



We wish you all a happy, safe and blessed Christmas, from all the staff at St Thomas Becket. Have a great break and we look forward to even more learning, fun, trips and excitement in 2025!

RECEPTION CAROLS

Our Reception carol concert on Monday was full of festive cheer. The children sang with great enthusiasm and it was such a warm and joyful experience. Well done to the pupils of Ladybirds and Butterflies and thank you to all of the staff who helped to prepare them for their first performance at Becket—and what a performance it was too!



BECKET AWARDS

Our Becket award winners for the Autumn term were announced in assembly on Thursday. There were awards for resilience, kindness, excellent work and those who go the extra mile to be a good Samaritan. Well done to all of the winners!



BUILDING UPDATES

The roofing project is almost finished now and will be completed in early January. A large project to replace all the electrical fittings, power sockets, fire doors and other fire infrastructure will commence in early January. The work will take place over evenings and weekends so impact on school activities are expected to be minimal.

CLOSURE OVER CHRISTMAS

The school, including the office, are now closed until **Monday 6th January** at 8.30am. Messages and emails will not be picked up until that date.

Becket
Awards



Ladybirds
Butterflies
St Elizabeth
St Joseph
St Francis
St Anne
St Peter
St Bernadette
St Paul
St Therese
St Martin
St Cecilia
St Brigid
St Benedict

Becket Award
Henry and Lola
Isaac and Darcey
Aavi and Timothy
Ada and Thomas
Jack and Lise
Aaima and Liam
Mariah and Johan
Ceanna and Gabriel
Bea and Joe
Davison and Agnes
Arya and Kacper
Anna and Thomas
Louvinia and Esmee
Kelvin and Megan

Certificate of Excellence (Presentation Award)

Charlie
Ethan
Prince Elbert-Jnr
Ethan
Kahys
Alex
Janelle
Thea
Teo
Elijah
Eleni
Cayson
Marvellous
Iman

Good Samaritan Award

Aaliyah
Aurelia
Olivia
Sophia
Janelle-Leigh
Molly
Esmaré
Gabriel M
Esme
Laura
Oscar
Nieve
Lexarna
Neriah

YEAR 5 SCIENCE SHOWCASE

Year 5 held a mini science-fair on Wednesday afternoon, first for our Yr2 pupils and then for their parents and carers after school. They explored various aspects of their 'Space' topic and several pupils received headteachers awards for their great contributions.



INSTRUMENT CONCERT

On Wednesday, we had our final instrument concert of the term. There was a wide range of talents on display and it was lovely to see our musicians' skills developing from the last time they performed.



FAREWELL MRS HARPER

After 37 years of dedicated service. Mrs Harper leaves us today to begin her retirement. I'm sure you will join me in thanking her for all she has done for our school community in the time that she has served the school. Mrs Harper would like to pass on the following message:

It is almost impossible to encapsulate in a few short paragraphs my thoughts and feelings about St Thomas Becket and being a teacher here for 37 years – 22 of those as deputy headteacher. During my time here I have been blessed to work alongside so many wonderful people and I would like to thank colleagues past and present for their dedication and support. The relationship between home and school has been a real strength and I would like to express my gratitude to parents and families past and present for all of the support you have provided both for your children and our staff throughout the years.

I've been asked many times what I will miss about our school when I retire. Of course I'll miss the assemblies and the performances, the sporting events and the competitions – but what I think I'll miss most of all are the ordinary days when it looks like nothing particularly special is happening. However, on those days if you walk along the corridors and go from classroom to classroom you see the wonder of all the learning that is happening all around!

I'll miss the smiles and the laughs that the children bring. I feel remarkably proud and extremely honoured to have seen so many wonderful children move through the school from reception to year 6 and to have witnessed their progress in so many ways and that is what has made it all worthwhile. I take with me so many happy memories and our Becket children will always have a place in my heart.

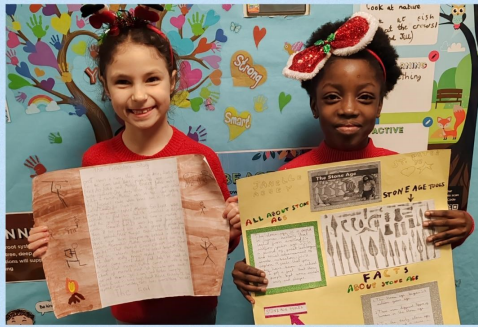
I am very grateful to Mr Skehan for his kindness and support during the two years we have worked together and know that under his leadership the school will continue to go from strength to strength. I have been overwhelmed by your kind words and gifts – thank you all so much. God bless you all and have a wonderful Christmas.

Anne Harper



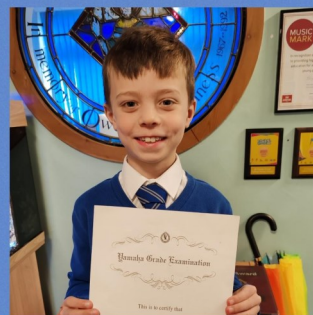
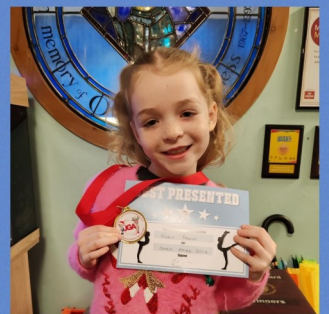
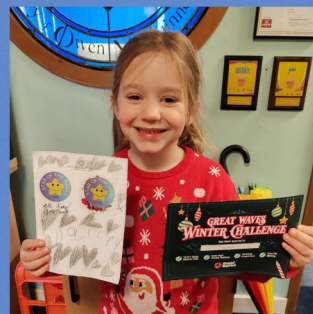
YEAR 3 PROJECTS

Well done to Alec, Gianluca, Nathaniel and Sophie (St Bernadette) and to Karina and Janelle (St Peter) for their informative and engaging stone age projects in Year 3, for which they all earned headteachers' awards.



ACHIEVEMENT

Well done to Rosie (swimming & gymnastics), Hettie (gymnastics), Dylan (piano) and Justin (football) who all celebrated individual achievements this week. We love hearing about those special achievements outside of school, so keep the good news coming in.



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Mary had been told by an angel that she was to give birth to a son named Jesus. When she heard that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also going to have a baby, she went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said to Mary, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For as soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed are you for believing the promise made to you by the Lord."

