

# Becket Keys Church of England School

27th November 2020

#### THE ADVENT SEASON BEGINS ON SUNDAY

#### Mr Scott-Evans writes...

Dear Parents/Carers

I love this time of year! I am a traditionalist, as lots of you will know, and I love all the classic Christmas traditions. We have been thinking carefully about the things we want to try and do during this Pandemic Advent. There are certain things that we can still do and some sadly that we cannot. We are still pondering some others and would welcome any suggestions from you.

Christmas means the holy family statue set comes out and the nativity scene is set up in Main Reception. No problems there — we can do these things. We normally order three huge Christmas trees, but there is little point this year as we are not using the Main Hall and the Sixth Form area needs to focus on social distancing; the imposition of a

tree will not help with that! We do still have one in Main Reception and we ordered it slightly earlier this year to bring some "comfort and joy"!



We have also erected our Advent Wreath (which was beautifully created by Mrs Hancox – thank

...... Contd. on Page 2





#### Year 11 Subject Fair

IN THIS ISSUE

An opportunity for students to find out more about the A-Level subjects on offer in the Sixth Form.

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#### The Gift of Reading

We would welcome any book donations for our library.

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#### **Food Glorious Food!**

This week we see the results of a very productive time in the Becket Keys family kitchens.

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#### **Biblical Pause**

As we move into the Advent season we ponder on how 'Comfort & Joy' can be found in rest.

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you!). Usually this would be displayed in the Main Hall, this year it is in Main Reception and will be used 'virtually' in our daily acts of worship.



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 a busy Advent is always appreciated by everyone, but it will be particularly crucial this year. Mrs Sharp has written prayers for every day and selected small pieces of scripture to be read. We have published these for you to use at home, if you wish to.

These traditions are usually supported by many others. Our annual Christmas Concert is always a highlight of the season and I am heartbroken that we cannot do this. However, Mr Romhany, Mr Menexes, Mrs Sharp and our students have been hard at work recording various pieces and readings! We will be offering this up to You Tube for the world to enjoy – a small bonus of the current situation is that many families around the world are now able to watch our students perform who

would not normally have the opportunity.

Our Eucharist in St Thomas' Church is always one of the most appreciated and best attended by parents and family members. We cannot go to church this year. This again deeply saddens me. One of my greatest joys as the Head Teacher of the school is sitting at the front of church and watching hundreds of our students bowing their heads in prayer, singing carols and silently appreciating the opportunity to receive a blessing and for those who are confirmed, Holy Communion. I am grieving the loss of this. Instead, we will work to convey our Christmas message of hope via Microsoft Teams and You Tube. Again, we will share any videos we make with the wider community and I pray that these will bless you.

Additionally, we normally have the wonderful Christmas Lunch. How can we do this? No plates, no cutlery, no crackers, no special decorations, no live music or singing in the restaurants! Well, we will do our best! On 9th December we will have our Christmas meal in cardboard take away boxes! I know that it will be delicious, but it is not the same. It particularly upsets me to think of Year 7s missing out on the first year of this and final year students for whom this is their last Becket Keys Christmas.

It has been a joy to see the traditions of Christmas developing here since we opened in 2012. This year, we will see

some interesting adaptations. I wonder how many will stick for the future. Although there are many changes this year the spirit of Christmas lives on. As I write, a Year 7 boy just fell over in a game of chase. He was immediately picked up and dusted down by another student and two Sixth Formers came over to check he was OK on their way to their Economics Class. There is nothing better than a spirit of love and care and charity at any time of year!

As the headteacher of the school I will ensure that the adjustments of this year do not distract us from the true meaning of Christmas. 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 2021! 2021?!?! (And what a year 2020 was!?) And yet, here we are, still writing about and celebrating the same person's life! Immanuel God with US.

May this Advent draw you closer and closer to the message of Christmas. Please pray for our students and staff here as we surround ourselves the same mystery and wonder, but in different ways. May we know deep in our hearts what it is that we are really celebrating.

Best regards

Mr Scott-Evans - Headteacher



Last day to order is today!

Collection 5<sup>th</sup> December or delivery on the same day (times to be confirmed).

Friends of Becket Keys are selling various sized trees which you can collect from the school or have delivered locally. You can get a beautiful tree and support the school as all profits to towards the fundraising goals. You can purchase your tree here:

Pta-events/fobk



Face coverings are **absolutely compulsory** for students in the following areas:

- Stairwells
- Corridors
- Circulation Spaces
- Communal toilets

Please provide your son/daughter with a face covering (where possible in school colours: black, purple, gold, grey or white). A few spares in the school bag are also needed.

If we all do our bit between lessons as well as following all our other guidance, we can slow the spread of this virus and therefore keep our school open!







#### **Uniform**

All students are required to wear smart shoes (and not trainers).

Girls in Year 7-9, should have their hair completely tied up. Year 10-11 – hair can be half up/ half down. Black, purple or neutral coloured hair ties please.

Boys should not have any extreme hairstyles and hair must not be dyed, no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes or undercuts and long hair is not permitted in Year 7-11.

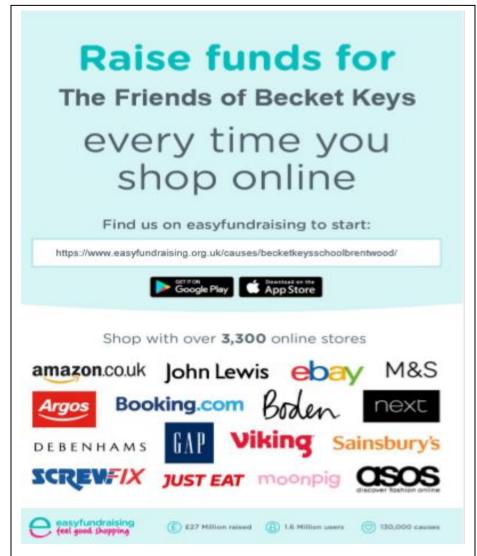
Now that the weather is getting colder please remember that all students will be in need of a **COAT** – Plain **BLACK** without coloured flashes, logos or slogans, no 'fashion items', no 'puffer' jackets.

Bags should also be plain black.



Please see the website, if you need more details about the school dress code.

# Friends of Becket Keys



Sign up to our school cause on *EasyFundraising* and raise <u>free</u> donations at over 4,000 shops when you shop online. It's really simple and takes less than 5 minutes to register. Once registered, raising free donations is easy!

Either go to <a href="www.easyfundraising.org.uk">www.easyfundraising.org.uk</a> and search for your favourite retailers. Click "Go Shopping," and make your purchase as normal. Alternatively, download the "Donation Reminder" for your computer which will highlight when a free donation is available on over 4,000 sites that you may visit outside of the EasyFundraising Portal. Either way, your everyday purchases will help FoBK raise funds to support the School. We currently have 93 supporters and have raised over £2,300 in free donations!

## Year 11 Subject Fair



# A-Level Subject Fair Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

To further support Year 11 with their Sixth Form application, we will be holding a Subject Fair on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

We will be ending the school day for all students, except Year 11, at 2.10pm. This is to allow us the time to run the A-Level subject fair for our Year 11 students. Your son/daughter will be given the opportunity to have a conversation with our A-Level teachers for all A-Level subjects we are offering.

Parents will unfortunately not be able to attend, but we feel this will be a great opportunity for all Year 11 students to have meaningful discussions about his/her A-Level choices. Your son/daughter will have their mock results by this date which will also help aid the discussion. If you have any queries then please email <a href="mailto:sixthform@becketkeys.org">sixthform@becketkeys.org</a>

There will also be a session for students who may be considering colleges run by Mrs Ellis.



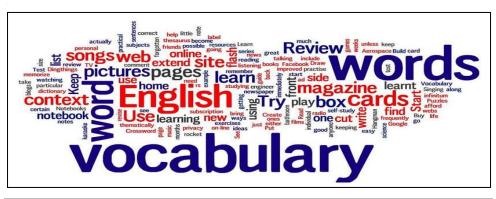


# Student Contact Information

As we are sure you will all appreciate, it is vitally important that we hold accurate records, addresses and contact numbers. We need at least two contact names/numbers in case of an issue with your son/daughter at school. It is also vital that we hold necessary health information about all of our students in the event of a medical emergency.

If you have changed any of your contact details (telephone, email address or home address), please make sure you let us know immediately so that we can update our systems.

Please email through any changes to office@becketkeys.org
Many thanks for your cooperation.





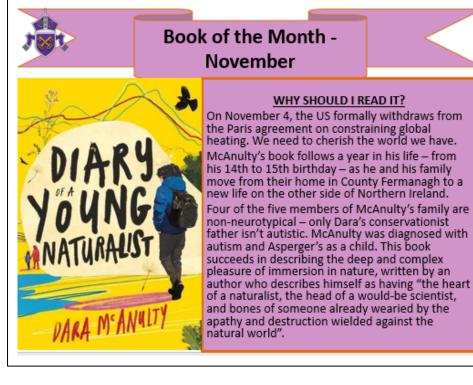
#### In sentences:

- Bobby struck me as an affable young man.
- The affable manager helped to ease the frustrations of the disappointed customer.
- The interviewer greeted her in the most affable manner and put her at ease.

Meaning: adjective that means **friendly and easy to talk to**Etymology: from the Latin *affabilis*"approachable, courteous, kind,

friendly," literally "who

can be easily spoken to"





Remember that Homework Club is up and running! Every afternoon after school students can stay until 4.30pm to complete their homework in C11.

Year groups are 'bubbled' in different areas and if there are a lot of students who wish to make use of this opportunity, we I open other rooms.

Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm. Avoid the traffic! Stay here for a while!



# 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.

We would like to appeal to parents, students and staff alike, to donate a book this Christmas. This is the perfect opportunity for people to donate a favourite or inspirational read, whether new or pre-loved 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. This year we would particularly appreciate any 19th Century Fiction.

We would also welcome books for the Sixth Form. People can 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 this season? So, please, consider donating a book this Christmas; the gift of reading is one that we should all be able to enjoy. Mr Fox **Head of English OSCAR WILDE** BLEAK House CHARLES DICKENS Ignes Grey H.G. WELLS Charlotte Brontë Jane Eyre Page **7** of **16** 

## **Food Glorious Food!**

The Food Department have tasked our students with an optional cook at home, homework. I have enjoyed receiving photos of their finished dishes and cooking attempts. I am extremely proud of all of these students, the quality of these dishes are exceptionally high, while also being very nutritious. It is so lovely to see that the students have taken on the challenge of cooking at home while also going the extra mile in setting the table and thinking about the ambience. Please do enjoy looking at these fabulous pictures of our students' work, I am sure there will be more to follow next week. Enjoy ©



Ben Shelton - Year 9 Fajitas



Mae Blackwell - Year 8 Stir Fry & Sticky Fried Rice





Ella Patel in Year 7 made a herb and tomato salad and fish with potatoes and lemon.



Callum Etchells - Year 9 Roast dinner for all the family!





Rhianna Hicks - Year 10 Spinach & smoked haddock gratin. Rump steak with roasted vegetables & sweet potato fries.



Elliot Ward - Year 8 Stir fried Chicken



Ilaria Borgomastro - Year 10 Sticky Pork with Rice





Harry Scott - Year 10 Beef & Vegetable Stir Fry



Tommie Charles - Year 10 Paella with roasted vegetables



Max Parry - Year 10 Chicken Noodles



Amelia Hall - Year 7 Chicken & Vegetable Stir Fry



Callum Bendelow -Year 10 Chicken Curry and Rice



Ella Stroud - Year 10 Chicken & Vegetable Noodles Homemade Sweet & Sour Sauce

All these recipes look delicious! Make sure you keep sharing your culinary creations!

> Mrs English Food Teacher





The A Level & GCSE Art Students are progressing well this week. Well done to all the Becket Keys Artists!

# Star Artist for Art

Charlotte Simpson Yr 13



## Jemima Cheke Yr 11



Evie Knight Yr 11 (work in progress)







# 'Comfort and Joy' is the Church of England campaign for this Advent and Christmas season. Upon hearing the theme of comfort and joy, my mind, perhaps like yours, quickly began humming 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen'. More accurately, my mind kept repeating the carol's most recognisable refrain. Therefore, my Biblical Pause series this



### Let us find our rest in Thee

Advent and Christmas draw upon the lyrics of this carol. When thinking of my own experience of comfort and joy, I was initially drawn to moments I have already encountered: a long walk in South Weald woods, resting with a warm drink on a chilly day, a quiet chapel, a friendly embrace . . . However, reflecting on these experiences more deeply, I realised that often it is not simply the moment itself that brings comfort. Instead, it is that they are opportunities through which I allow myself to be more open to receiving the comfort of Christ and the resulting joy in Him.

Hebrews Chapter 1 verse 10 reads:

'So, there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest...'

'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen' dates back to the early 1800's, but the words are still very applicable and the lyrics purposeful and powerful today. There is debate about the exact origin of this familiar carol; however, it seems to be the consensus that the words were penned to bring joy and hope during times when these were lacking. The authors of this hymn did not allow themselves to become caught up in expectations of their culture. They challenged the cultural norms with Godly weapons such as peace and joy. The religious songs of the time were often written in Latin and their melodies were dark and sombre. This carol was light, lively and

penned in common language. In the same way as people were seeking joy and light 500 years ago, we too are seeking this. We must not give in to the temptation of dwelling on the difficult time we find ourselves in. We must find joy and comfort in the true meaning of this season. We can rest in Faith. Like a warm cosy blanket, it offers protection from the temptation of dwelling in feelings of uncertainty, sadness, isolation and concern for those around us.

The cares of life dissipate in a joy-filled environment. Rest is one of the ways we can help create an environment of joy. Rest, though, is a discipline that must be developed. Countless times, even Jesus took time in his life to schedule 'rest' and used it to prepare, repair, and relax. This enabled Him to minister with love and excellence. He needed to be 'filled up' in order to 'pour out'.

There are many references in Scripture with wisdom related to rest. For example:

**Psalm 62:5** - 'Yes, my soul, find rest in God: my hope comes from him.'

Mark 6:31 - 'Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest' (Jesus).

Psalm 131:2 - 'But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a

weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content.'

John 14:27 - 'Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful' (Jesus).

Proverbs 19:23 - 'The fear (reverence) of the Lord leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble.'

Matthew 11:28 - 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls' (Jesus).

Whilst the words of 'God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman' are open to interpretation (and provides a perfect opportunity for an English lesson on positioning and power of the apostrophe), a modern paraphrase of the words might read: 'May God keep you joyful, gentlemen. May He fill your hearts with gladness and joy'.

Advent is the beginning of the church calendar. Instead of marking the year by New Year's Day, the church begins with Advent, in anticipation of Christ's coming in human form and of Christ's return. It is the perfect time to make a resolution to set time aside for Him! Come thou long expected Jesus is one of my favourite Advent hymns:



From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of
every longing heart.
Born Thy people to deliver, Born a
child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now
Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, Rule in
all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise
us to Thy glorious throne.

We sing this hymn to be reminded that we have rest, hope, joy, and freedom because Jesus came as the Messiah of the world. We sing it to be reminded that Christ was born a child and yet a King. We sing this hymn to pray that Jesus would rule in our hearts by his Spirit and that he would bring his gracious kingdom.

#### Watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch ?app=desktop&feature=share&v= VLcTLCCpI5A

This skillfully and beautifully illustrates, through an everchanging painting, how all of history cumulates in the birth of Jesus.

Rest now in the Lord's presence and reflect on these questions: How do you allow yourself to find rest in Him?

How do you choose joy in difficult times?

How can others be affected by your choice to rest?

#### Let us pray:

Dear God,
Help us in this chaotic time to be
disciplined enough to schedule
time to rest in the presence of our
Lord, to find comfort in your Word
and joy in your presence in our
lives. Help use bring your gentle
love to others, this Advent,
Christmas and always. Amen.

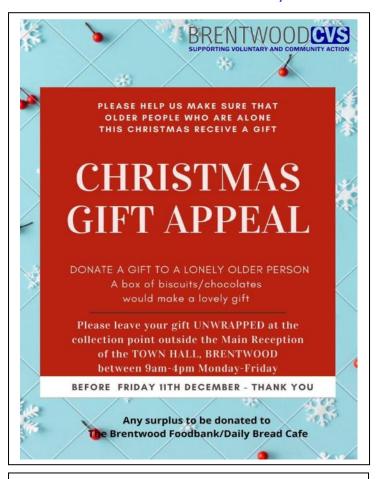
alone.



Mrs. Sharp Deputy Headteacher



Christmas season, and find comfort as well as hope for the age to come. God is with us always. We are never



# BRENTWOOD FOODBANK

# HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

#### BRENTWOOD FOODBANK REQUIREMENTS

#### **Tinned Goods**

Meatballs, Chicken in Sauce, Ham, All Day Breakfast, Corned Beef, Salmon, Potatoes, Meat Pies, Rice Pudding, Fruit, Custard (tins or cartons)

Sweets & Treats, Biscuits, Savouries, Christmas Pudding, Christmas Cake, Cakes, Chocolates, Selection Boxes, Pickles,

Washing Powders/Liquids, Deodorants, Shaving Gel/Foam, Razors, Washing up Liquid, Shampoo, Conditioner, Kitchen/Bathroom Cleaner Nappies sizes 3,4, 5, 6

https://brentwood.foodbank.org.uk/



# Virtual Shoe Boxes New Hope Children's Centre

Last year we sent over money to help the centre pay for some small gifts and the food for a party for the children at Christmas. This year we are asking for individual students to donate £5 to pay for a 'shoebox' for each child. That means there are 110 shoeboxes needed!

The founder of the centre, Anne Chenge, will buy every child basic toiletries such as soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a small treat – perhaps a bottle of nail varnish or a toy, stationery for school and some sweets and biscuits.

All you need to do to take part is to bring £5 in to your form tutor in an envelope with your name and form written on it. The Charity Committee will then contact you to choose which child you are buying the shoe box for. We hope that students will also write a Christmas Card for the child and perhaps include a little bit of information about yourself and your family – maybe a photo if you would like.

The cards will all be sent over in one big package, whilst the money will be transferred to Anne to buy the items for the children.

Money and cards need to be in to Mrs Ahlner by Tuesday 1st December. Thank you for your support!



## **Bistro & Orangery**

Although the Bistro is currently unable to offer its full range of food, there are still some delicious dishes to try. Check out next week's menu!

The catering staff are working very hard in order to make sure that the food offered is individually packaged and safe, but please remind your son/daughter that if they pick up any item they are then required to buy it and their account will be charged.

Please make sure that you check and top-up your ParentPay account regularly.





21st Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 30th Nov

WEEK ONE



MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Beef Lasagne

FRIDAY

TRADITIONAL DISH

Sweet & Sour Chicken

cooked in a homemade sweet and with noodles

American Burger Day

Pieces of chicken Beef burgers with or without cheese served with sour sauce served seasoned wedges

Roast Pork

Served in a giant Bolognese layered Yorkshire pudding with roast potatoes, cheese sauce with homemade batter seasonal vegetables and

with pasta and

garlic bread and house salad

Vegetable

Battered Sausage & Chips

Pork sausage cooked in a served with chips and beans

VEGGIE

and noodles

Lo Mein

Veggie Burger

vegetable burger served with

seasoned wedges

gravy Winter Warmer Pie

Lasagne Chinese vegetable Chefs home-made Root vegetable puff Roasted vegetables pastry pie served and pasta topped homemade batter with roast potatoes with white sauce, and gravy served with gartic bread

Battered Quorn Sausage

cooked in a served with chips and beans

DESSERTS

Our Hot Deli Range includes fresh doughs, pasta & noodle pots, filled jacket spuds & paninis hot chicken wraps, wings & dusted wedges. We rotate our range throughout the week.

Fruity Banana Loaf

Apple Crumble Cake

Summer Berry Slice

Carrot Cake

Ice Cream Tub

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **CHRISTMAS THEME DAY IN THE BISTRO**

WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

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#### **SUBJECT FAIR FOR YEAR 11**

WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020

(SCHOOL CLOSES AT 2.10PM FOR OTHER YEARS)

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#### **STUDENT HALF DAY**

FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

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#### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020 -

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2021

\*

#### **INSET DAY**

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

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#### **LENT HOLIDAY**

MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> – FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

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#### **INSET DAY**

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

# Becket Keys Church of England School

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