



Becket Keys Church of England School

25th November 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes..

Word Millionaires

Recent studies by Ohio State University and the University of Kansas indicate that children from poorer backgrounds are more likely to have a vocabulary gap. They hear fewer words from birth, have fewer words read to them during their early years and then go on to read fewer words in books themselves. A limited vocabulary means that thinking is limited. We think with words and communicate our thoughts with words. The more words we have the more likely we are to be able to have more complex thoughts and the more successful we will be.

James Murphy, author, and co-founder of 'Thinking Reading' asserts that every secondary teacher and every parent of a

secondary age student needs to address low vocabulary as the highest priority. His view is the sheer quantity of words is the significant factor and that we need to ensure students read a million words per year. By my calculations, if we get students to read in silence for 4-5 minutes in every lesson and we continue to use our weekly silent reading time, students will read at least 800,000 words in school. That leaves 200,000 words to be tackled at home. On average, young fiction has between 200 and 300 words on a page. A 200-page book could therefore have between 40,000 and 60,000 words in it. Aiming to get your son/daughter to read four or five books per year, should, easily achieve the target of making them a word millionaire! I would

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Christmas Carol Concert

Save the date for our Carol Concert this year.

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humbly like to recommend this as a Christmas present idea for every student in the school!

Each week in the newsletter, we recommend at least one good book, and we regularly list titles that we know students will enjoy. In school, our library is now re-opening again. It is open on Wednesdays after school for students to come and select from and we are looking to extend that provision with our new team of student librarians. We also have a lovely new Sixth Form Library thanks to multiple donations from families.

Next week, I will be writing about our Christmas Book Appeal. Please start thinking about second-hand books you could wrap and donate to go under our Christmas tree or new books which you would be willing to buy for the school.

Together, I am sure that we can all make sure our students are word millionaires!

(This article is over 400 words – add that to the bank!)

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher



BECKET KEYS
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This year's Christmas Carol Concert takes place on Tuesday 14th December 2021 in the Main Hall and will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by the many musical groups we have at Becket Keys including: Stage Band, Orchestra and Chamber Choir,

As our Main Hall can only seat 300, we have to limit seats to three per family. More details about the cost and how to book will be available soon. All performers will be onstage throughout, so you do not need a ticket for your son/daughter if they are performing.

More information and details of how to book tickets will be available soon.

The Christmas Carol Concert is a wonderful tradition at Becket Keys and we are delighted that we can once again share this festive event with you and your family.

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021

BECKET KEYS CofE SCHOOL – MAIN HALL

7.00pm – 8.00pm

Food Department



This week in the Food Department our Year 7 students enjoyed cooking up a chow mein dish. They were so surprised how easy it was and how quickly they could make it. We discussed what type of protein they could include to increase the macronutrients of the dish. I was really impressed with their suggestions and ideas. Below is the recipe that the students made (and loved) in their lesson. I hope you enjoy making it.

Mrs English
Head of Food

Chow Mein

Ingredients

- 50g Egg Noodles
- 20g Beansprouts
- 2 tsp sunflower oil
- 2 tbsp. peas
- 2 tbsp. sweetcorn
- ½ onion sliced
- 3 tsp of soy sauce

Method

- Boil the kettle. Once boiled pour the water carefully over the noodles and leave to soak for 5 minutes.
- Slice the onion, thinly.
- In a frying pan, heat the oil and fry the onions until soft and slightly brown.
- Drain the noodles over the sink in a colander, and then put them back into the bowl.
- Add the onion and beansprouts to the frying pan and stir.
- Also, add the peas and sweetcorn to the frying pan.
- Stir altogether then add the noodles, mix well then add the soy sauce.
- Turn the heat off and place the noodles into the foil container.



Uniform

All students are required to wear smart leather shoes.

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

Students should not have any extreme hairstyles and hair must not be dyed, no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes or undercuts.

Please remember that students should wear black tights and white socks and 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.



**Becket Keys
Christmas Dinner
Wednesday
8th December**

**Tickets will be on sale
between the
24th November and
1st of December**

**Buy your tickets at
the tills during break
and lunch
£4.10**





**Becket Keys Christmas
Menu, 8th December 2021**

Traditional Roast Turkey
Crispy Roast Potatoes
Pigs in Blankets
Chef's Home-Made Apple and
Red Onion Stuffing
Roasted Medley of Seasonal Vegetables
Cranberry Sauce and Lashings of Gravy
or
Roasted Butternut Squash and
Mushroom Parcels served with
A Tomato and Pesto Velouté





For Dessert
Christmas Tree Brownie Laced With an
Orange Zest and a Dusting of Snow
or
Traditional Christmas Pudding with Cream

**(Vegan and Gluten Free Options
Available on Request)**

Tickets £4.10



Brentwood Cathedral Presents







*Will Todd's Jazz
Missa Brevis*

and other popular choral classics

Performed by:
Brentwood Choral Society
Ingatesstone Choral Society
Becket Keys School Choirs and Musicians
Brentwood Cathedral Music Group
Brentwood Cathedral Choristers

Directed by Art Wangeharoensab



Saturday 27th November 2021 7.30pm Brentwood Cathedral	Tickets: £10 Adults, £5 Students & Children Refreshments included. Tickets available at the door.
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We are Recruiting!

Finance & HR Assistant (Maternity Cover)

Full time, 37 hours per week, 29 days holiday

Providing an efficient and effective service in finance & HR monitoring, reports and controls.

The post holder will report to the Finance & Contracts Director and work closely with other staff including the Office Manager & Head's PA.

Duties will also include managing parent/student purchases including trips, assisting with procurement and accounts payable, managing accounts receivables and school letting bookings. The post holder will also assist in event and hospitality management and assist in reception when needed.

Full details and application here:
<https://www.becketkeys.org/vacancies.php>



Please ensure that the ParentPay account for your son/daughter remains in credit.

There are many great choices for your son/daughter to enjoy at both break and lunchtime, the Bistro is also open for breakfast before school.

If the account falls into debit then your son/daughter will not be able to purchase food from the Bistro or Orangery.

You can arrange an auto top up via your account and, if you wish, set a daily spend limit.

Please contact the school office if you have any queries.

Thank you for your co-operation.

<https://www.parentpay.com/>



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



Word of the Week

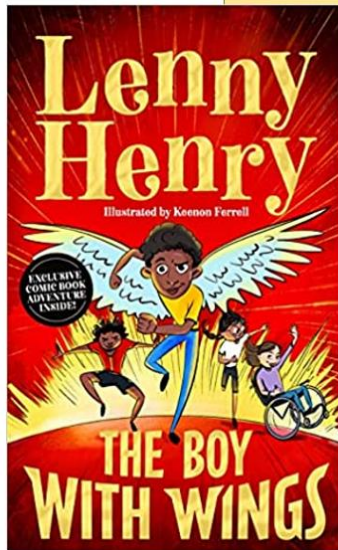


- In sentences:**
1. *It was a tremendous coup for the local paper to get an exclusive interview with Prince Charles.*
 2. *The theatre has scored something of a coup by persuading her to take the role.*
 3. *Our country has thankfully not had a military coup in recent years.*

Meaning: an unexpectedly successful achievement

Etymology: from medieval Latin *colpus* 'blow' or strike, hit.

Book of the Month - November



This debut children's novel from Lenny Henry sees average kid Tunde suddenly sprout wings during a football match, embarking on an exciting and sinister journey of discovery.

Twelve-year-old Tunde is just your average kid: average friends, average parents, average grades. Sure, he has his quirks, but if he can avoid the school bullies and hang out with his ragtag group of friends, he's happy enough. But his life is about to get turned upside down when, in the middle of a football match, Tunde leaps for the ball and stays in the air - on an enormous pair of wings!

Everything Tunde knows is about to change. Under the guidance of a mysterious visitor known as The Seeker, he discovers new-found powers, a secret past, and some seriously powerful people who are determined to keep that past buried, whatever the cost. With strange things happening in a place known as The Facility and someone important in need of rescue, Tunde is going to need more than a little help from his friends. Join Tunde, Kylie, Jiah and Neville on an out-of-this-world adventure that brings Tunde face-to-face with his destiny.

An average kid is about to become an extraordinary hero!

Sports News

Boys' & Girls' Swimming Gala

It has been quite some time since we have graced the pool and for two of our year groups it was the first time competing for Becket Keys. As you are aware Becket Keys does not have a pool on site, however Brentwood School has been kind enough to offer us their pool for our trials and we thank them for that. The swimming galas happen on consecutive Wednesdays and the boys took to the start boards first!

The boys conducted themselves very well on the day and despite the nerves we managed to get through the whole gala without any disqualifications (which if you are unaware of swimming etiquette, is quite a success!). Thank you also to Calum Hayes who gave up his time to be a time keeper.



Boys' Swim Team

Year 7: Pat Quay, Matt Delea, TJ Sarapoj, Luke Wylie and Harry Watson.

Year 8: Dan Slater, Ben Morrison, Dan Long, Evan Hoad and Sam Macklin

Senior Boys: Dan Legon, Brady Doyle, Luke Rouse, Josh Hall and Harley Rouse

Top 3 Performances! Year 7 Events: Pat - 3rd (IM & Fr), TJ - 3rd (Fly) & Matt - 3rd (Back). Year 8 Events: Dan - 2nd (Br). Year 10,11,12,13 Events: Josh - 3rd (Fr), Harley - 3rd (Bk), Brady - 2nd (Br) & Dan - 1st (Fly).

Overall Results:

Year 7 - 4th Year 8 - 4th (by 1 point) Year 10,11,12,13 - 3rd!

Girls' Swim Team

Year 7: Isabel Collins, Molly Williamson, Ruby O'Flaherty, Lola Wright and Grace Davis

Year 8: Beth Wright, Olivia Cross, Niamh Stevenson, Rom Deal and Annie Allardyce

Seniors: Tilly Wright, Erin Delea, Ella Stevenson, Holly Roberts

Top 3 Performances! Year 8: Beth - 2nd (Fly), Niamh - 1st (Bk), Olivia - 1st (Br), Rom - 3rd (Fr), Niamh - 1st (IM) Year 10,11,12&13: Holly - 3rd (Bk), Tilly - 1st (Br)

Overall Results: Year 7 – 6th Year 8 – 1st! Seniors – 3rd

There were a lot of nerves within our teams however, with the display put on by our girls – you would not know! A special thank

you to Lucy Gunn who got injured during the week but still attended to time keep for us. We are so proud of the Year 8 Girls who have achieved our first KS3 female trophy within the swimming galas. They are a force to be reckoned with and we look forward to seeing them grow as a team. KEEP SWIMMING!!

Year 8 Girls' Futsul Tournament



Despite having had very little experience in Futsal, the Year 8 girls' football team applied themselves incredibly well.

They put on a great performance against some tough opposition, obtaining third place; with the top 3 spots only having a point difference between them. They worked well as a team and battled throughout the tournament.

Well done girls!



U13 Girls' Football Tournament.

Combining several Year 7 and 8 girls allowed us to field a strong U13 squad. The girls blended well, coming together as a team and being willing to switch positions to create the strongest side we could. Penny Neal put in a solid performance in defence, whilst Rom Deal played an integral role in the midfield. Despite not making it through to the finals the girls showed resilience and commitment throughout!



Upcoming Sports Fixtures November & December

Monday 29th November

Year 8 Boys' Football v Ormiston (H)

Year 7 Netball v Hylands (A)

Monday 13th December

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football v William de Ferrers School (A)

Year 8 Boys' Basketball v Boswells (H)

Tuesday 14th December

Year 7 & 8 Boys' Sports Hall Athletics

Running Club Thursday After School

Remember that there is a running club every Thursday after school.

Organised by volunteers from Brentwood Running Club the training sessions take place after school from 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm each Thursday afternoon.

This is a great opportunity for those in school teams who are interested in running and for students in school teams who wish to improve their fitness.



At the heart of Christmas



At the heart of Christmas is hope.



'At the heart of Christmas' is the Church of England theme for Advent and Christmas this year. It is introduced on the Church of England website as follows:

'In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us.

This year, of course, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and communities. But whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Inspired by readings from the Gospels of Luke and John read at so many Christmas services, 'At the heart of Christmas' is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of

us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.'

The more we ponder the significance of the events of Christmas, the more powerfully we will experience Advent. Our Lord will penetrate the layers of distraction of this time and reveal what we are waiting and hoping for.

Listen to the words of the Prophet :

Joy of the Redeemed

35 The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom;

it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,

the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of

the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,
"Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you."

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,

grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸ And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of
Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on
that Way.

The unclean will not journey on
it;
wicked fools will not go about
on it.

⁹ No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk
there,

¹⁰ and those the Lord has
rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with
singing;
everlasting joy will crown their
heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake
them,

and sorrow and sighing will
flee away.

These words help us re-enter the
ancient tradition of a people
longing for a Saviour. The
contrasting imagery is powerful.
The darkness, gloom and
perched deserts capture a sense
of what we feel when we are
distant from God. Yet the
hunger, thirst and vulnerability is
replaced by God's salvation,
blooms in the desert and
rejoicing; a time when tears are
wiped away. In fact the **message
of Christmas is in the waiting**, if
we just take the time in all the
busyness and confusion to look
for it.

Listen to this poem, 'For Unto Us
– Hope':

<http://www.viewpure.com/qgCGoXMzvow?start=0&end=0>

and/or

Listen to the word of 'Mary, did
you now?', by the Pentatonix.
[http://www.viewpure.com/ifCW
N5pJGIE?start=0&end=0](http://www.viewpure.com/ifCW N5pJGIE?start=0&end=0)

This is that we are hoping for!
This is what we are waiting for!
**Hope at Christmas is more than
an empty wish, because Jesus
secured the future for all who
trust in him.**

What hope means to most
people is wishful thinking or an
emotional longing for something
better. This idea of hope
depends on the circumstances of
life, which could be hopeful or
hopeless. But life is
unpredictable and uncertain.
The Biblical meaning of the word
hope does not mean just wishing
for something. Hope is a
confident expectation or assured
anticipation of something good,
not yet experienced.

As you wait with hope and
eagerness, perhaps use the
Church of England daily family
activity calendar. I cannot tell
you much about what lies behind
each door, as they cannot be
unlocked until the 1st December!

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/family-activities-advent-calendar>

During this special Advent
season, students and staff at
Becket Keys will be pausing at
the end of each day for a short
time of prayer. So, why not join
us (in heart and spirit) from your

home or place of work. Dim the
lights, light a candle, reflect and
pray (our traditional Advent
prayer calendar accompanies
this newsletter).

Heavenly Lord,
Prepare us for Advent.
Stir us from apathy and
revive in us new hope for the
future.
Bring comfort and joy
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Dwell in our hearts now and
always.
Amen.

**Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher**



School Community Prayer Group
hosted by our Headteacher Mr
Scott-Evans is now 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, please enter via
reception.

If you have any prayer intentions,
please send them into the school
via the office email:
office@becketkeys.org

Art & Textiles

Danilo De Vito

Yr 12



Frankie Peet

Yr 10



Tilly Smith Yr 10

Year 8 'Portraits'



Daniel Slater



Sophie Spencer



Naomi Sibbald



Monty Selwood-Fry



Key stage 3



William Long Y8



Jayden Amanor Y7

Elle Holdcroft Y8

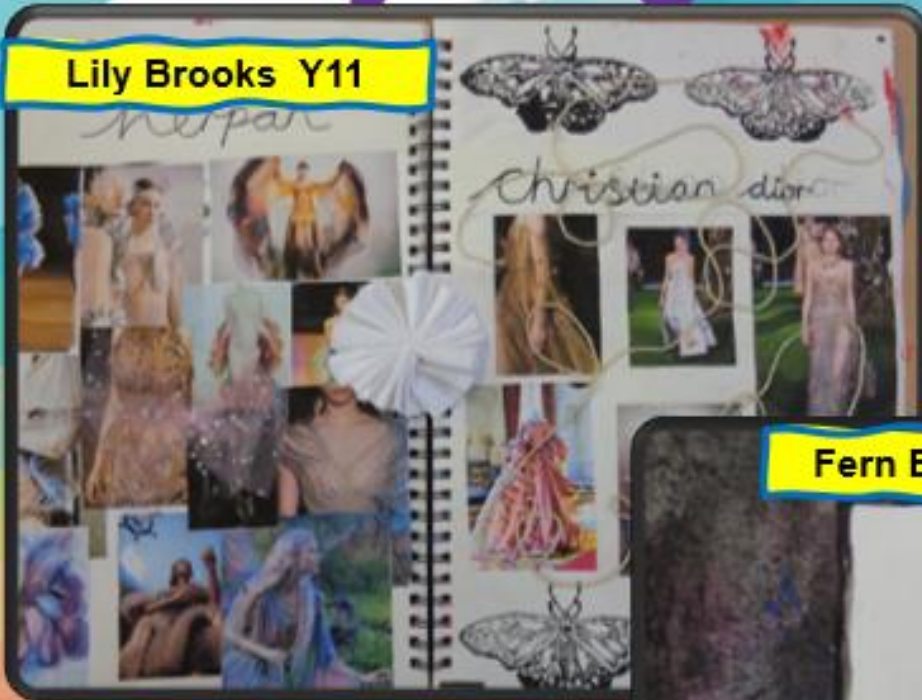


@becketkeysart



Key stage 4 & 5

Lily Brooks Y11



Fern Bonnett Y11



Tilly Reid Y11



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

STUDENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

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TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

*

STUDENT HALF DAY

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2021

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2021 –

MONDAY 3RD JANUARY 2022

*

INSET DAY

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATES ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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