

Hope *Peace* Joy Love



Becket Keys Church of England School

5th December 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

A Christmas Appeal: Sharing Hope and Joy

As we journey through Advent and celebrate the joy of Christmas at Becket Keys Church of England School, we are reminded of the heart of the season: giving, caring, and sharing with those in need. This week has been full of festive blessings. We attended our Advent Eucharist on Tuesday, Christmas Lunch and non-uniform day on Wednesday, and the beautiful Christmas Carol Concert last night. Thank you to everyone who joined in to make these moments so special. The concert was once again truly a highlight of the season. The quality of the singing and playing was exceptional, with our choirs and orchestras performing with

real skill and heart. The readings from the Bible reminded us of the hope and promise of the Christmas story, and the music lifted our spirits in joyful celebration. A huge thank you to Mr Menexes and Mr Romhany, whose hard work and dedication made the evening such a success. It was a wonderful example of our school community coming together to share the joy of Christ's coming.

As usual, at the concert, we launched the Head Teacher's Christmas Appeal to support our Hardship Fund. This fund provides practical help for families who need assistance with essentials such as stationery, uniform, and school shoes. If you would like to give, you can do so easily via ParentPay under *Head Teacher's Christmas Appeal*.

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Gift a Book

We would like your book donations please!

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Music Department

A busy week for the Music Department this week!

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Club of the Week

Are you a gamer? This week we celebrate the Minecraft Club.

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Friends of Becket Keys

Did you know you can help fundraise for the school just by shopping?

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The suggested donation is £5, but please feel free to give whatever you can. It is a wonderful way to ensure your Christmas generosity goes directly to a family who truly needs it! In addition, we have a second opportunity to spread Christmas cheer: help us grow our school library! Stocking a library costs thousands of pounds, but together we can make a huge difference at no cost. Simply place any good-quality books you no longer need under the Christmas tree in Main Reception. Your gift will inspire and enrich the lives of our students for years to come.



As we reflect on the Christmas story, we remember the words of Jesus:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive." (quoted in Acts 20:35)

This season, let's live out that truth by giving generously and joyfully.



A Christmas Prayer for Our Community

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the joy of this season. Bless our school community with love, peace, and generosity. May every gift given bring hope and comfort to those in need. Help us to shine Your light in all we do. Amen.

A Christmas Blessing

May the peace of Christ fill your hearts, the joy of Christmas brighten your homes, and the love of God guide you always. Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyful Christmas.

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher



The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher, Mr Scott-Evans, is every Wednesday at 8.45am. This is a short meeting where we pray together for local and national events and for any intentions of those in our school family. All are welcome. If you have any prayer intentions, please send them into the school via the office email: office@becketkeys.org



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Gift a Book for Christmas

You may remember from previous years our highly successful 'Gift a Book for Christmas' initiative. Last year we received hundreds of donations from students and families who were having a clear out in preparation for the new books they would be receiving on Christmas Day. These books have since been enjoyed by our students who have been discovering the 'gifts' in their form room book swaps and the school library.

If you did not encounter it last Christmas, below is everything you need to know to get involved.

We all know that as avid readers, we can end up with too many books to store. I know that my own bookcase can end up overflowing, and it becomes difficult to even see what I have. Then, for Christmas I often receive new books, and there is nowhere for them to go. Like most people, many books will only be read once, and then they sit gathering dust. Our hope is that in this festive period, when you are preparing your homes for Christmas, you may take the opportunity to see if you have any books that are ready for a new home and to be loved and enjoyed by others. These may be books that have been read, and will not be read again, or books that your children are now too old for, as they have moved onto more exciting reading challenges. If you have any books that are in good condition and are suitable



for ages 10 and up, then please consider gifting them this Christmas to the school. We also have mini libraries in the Sixth Form and the staff room, so adult fiction is also greatly appreciated.

If you really want to treat us, we would love to receive copies of top Young Adult fiction books from 2025, which can be found easily on bookshop websites. You could also look back through the newsletters of the last 12 months and choose from the many books we have featured and recommended, as these are popular amongst students.

If you are able to donate any books, we would be hugely appreciative. If you want to be really festive, you could wrap them or put them in a gift bag, but we will take them unwrapped too. You just need to send them in with your son/daughter to place under one of our Christmas

trees. These can be found in Reception, the Main Hall and the Sixth Form area.

After Christmas these will be shared between the classroom book swap areas and placed in our library, where students will be able to find all the new books they can enjoy in 2026. It means that the Christmas spirit can continue into the new year. This will make 2026 the year for going on adventures in between the pages of something students have never read before.

Miss White
Literacy and Library Lead

[Book for Secondary School Students](#)

[Waterstones- YA Fiction](#)

Your local independent bookstore in Brentwood:

[Chicken & Frog](#)

Christmas Lunch

Students and Staff enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch on Wednesday. Santa made his annual appearance! Many thanks to all the catering staff for all their hard work in the kitchen and all the staff and Sixth Form helpers!



Christmas Carol Concert



We had a wonderful musical evening on Thursday with excellent performances from The Stage Band, School Orchestra and Choir, Upper Voices Choir, The Year 12 Band, the Guitar Ensemble and the Gospel Choir! This along with readings and carols for the audience to join in with meant that this was a wonderful way to start off the festive season.

There are so many groups available at Becket Keys organised by Mr Romhany and Mr Menexes in the Music Department, so whether you play an instrument, would like to learn one, or feel that you would like to join one of the choirs, get in touch with Mr Romhany via the school website for more information.



Christmas Concert at The Brentwood Centre

The whole of Year 7 enjoyed an inspiring afternoon at the Brentwood Centre, where the Essex Youth Orchestra delivered a thrilling programme of film music by the legendary John Williams. From the very first notes of the *Star Wars* theme, the hall was filled with excitement and energy. The orchestra's powerful brass and sweeping strings brought the iconic melodies to life, transporting the audience to galaxies far, far away. Other highlights included the magical *Harry Potter* theme, which captured the sense of wonder and adventure perfectly, alongside many other well-loved scores from Williams' extensive catalogue. The young musicians performed with confidence and enthusiasm, showcasing both their technical skill and passion for music. We were proud to have two students performing with the orchestra, Emily in Year 11 playing clarinet and Matthew in Year 9 on French Horn.

In the evening, the orchestra were joined by school choirs for a spectacular finale featuring music from *Home Alone*. This included the Becket Keys School Singers, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to perform in front of a full house.

It was a day to remember for all involved—a celebration of live music, collaboration, and the timeless magic of John Williams' compositions.





Think you are up for the challenge? This term's task is called **Nasty Negatives** – Give it a try!

Every time you finish a challenge you will have learnt or practised something important. Not only that, but just for fun, show **Mrs. Conway** and she will put your name into the prize draw.

That means the more challenges you complete, the more you learn and the more chances you have to **win a great prize!** The draw closes on Thursday 18th December 2025.

Click the following link to complete on any device.

[Nasty Negatives!](#)

So, get started, give it your best, learn lots and keep those entries coming!

Mrs Conway
Head of Mathematics

Chess Club



Chess Club is going from strength to strength and we now have over 30 students wanting to play each week, however the members are sad as they do not have enough boards to play with!

If you have a chess set at home in a cupboard that you no longer need or if you are able to donate a board for this friendly club then please send them into reception. The Club are practising for their next tournament and so these boards are urgently needed!

Remember Chess Club is every Tuesday lunchtime in Library B. All are welcome whatever your level of expertise.

Thank you!

Mrs Lobo
Chess Club

Club of the Week - Minecraft



Minecraft is the best selling video game of all time and over 140 million people play this game. Minecraft allows players a large amount of freedom in choosing how to play the game. It is a game that is creative ie players can build things with blocks, structures, earthworks and machines. There is also a survival mode when players can fight against hostile mobs who are trying to take over thier world. You can play alone or with friends so why not come along on Wednesdays after school to join in. The club is open to all students.

Minecraft Club is so much fun! You can socialise with your friends whilst killing zombies! Ms Pogoda is a great teacher who gives you tips on how to play best.

Reuben – Year 9

It has been really fun to be at Minecraft Club because I get to play a game I like with my friends whilst having a chat.

Arsene – Year 7

I like coming to Minecraft Club as it is fun and entertaining.

Harley – Year 7

I like this club because it is fun to hang out with my friends.

Joseph – Year 8



Book of the Month - December



Nobody talks about the strange happenings in Mainsbury. No one speaks of the hooded figures glimpsed in the woods, nor the children's game that went so horribly wrong. But most of all, nobody dares whisper their doubts about the river they have worshipped for centuries.

Like everyone in Mainsbury, Gorse is used to the sacrifices made every spring to the River Yeelde. The life of a farm animal - in return for a year of plenty - seems a fair trade. That is, until a tragedy leads Gorse to a blood-curdling discovery.

Because this year is a Brim Year, and after giving so much, the river needs more than an animal's life to sate its thirst...



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2025-6

Entries of prose fiction, non-fiction or poetry

Memento

Celebrate your writing across the six schools in the Russell Education Trust.

This year's challenge is to select a memento. Choose one as the starting point for your writing to feed your imagination.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Entries must be uploaded to [SatchelOne](#) by 9th January 2026.

Two school winners will be selected from each category: KS2-3, KS4 & Sixth Form.

All Trust-winning entries will be published in a book. The overall winner will gain a writer's visit for their school.



Your writing can take any form you would like. This is an opportunity to be as creative as you like.

A memento must feature somewhere in your writing. It should be the item which sparks the idea for your writing.

A memento is an object kept as a reminder of a person or event.

You can pick a memento that you have at home, or come and see an English teacher to see some of the examples that they have.

This writing must be typed on a word document.

Friends of Becket Keys Fundraising





Help out when you check out

Collect FREE donations for **FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS** every time you shop online.

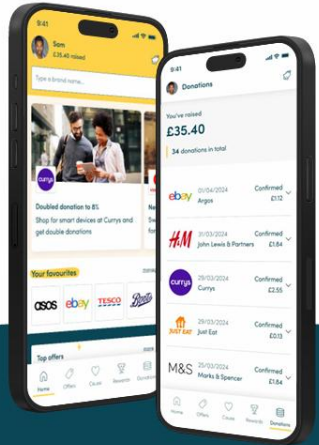



Join, shop and raise here:
[easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood)



The easyfundraising app

Shop with thousands of retailers, get handy reminders as you browse and track your donation progress all in one place.
 Available on iOS and Android.

Scan the QR code to download the app

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

If you are organised and already doing your Christmas shopping online. Why not see if you can help raise some funds for Friends of Becket Keys through your online purchases in a few easy steps?

Click [here](#), then:

- Click 'Sign up and 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!

If already a member, then why not refer a friend? FoBK will get a bonus when each person you refer makes a purchase.

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

Careers Events for Students

'Think Cambridge' opportunity for Year 10-12

4 to 13 February 2026

Bookings for the 'Think Cambridge' webinar series are now open!

This series aims to inspire students to apply to Cambridge. The sessions will cover a range of topics, including:

- an introduction to applying to, and studying at, Cambridge
- stories about student life from current students
- advice on how to prepare to apply

[Think Cambridge | Undergraduate Study](#)



Interested in Medicine?

Get Into Medicine:

Sunday 7th December from 9am - 1:30pm

Saturday 13th December from 9am - 1:30pm

[Get Into Medicine Conference Sign Up - Medic Mentor](#)

Get Into Dentistry:

Sunday 11th January 2026 from 9am - 1:30pm

[Get Into Dentistry Conference Sign Up – Dental Mentor](#)

All aspiring doctors and dentists in years 10-12 are invited to register.

These conferences offer tailored advice for medicine and dentistry, covering a range of crucial topics:

- Understanding Medical/Dental Career
- Skills Needed in Medicine/Dentistry
- Extra and Super curricular Activities
- Accessing Work Experience
- Application Timelines
- Personal Statements
- Medical/Dental School Interviews
- UCAT Entrance Exam
- Accessing Scholarships

Events for students

Students may wish to explore events offered by Cambridge Colleges and departments.

These include things like webinars, in-person events, residential visits, competitions and more!

Head to the website below to see what's on. There are plenty of upcoming events suitable for students in the early stages of exploring their university options.

[Upcoming events | Undergraduate Study](#)





Homework Club is available for all students.

Every afternoon after school students can stay for a supervised session until 4.20pm and complete their homework in C11.

Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm.

There are a large number of extracurricular clubs that your son/daughter can attend at Becket Keys. Full details are available on the school website here:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/extra-curricular>.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Tell us what you think!

Complete our survey

Over the past year, Essex County Council been working closely with the local community on Sawyers Hall Lane to make the streets around local schools safer. Based on our feedback, they have:

- Installed a new pedestrian guardrail to improve safety.
- Installed a new raised table to slow down traffic on one section of the road.
- Made the footway widening permanent and added pencil-shaped bollards.
- Added safer tactile crossing points.
- Cleared overgrown vegetation.
- Recruited a new School Safety enforcement officer to address safety concerns. The officer encourages any driver who parks illegally or inconsiderately to be cautious and considerate and offers information on alternative ways for parents/carers to get to and from school, where practicable. They have the powers to enforce if necessary.
- Promoted the three "park and stride" sites at William Hunter Way car park, Chatham Way car park and Doddinghurst Community Church, encouraging parents and carers not to park on the streets immediately surrounding the schools.

We would now like to hear from you about these changes. We also want to understand more about how you travel day-to-day. Your feedback will help us improve the way local people experience the streets and explore further ways to make them safer for everyone. Please click the link or scan the QR code below:



[Sawyers Hall Lane Safer Streets | Safer, Greener, Healthier](https://letstalkessexsustainabletravel.co.uk/sawyers-hall-lane-healthy-school-streets/surveys/sawyers)
<https://letstalkessexsustainabletravel.co.uk/sawyers-hall-lane-healthy-school-streets/surveys/sawyers>

If you would prefer a printed copy of the survey sent to you by post, please email us at sg.h.routes@essex.gov.uk

Reminder!

School Uniform

It is important to all of us that every student who attends Becket Keys looks smart in their uniform at all times. All students are required to wear shoes and not trainers.

Girls in Year 7-9, should have their long hair completely tied up. Girls in Year 10-11 can have their hair half up/ half down. Black, purple or neutral coloured hair ties please. If boys have long hair, they too need to have it tied up.



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

Winter PE Options



Becket Keys Hoodie



Becket Keys Games Top



Becket Keys T-Shirt



Thermal/Long Sleeve underlayer



Becket Keys Tracksuit Bottoms



Becket Keys Leggings



Must be worn together



Becket Keys Skort



Gripped gloves



Extra socks



Warm Hat

As winter approaches, we want to ensure that you are prepared for your PE lessons. We are not always lucky enough to have an indoor spaces (during the exam season), so please come prepared to be outside with the above kit. In extreme weather, we will endeavour to use a classroom space as an option.



Please remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email:

office@becketkeys.org

Your message will be forwarded to the member of staff concerned.

You can also send a message via the contact page on the website:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/contact-staff>

You can reply directly to any message you receive from the school via Bromcom, just click

the reply button and it will go to the office.

Students can contact their teachers via Satchel One if they have any queries regarding their lessons.

Please do not email staff directly as any message received in this way will not receive a response.

Many thanks for your understanding.



Brentwood Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Help support your food bank this Christmas

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

 If collecting festive food, please deliver before 24th November.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



Just Giving



Other ways to donate money

Shopping list

- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Puddings
- Christmas Cakes/Biscuits
- Chocolates/Sweets
- Selection Boxes
- Biscuits for Cheese
- Sponge Puddings (syrup/ chocolate/jam)
- Tinned Custard
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Salmon
- Tinned Ham
- Pickles/Cranberry Sauce
- Packet Stuffing
- Jelly's
- Carnation Milk

Ending hunger together

info@brentwood.foodbank.org.uk

Facilitated by Doddinghurst Road Church. Registered Charity in England and Wales (1171227)

School Shoes

- Boys - Traditional flat, black sensible leather shoes – lace up shoes to have black laces. No trainers or boots, no white or coloured laces. Lace up shoes preferable to Velcro. No sandals.
- Girls - Traditional flat, black sensible leather shoes – lace up shoes to have black laces, no trainers or boots. Lace up shoes preferable to Velcro. No kitten heels, sandals, platform shoes, ballet pumps, white or coloured laces.




Sports News

PE Extra Curricular - Oct to Dec

Day	4.1 Lunchtime (11:50-12:30) 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday	Year 10 and 11 Basketball Club	Year 9, 10 and 11 Rugby
Tuesday	TUP Badminton	All Years' Mixed Recreational Football Year 7 Netball Year 8 & 9 Boys' Basketball
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball – Invite Only GCSE Theory Intervention	Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 Netball Year 7 Basketball
Thursday	TUP Basketball	Year 7&8 Rugby
Friday		All Years' Running Club All Years' Hockey Club



Keys:

- Astro
- Sports hall
- Main Hall
- Drama Hall
- Field
- Playground

LOST PROPERTY

Please make sure that **EVERY** item of uniform, PE Kit and equipment is named. There are over a thousand students at the school all wearing the same uniform.

There are many items that we are unable to return as we do not know to whom they belong.

Lost Property can be collected from Reception.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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YEAR 11 STRATFORD UPON AVON TRIP
FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER – SATURDAY 13TH
DECEMBER 2025

*

A LEVELS CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION AND
AWARDS EVENING
TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2025

*

LAST DAY OF TERM
STUDENT HALF DAY
THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2025

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2025 –
FRIDAY 2ND JANUARY 2026

*

INSET DAY
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2026

*

TERM DATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE
SCHOOL WEBSITE HERE:
[Becket Keys](https://www.becketkeys.org)

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@BecketKeysDT
@BecketKeysExams
@BecketKeysTrips

[Facebook: Becket Keys Church School](https://www.facebook.com/BecketKeysChurchSchool)