjective **eloquent** as many times as possible throughout the week! This can be verbally, in your written work or even when messaging friends and family!



Every week we allocate time to pray for the school and the wider community. Parents, carers, teachers and friends are invited to take time and pray with Mr. Scott-Evans.

7.50am and 11.15am

every Wednesday.

All are welcome.

Becket Keys Charities Update

Guess the Sweets in the Jar

£28.50 raised – thank you.

Our fundraising will enable the New Hope Children's Centre to buy sweets for the 30 children there this Christmas.

There was one correct guess of 114 sweets!

Winner - Lainey O'Sullivan

The cake and donut sale raised enough to send over £160 and will be used to buy a cake for every child in New Hope and six cakes to be shared in each class at Kibagare Primary School.



Next Charity Event



Thursday 12th December 2019
Minimum Donation £1.00 per student

Usual School Rules apply:
 Hair tied back, no jewellery, shoes should be sensible – no high heels!
 Clothing: No bare shoulders or midriff, no onesies, no torn or tatty jeans please.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS ENCOURAGED!

All money raised from the non-uniform day will be split between New Hope Children's Centre and Cancer Research.

Enough money will be sent to New Hope to buy every baby, child and teenager a new piece of clothing for Christmas.

For many, this will be the only new piece of clothing that they will receive this year.



**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**



Parkrun organise free, weekly, 5km timed runs around the world. They are open to everyone, free, and are safe and easy to take part in.

These events take place in pleasant parkland surroundings and they encourage people of every ability to take part; from those taking their first steps in running to Olympians; from juniors to experienced runners. All are welcome!

Parkrun takes place every **Saturday at 9.00am**. The event takes place at Weald Country Park, South Weald, Brentwood, CM14 5QS.

It is free to take part but please register prior to attending. For more information:

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/brentwood/>

Becket Keys have a number of Cross Country events coming up. If you have been chosen for any of these, then participation in the Park Run each week will give you an excellent opportunity to continue your training. If you are a member of any of the school sports teams then joining the Park Run each week will be great way to improve your overall fitness.



Upcoming Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 10TH December

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Indoor Athletics @
Shenfield High School

Year 10 Netball v Chelmer Valley High
School (A)

Wednesday 11th December

Year 7 & 8 Boys' Indoor Athletics @
Shenfield High School

Thursday 12th December

Year 9 Netball v Brentwood County
High School (H)

Year 9 Boys' Football v Plume (A)

*

Monday 16th December

Year 7 Girls' Football v St Martin's
School (A)

Year 8 Girls' Football v St Martin's
School (A)

Year 9 Girls' Football v St Martin's (A)
Year 10 Basketball v Boswells (A)

Tuesday 17th December

Year 8 Boys' Football v Sandon (H)
Year 9 Girls' Basketball v Great Baddow
High School (H)

Wednesday 18th December

Year 7 Girls' Basketball v St John Payne
Catholic School (A)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

MAIN HALL

TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER

*

STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER

& NON UNIFORM DAY

THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER

*

KEY STAGE 5

AWARDS & PRESENTATION EVENING

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

*

WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARIST

11.15AM WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

*

LAST DAY OF TERM

STUDENT HALF DAY

THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2019 TO FRIDAY
3RD JANUARY 2020

*

INSET DAY

MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2020

*

ST THOMAS' Christmas Youth Concert

VENUE: ST THOMAS' CHURCH,
BRENTWOOD

DATE: SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2019

TIME: 6.30PM ARRIVAL FOR
7PM START

ENTRY: FREE – THERE WILL
BE A RETIRING
COLLECTION

FEATURING:

ST THOMAS' KIDS
ST THOMAS' JUNIOR
SCHOOL CHOIR
BECKET KEYS SCHOOL
ESSEX DANCE THEATRE

Becket Keys

Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane
Brentwood, Essex
CM15 9DA
01277 286600

office@becketkeys.org

www.becketkeys.org

Twitter: [@BecketKeys](https://twitter.com/BecketKeys)
[@MrScottEvans](https://twitter.com/MrScottEvans)

[@BecketKeys6th](https://twitter.com/BecketKeys6th)