



ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BULLETIN

21st November 2025



ASSISI
CATHOLIC
TRUST

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Programme dates on page 3/4

Wednesday 26th November-St Andrew's Day Assembly-Year 4 Parents/Carers welcome-9am

Thursday 27th November-3 St Swithun's Class Assembly-Year 3 Parents/Carers welcome-9am

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER-SCHOOL CLOSED-WELLBEING DAY

11 January 2026

We need your help in improving the school grounds and promoting more wildlife areas in conjunction with the Southend Forest Project. The school will be open in the morning to complete jobs involving a new wildlife area, painting fences if dry and tidying our willow dome. Please bring gardening equipment (spades, forks, secateurs) and as many helpers (young and old) as possible! More details regarding times to follow.

Thank you, Mrs Miller

St. Andrew 3182

St. Patrick 2679

St. David 2751

St. George 2530

Our Mission Statement

Respect yourself

Respect everyone in our school community

Respect everyone in our local community

Respect everyone in our global community

But most of all,

Respect God our Father in Heaven



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Santa's grotto

Tickets are now on sale for £6 per pupil, the price includes a meet and greet with Santa and a special gift.

The grotto takes place on Wednesday 3rd December 2025 during school hours, as part of the Christmas Craft Extravaganza. Please note – visits are open to St. Helen's pupils only.

Purchase your ticket via School Gateway. Tickets will be available to buy until Friday 28th November.

This year we have partnered with [Image Arts Studios UK House](#), to offer an exciting photo opportunity as an additional part of the grotto experience. For an optional extra, you can order a photograph of your child with Santa for an added £4. Please also purchase this via School Gateway. You will need to provide a personal email address as your unique password to access the secure link for your online photograph. Photographs will be taken in sibling groups, if you have multiple children please only pay the £4 photo fee once.

Pricing has been set to cover the cost of running the event. If you need some extra support, please speak to the school office.

Christmas Programme 2025 (Parents & Families Version)



Date	Activity	Further information
Tuesday 25 November	FOSH Christmas Wrapping Day – studio out of action between 9 & 11	<i>FOSH are inviting helpers to come to school to help wrap the hampers. There will be two sessions as follows: 9-11am & then 5.30-7pm Please attend whichever session is most convenient for you.</i>
Wednesday 26 November 	Year 4 St Andrew's Day Assembly & St Andrew's Day Lunch	<i>Year 4 will present their assembly to parents and pupils during the morning. There will be a special lunch to celebrate St Andrew's Day. ALL PUPILS are invited to wear their PE top in the colour of their own house.</i>
Friday 28 November	***SCHOOL CLOSURE – WELLBEING DAY***	
Monday 1 December FOSH in to build grottos	KS2 Choir to visit St George's Care Home	<i>Miss Paice will advise families of details nearer the time</i>
	Reception Stay & Play 2.30pm	<i>Parents of children in reception invited to make Christmas displays</i>
	Travelling Cribbs begin 	<i>Each class has a box containing a nativity scene and a prayer to share during Advent. Any child wanting to take the crib home with them overnight can. Photos with children and the crib scenes are encouraged.</i>
Tuesday 2 December FOSH in to build grottos	KS2 Choir to visit St George's Care Home	<i>Miss Paice will advise families of details nearer the time</i>
	Advent Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Years 4, 5 & 6 will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation Years 1, 2 & 3 will have a penitential service in the afternoon Reception parents are invited in for the reconciliation service for reception at 2.45</i>
Wednesday 3 December 	Great Christmas Craft Extravaganza feat. Father Christmas ***	<i>The children will be working in their houses all day so that family groups can visit Father Christmas together. Each group of children will make things to sell at "Elfridges" at the Christmas Fayre and at some point during the day will have the opportunity to visit Santa with their siblings. Due to logistics, parents will be unable to attend this event this year.</i>
Friday 5 December	Christmas Fayre Church Choir to perform at 4pm KS2 Choir to perform at 5pm	<i>The Fayre will begin at 3.30pm and finish at around 5.30pm. FOSH will be asking for helpers to come in in the afternoon and help get set up. Further details will be shared throughout November.</i>
Sunday 7 December	Church choir at St Helen's	<i>Church choir will be supporting the 9.30 liturgy at St Helen's</i>
Monday 8 December	KS2 Choir singing at the Cliffs Pavilion	<i>Miss Paice will advise families of details nearer the time</i>
Tuesday 9 December 	Year 2 Christmas Presentation - please note that times for this performance vary slightly from the original published time	<i>Year 2 families invited. Performances are at 10am and 5.30pm. Maximum 2 guests per family at each performance. Please arrive in good time. Toddlers are welcome at the morning performance.</i>
Wednesday 10 December	***HALF DAY FOR PUPIL PROGRESS CONFERENCES*** GATES OPEN FOR COLLECTION AT 1.15pm	

Friday 12 December	Choir performing at Brentwood Cathedral	Miss Paice will advise families of details nearer the time
	Reception Stay & Play 2.30pm	Parents of children in reception invited to make Christmas cards
Monday 15 December 	KS2 Choir singing at Alston Court	Miss Paice will advise families of details nearer the time
	Year 1 Christmas Presentation – <i>please note that times for this performance vary slightly from the original published time</i>	Year 1 families invited. Performances are at 10am and 5.30pm. Maximum 2 guests per family at each performance. Please arrive in good time. Toddlers are welcome at the morning performance.
Tuesday 16 December	Reception Nativity	St John Fisher & St Margaret Clitherow will present their nativity at 10am. Families of children in reception are invited.
	Years 3 & 4 Carols outside	This begins at 2.30pm and families of children in Years 3 and 4 are invited.
Wednesday 17 December	Years 5 & 6 Nine Lessons and Carols Service	This is at St Helen's Church at 6pm and is open to the whole school community
Thursday 18 December 	Christmas Dinner – All staff to serve dinner to the children. Three sittings. Details TBC	Children will have a traditional Christmas Dinner. Staff and children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers and join in the festivities. Classes will have Christmas parties or films in class in the afternoon. 
Friday 19 December	Carols Round The Tree 	The whole school will gather round the tree in the hall to sing a variety of festive songs and carols before they go home for the Christmas holiday.



FOSH-Donations for the bottle stall would be gratefully appreciated. Cordial, wine and fizz and any other bottles like washing up liquid and shower gel/shampoo etc (Please note – alcoholic items should be dropped off at the office by an adult!)

Thank you!



ST VINCENT'S CENTRE, SOUTHEND

Christmas Hamper Appeal 2025

Join Us To Lift Families Up
This Christmas

This Christmas we will be supporting many families with hampers. These are the items we need to create a hamper for a family in need.

- **Pasta**
- **Chocolate spread or jar of jam**
- **Packet of cream crackers**
- **Packet of sweets/biscuits**
- **UHT milk**
- **Jar of instant coffee**
- **Bottle of ketchup**
- **Cereal**
- **Mince pies**
- **Christmas crackers**
- **Tins of custard**
- **Jar/packet instant hot chocolate**
- **Jar of pasta sauce**
- **Gravy granules**
- **£10 voucher – Tesco, Sainsburys or Lidl**

Last donations 15th December 2025

Unit 9, Victoria Business Park, Short Street, SS2 5BY
Charity No: 1053992

Values Children

RESILIENCE

EMPATHY

SERVICE

PATIENCE

ENJOYMENT

COURAGE

TRUSTWORTHINESS

R St John Fisher	Zoey Madhaka- Resilience - she never gives up and is able to walk away from a situation when she knows someone is not doing the right thing. Zoey works hard and is independent in her learning.
R St Margaret Clitherow	Anastasi Pritsis- Empathy - for his kind and caring attitude towards both staff and children this week.
1 St Augustine	Chidera Udem- Trustworthiness – Chidera can always be trusted to be helpful in the classroom, without being asked. She is always reliable and honest with adults. She can be trusted to try her hardest with every single piece of work.
1 St Ursula	Aamari Manyere- Enjoyment – Aamari had great fun in his learning this week as he took on the role of the Big Bad Wolf in in our literacy lesson this week. The children had all built houses using resources in the classroom and we used the reoccurring language found in the story of The Three Little Pigs to consolidate our learning.
2 St Thomas Becket	Isabel Emil- Trustworthiness – Isabel is someone who can always be trusted. She can always be relied upon to help her class friends and teachers. She also did some amazing, independent RE work this week.
2 St Cedd	Marinzie Fernandes- Resilience – she has worked really hard since coming back from half term and this week has really tried her best. She has shown great progress in Phonics and has written some amazing sentences this week. Well done!
3 St Bede	Joseph Parapully – Trustworthiness -Joseph can always be trusted to complete a task to the best of his ability and act on feedback. He always engages in lessons and can be trusted to do the right thing.
3 St Swithun	Maya Dogan- Enjoyment -she has produced a couple of pieces of great English work independently and added some wonderful illustrations. Well done Maya!
4 St Columba	Fabiola Jimenez Castillon-Trustworthiness - Fabiola is consistently honest and dependable, always making thoughtful and responsible choices. She goes above and beyond to support others and stands out as a wonderful role model for her peers.
4 St Alban	Aidan Turay-Resilience -for finding work tricky at times but keeping going and trying with everything. Not giving up so easily and being involved in lessons by answering questions.
5 St Anne Line	Beatrice Burzotta-Courage -for putting her hand up and sharing her ideas.
5 St Osyth	Isaac Banda-Enjoyment - Isaac has really grown in year 5, he is digging deep in lessons and showing a huge level of enjoyment in what he is learning across our curriculum. He stores knowledge and loves asking and answering questions too.
6 St Sebbi	Tyatt Cole-Enjoyment -for full on enjoyment, awe and wonder at our visit to the British Museum.
6 St Boniface	Tomás De Sousa-Enjoyment -well done Tomás, for your enthusiasm during Monday's visit to the British Museum. Mrs Allen commented on how sensible you were throughout the day, on the train and in the museum. She was so impressed by the deep interest you took in the Ancient Egypt exhibits and how carefully you read the information about them. Keep it up, so proud of you!
MDA award	Sebastian Palmer-2 St Thomas Becket-Patience -for not reacting to a trying situation.
MDA award	Vivienne Clark-Abdullah-4 St Alban-Service -for always being polite.
SLT award	Jack Heard-Enjoyment – 4 St Columba
SLT award	Mrs Cowell-Resilience