



Becket Keys Church of England School Christmas Carol Concert 2021



Becket Keys Church of England School

17th December 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes...

This year's Christmas Carol Concert took place on Tuesday 14th December 2021 in the Main Hall and it was a wonderful celebration of the musical talents of the Becket Keys students. There were performances from the Stage Band, Year 7 & 8 Rock Band, the Junior and Senior Choirs and the Orchestra. We also had special guests Coalescence, a local singing group who have current and former Becket Keys students in their choir.

This was an excellent event, and we were able to live stream the concert thanks to the technical skills of Mr Witchalls and his team.

We also raised a very generous £310 for the Governors' Hardship Fund, this fund supports families within the Becket Keys Community who may need some financial support for uniform or school trips.

The Christmas Carol Concert is a wonderful tradition at Becket Keys, and we were delighted that we could share this festive event with you and your family.

If you were unable to see the concert live, you still have the chance to view it here:

<https://youtu.be/62k8XI-vqco>

Many thanks to all the students who performed or helped in any way. I would also like to credit the Music Department (Mr Romhany, Mr Menexes and Mr Wangcharoensab) for organising such a lovely event and to Mrs Sharp, the site and admin teams for all their assistance. I absolutely loved it!

Mr Scott-Evans
Head Teacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Bushcraft

Exciting news for Year 7! The popular Bushcraft trip is now open for bookings.

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A Sustainable Christmas

The Earthshot Committee have a number of ideas so you can minimize your impact on the planet.

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Mandarin Department

It has been a busy time in the Mandarin Department! Details of the recent virtual exchange and a concert here.

Page 9-12

Design & Technology Department

View the various items that the students have been busy making this term.

Page 13-16

Year 7 – Bushcraft Trip

THE BUSHCRAFT company

.....

I am excited to offer the opportunity for Year 7 to attend their first residential trip at Becket Keys Church of England School.

The Bushcraft Company was set up in 2009 by someone who was trained for many years by Ray Mears. The company now works with hundreds of schools across the UK providing camping residential's from 8 unique centres. These trips range from 1 to 5 days in either The Woods, on The Coast or in The Mountains. All of the programmes are exciting and specifically designed to allow students to have fun with the rest of their friends away from school. The bushcraft centre that we have booked is located near the Cotswold town of Charlbury, in Oxfordshire, and is the perfect setting to develop



new skills, build on friendships and be at one with nature.

The trip is a woodland based camping and activity programme set in the heart of a private woodland. The students will be living, sleeping and doing activities with the rest of the year group while staying in a tented village. There will be no other schools present and our students will have a fantastic trip with their friends, learning the fundamentals of bushcraft and many other fun activities.

The students will be split into groups of ten called tribes. Activities will include tracking and stalking, campfire cookery, fire-lighting, leadership, archery, survival, wild camping, emergency shelter building, orienteering, wild swimming and camouflage and concealment. Students will also work within their groups to prepare a short skit for the final night where we will have a competitive 'tribes got talent' in the main tent.

We will eat fantastic food throughout our stay starting with a big cooked breakfast of bacon and eggs; the rest of the menu will include meals such as: roast venison, homemade pizzas cooked in a clay oven (made by us!), campfire roast salmon, campfire puddings, fry ups, bannock, marshmallows around the camp fire, and spaghetti Bolognese with cheese and garlic bread, stews and jungle goat curry.

At night, the woodland will be lit with lanterns and campfires;

students will sleep in separate sex groups in big bell tents laid out in a circle around the main camp. In the centre of the circle will be Bushcraft Company leaders in an open sided parachute with lights in case students need them at night. Students will also have the opportunity to sleep in their own survival shelters if they want to!

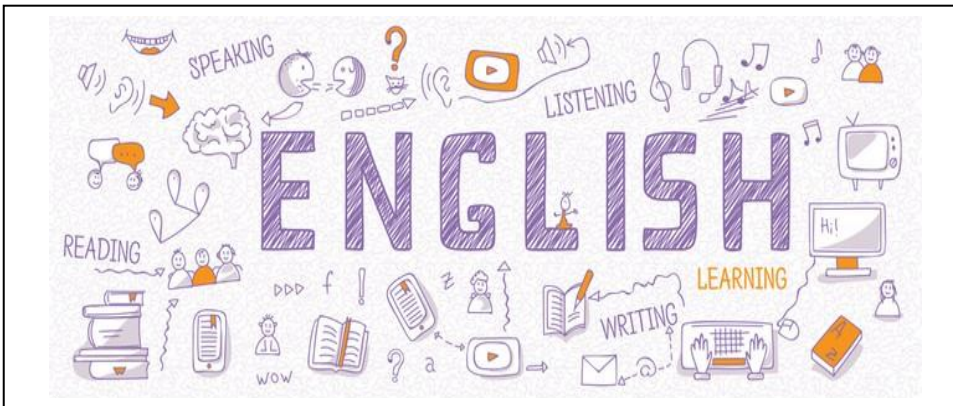


The Bushcraft Company will run all of the activities. Some of our teachers will be there too and we will decide on who is in which group nearer the time. The Bushcraft Company have many highly trained staff that will be with us for the whole trip. Each tribe will have their own tribe leader who will also be with us throughout.

I hope that as many Year 7 students as possible are able to join me on this exciting trip. All families have been sent a letter with full details and payment information.

If you wish to find out more about Bushcraft, then please visit; <https://thebushcraftcompany.com/locations/cornbury-park/>

Mr. Fish
Head of Year 7



Word of the Week

Scurryfunge

In sentences:

1. That girl from Biology class called and asked if I could help her study, so I had to scurryfunge before she got here!
2. I was scurryfunding around, but it was too late. My next door neighbour was already knocking on the door.
3. Now that it is nearly Christmas, I need to scurryfunge for unexpected visitors.

Meaning: to hurriedly clean; to superficially tidy a house

Etymology: 18th Century English, originally meaning “to beat” or “lash”, and later “to rub” or “to scrub clean”



Book of the Month - December



The Hideaway tells the story of a boy, Billy McKenna, who runs away from a difficult situation at home and takes refuge in an overgrown graveyard. While hiding there he meets an elderly man who is tending the graves in preparation for a day in November when something magical is set to happen.

The book is written in two alternating narratives, both different aspects of the same story. One thread tells of Billy's experience of hiding away in the graveyard, his mixed-up feelings and emotions, and the events he eventually witnesses. The other tells of his mother's situation at home and the police search for Billy.

The Hideaway is a compelling, exciting and emotional story that will stay with you long after you finish the last page.

'The Hideaway by Pam Smy is a work of art. Smy is a genius writer and illustrator who takes children's books to another level. Highly recommend.'

– David Walliams



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.



Christmas in the Food Department

As we approach Christmas we gravitate towards sweet treats and that means chocolate! The A-level Food students tempered chocolate in the last practical of the term.

“Tempering” is the heating and cooling chocolate to stabilize it for making confectionery and is also used for dipping fruits and other items. This method gives chocolate a smooth and glossy finish. It also keeps it from melting quickly on your fingers! We used our tempered chocolate to make some ‘Christmas Bark’ the tempered chocolate was creatively decorated with different items.

Ella and I then distributed these lovely treats to some of the staff to say thank you for all their hard work this term. We hope they enjoyed them!

Mairéad Jordan
Year 12

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK REQUIREMENTS

DECEMBER

Christmas Cake

Biscuits

Selection Boxes

Chocolates

Sweets & Treats

Jellies

Angel Delight

Puddings

Jars/Pickles

Stuffing

Mayonnaise

Tinned Goods

Meat Pies

Rice Pudding/Custard

Washing Up Liquid

Washing Powder/Gel

Anti-bac Wipes

Any cleaning items

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

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK

**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS****BRENTWOOD FOODBANK
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Washing Powder/Gel

Anti-bac Wipes

Any cleaning items

<https://brentwood.foodbank.org.uk/>**Student Absence**

Please remember that you must contact the school if your son/daughter is not going to attend school due to illness. The easiest way to do this is via the Studybugs app. Details are below.



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | Get it from Microsoft

Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health
See what illnesses are going around
Secure system, all communications encrypted

Working in partnership with: NHS | Brighton and Sussex Medical School | Ministry of Education | Epi

Studybugs



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2022

Entries of prose or poetry on the theme of: **Choice**

Celebrate your writing with the four other schools in the Trust.

The theme this year is **Choice**
Interpret that as you choose!

- Word limit: 1000 words.
- Two school winners will be selected from each category: KS3, KS4 & Sixth Form.
- All Trust winning entries will be published in a book.
- Win an author visit for your school!

Submit to your English teacher or Miss White by 14th January.

If you would like help with your entry, please come to Creative Writing club in C24 Tuesday after school.

A Sustainable Christmas

An Earthshot idea is for life, not just for Christmas but there are plenty of opportunities during the festive season to think about your environmental impact.

Here are Dr Hurdle's top 5 tips for a more eco-friendly Christmas:

When you think 'wrapping', think 'recycling'!

- Try to avoid using foil- or plastic-backed wrapping paper, or paper with glitter as these can't be recycled. The same principles apply to Christmas cards, try to avoid those that aren't just made of card or those that come in plastic film.
 - Once you've finished unwrapping your gifts, make sure to remove all the Sellotape so the paper can be recycled. Or you could use ribbon, twine or string to secure the wrapping instead.
 - You could try making gift tags out of old Christmas cards instead of buying them.
 - If you can, unwrap your gifts carefully so the wrapping paper can be saved and reused again!
- Reduce your energy use by switching off and unplugging



your Christmas lights overnight.

- Seeing Christmas lights outside cheers everyone up when the dark nights are drawing in, but we use lots more energy in December to power all our decorations! Make sure that your Christmas lights are switched off and unplugged before you go to bed so save energy and help the planet.
- Did you know that the UK uses 402,144,104 Kwh of electricity on Christmas Day alone? That's enough to power the Eiffel Tower for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for the next 50 years!

Be inventive with your Christmas lunch leftovers!

- Turkey curry isn't the only thing to make with your

leftovers, why not try making bubble and squeak with your leftover veg? (My favourite!)

- If you're feeling really adventurous, why not try a Christmas pizza with cranberry sauce instead of tomato puree, smothered in turkey, stuffing and left over cheese? Yum!
- You could also consider a vegetarian option instead of the traditional turkey. Or maybe swap the pigs in blankets for a veggie option?

Christmas crackers are a really fun part of Christmas lunch, but they're usually full of plastic that just gets thrown away.

- Remember that paper hats, paper jokes and even the cardboard that make crackers are all recyclable

as long as they aren't shiny or glittery!

You could look for crackers made from recycled card or that don't contain plastic toys. You could also invest in some reusable crackers to use year after year and make your own fillings – like gingerbread cookies or sweets.

You could even try making your own crackers using the cardboard tubes from toilet rolls and your Christmas wrapping paper! Try following these instructions: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-christmas-crackers>

Think before you drink! Festive specialty coffee drinks are very popular but the novelty cups also contribute to the 2.5 BILLION takeaway cups thrown away each year in the UK. Remember to take your reusable cup with you and enjoy your drink whilst protecting the environment.

I hope you all enjoy your Christmas break and I wish you all a very merry (and sustainable) Christmas.

**Dr Hurdle
& the Becket Keys Earthshot
Council**



RET
CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2022

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Free School Meal Vouchers Christmas Holiday

In order to continue to support our families entitled to FSM over the Christmas Holiday, we will be using the school voucher system, Wonde, to issue vouchers.

Parents and carers of eligible students will receive an email from Wonde before the end of term to allow you to claim a voucher for £30 for this period. Please check your junk mail if you have not received this by 16th December. The email will contain a link to 'redeem a voucher'. You will be taken to Wonde's 'evouchers' page (previously named Schoolvouchers), where you will need to enter your details and confirm your email address before being asked to select the retailer you wish to receive a voucher for. You will then be given a PIN and the option to view the voucher. Having confirmed the PIN, you will be issued your voucher. The voucher barcode can be printed off or scanned on a smartphone for use in-store.

Details of the process and more questions about evouchers can be found on their website - <https://help.evouchers.com/hc/en-gb/sections/360003848737-Recipient-FAQs>



Becket Keys & Bishan Virtual Exchange

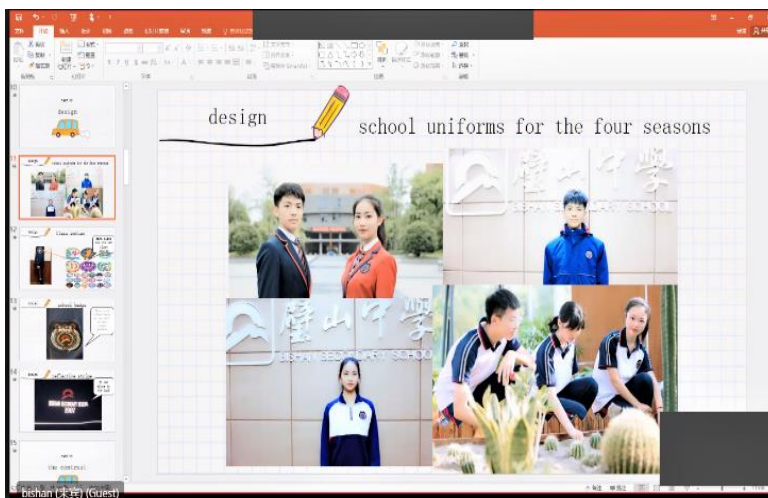


Chongqing Bishan Secondary School was established in 1907 and is a key secondary school in Chongqing, China.

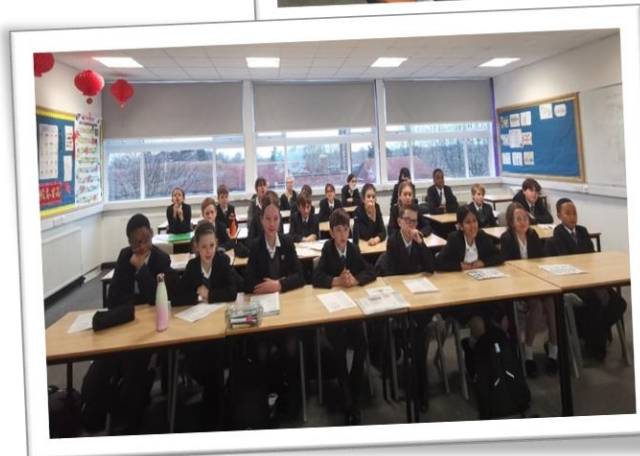
We are honoured to announce that Becket Keys Mandarin groups have embarked on a lovely journey of virtual exchange with students at Bishan.

This week, our Year 11 and Year 7 groups did a pilot lesson with their respective counterparts in China. Students introduced the school, the curriculum, uniform, extra-curricular activities and school events. Our Year 11 hosted a British Culture Quiz as well; Year 7 sang two Chinese songs and taught an English one. Bishan students also demonstrated wonderful presentation and slide-design skills.

The Mandarin department are very proud of the students. They were curious, enthusiastic, friendly, reliable and respectful. We are really excited about all the exchange sessions to come.



Miss Lin
Head of Mandarin





Mandarin Excellence Programme

MEP Christmas Concert



This year, our Mandarin department and the music department worked together and organised a cross-curricular activity – Mandarin Excellence Programme Christmas Concert. Our Year 7, 8 and 9 MEP students celebrated Christmas and New Year by singing Chinese songs.

Miss Lin and I chose different Chinese songs that suit each year group's Mandarin level. Our students learned the songs during their lunch-time club and also practised them at home. They worked so hard and put a lot of effort into it.

Year 7 learned two songs in Chinese, one is *Happy New Year* and the other one is *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*. Year 8 learned the Chinese version of *Jingle bells*. As for the year 9, they were very ambitious and sang *Do you want to dance?* It is a fast-beat song sang by the currently most popular band in China. With the help of our amazing music teachers Mr. Romhany and Mr.

Menexes, our Year 9 students formed a band and beautifully sang the song in Chinese. The video of their singing was also selected for the school Christmas Advent Calendar (Day 3).

This is a new experience for our MEP students. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the Mandarin Christmas concert as we are very proud of them.

Please enjoy their beautiful singing. We wish you a merry Christmas!

圣诞快乐！ (Shèngdàn kuàilè)

Year 7: Happy new year and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

<https://youtu.be/xofZ9LjOZTI>

Year 8: Jingle bells

<https://youtu.be/rVOMGP5zZTE>

Year 9: Do you want to dance?

https://youtu.be/FabKTT_gZzs

Mrs Zhang
MEP coordinator



Year 7



Year 8



Mandarin Department



The Mandarin department is busy organising the next Mandarin Day for Year 7 students. The students will be able to taste Chinese food, try their hand at calligraphy, and enjoy the art, culture and science of China.

The school has invited some external Chinese experts to offer various workshops for our Year 7 on **Wednesday 1st February 2022**, when we will welcome the Year of the Tiger.

So that we can give the students an experience to remember, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £11.65 from each Year 7 student in order to fund the day. If you wish your child to be able to experience this fantastic day and to enhance their learning, please make your donation via ParentPay by 10th January as soon as possible, so that we know the day can go ahead.



Design & Technology Department



Oliver Hillery

Plastic. The most widely used material on the planet. The Year 12s have just been learning about polymers; how they are made, formed and worked with.

Their first challenge was to design and make a personal phone holder for themselves using a few specification points as guidance; It must be made from acrylic, it must be able to hold their phone well, it must be designed using CAD software and manufactured using CAM software with some level of detail being included, and, be formed either using acrylic cement or the line bender which would heat and bend the plastic in which ever way they wanted.



Holly Scott-Evans

We drew up plans, made cardboard 1:1 scale prototypes and proceeded to design on the 2D Design software.

The second challenge was to construct the smallest, but functional phone holder they could, using scrap acrylic that may otherwise have been thrown away in order to continue to think about being resourceful and considerate to the environment.



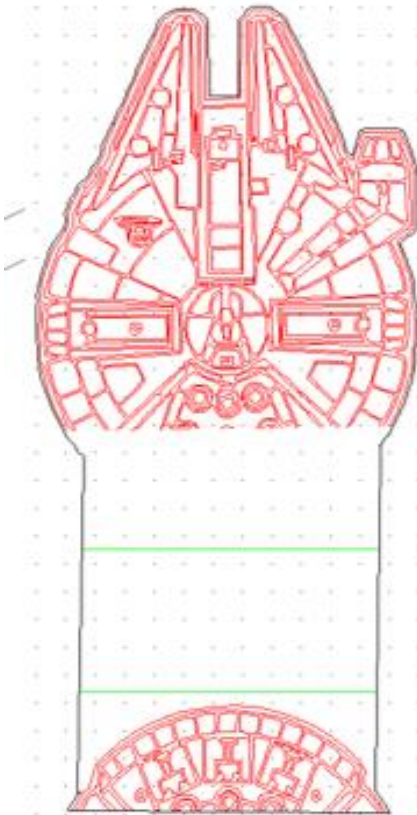
Rhea Patel



Nikki Keen



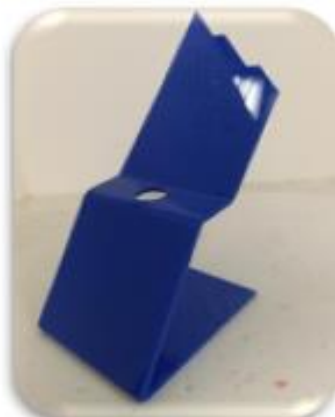
Toby Hancox



We were able to see 6 different students interpret the same brief in different ways allowing their creativity to show through in which ever way they wanted; always a nice thing to see!



Nathan Hobbs







In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry

Star Designer for Textiles

Y11

McKenzie Reid



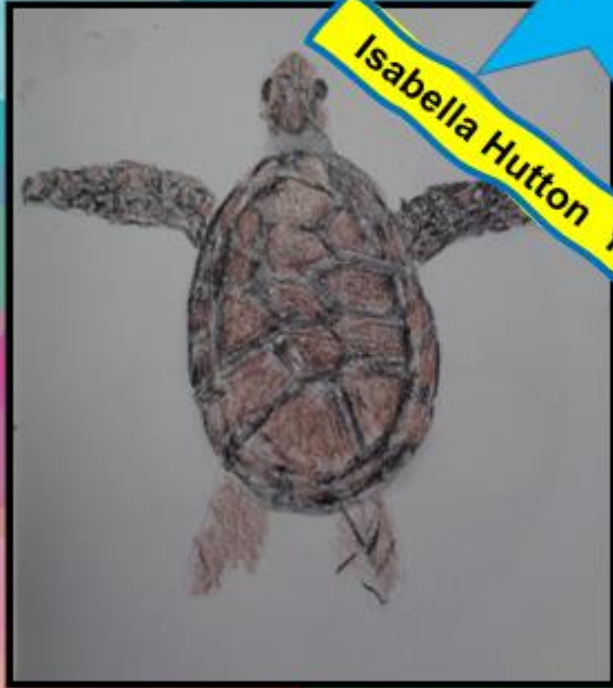
@becketkeysart



Key stage 3



Curtis Phillips Y9



Isabella Hutton Y7



Ruby-Leigh Armstrong Y7



@becketkeysart



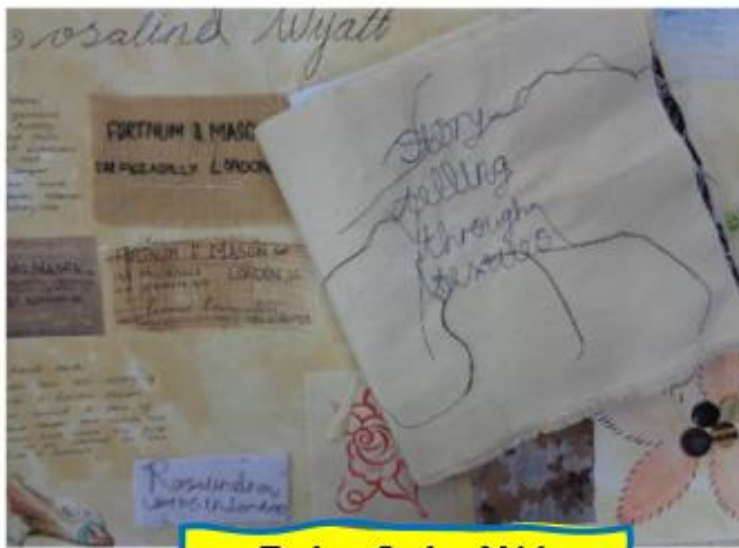
Lily Brooks Y11

Charlotte Hope Y12



Lilia Rogers Y11

★ Key stage 4 & 5 ★



Ruby Cole Y11



Fern Bonnett Y11



Tilly Reid Y11



Ilaria Borgomastro Y11



Ella Stroud Y11

Art Department



Star Artist



Eva O'Flynn Yr 12



Matthew Stephens Yr 10



Aurora Bould Yr 12

Lowri Cole Yr 10



Riley Dagohey Yr 7



Lola Wright Yr 7



Cydney Etchells Yr 11



Covid-19 Home Test Kits

All students have now been offered home test kits. If your child has not received a kit and wants to test, please ask them to collect from reception. More tests are available if they are required and we would encourage all students to keep testing regularly during the All Saints' break.

As a reminder, if your son or daughter is taking part in the Covid-19 home testing, please remember to conduct your tests on a **Wednesday and Sunday**.

[Please find here a step-by-step guide to COVID-19 self-testing.](#)

You must upload your results to: <https://testregister.co.uk/login> and then follow the steps to the Government website.

Test Register has been updated, if you need to change any details or if you have any queries regarding this process please contact: office@becketkeys.org

Recruiting Now for Teacher Training!



Would you like to train to teach at Becket Keys?

Do you have skills and talents that would suit the role? Would you like to do a uniquely satisfying job that makes a real contribution?

Why not join our Teacher Training Programme?

BEC Teacher Training trains local teachers for local schools. With over 25 years of experience and rated an outstanding provider by Ofsted, their friendly and professional team works in close partnership with over 50 Essex schools to train primary and secondary teachers. All our BEC trainees get jobs when they reach the end of the course, with the vast majority choosing to take up positions in local schools as they take their first steps in this exceptionally rewarding career.

Find out more here:

<https://www.billericayscitt.com/video/>

Contact us today to find out more about teacher training. Call 01268 477611, email louise@billericayscitt or visit our website www.billericayscitt.com for more information.



At the heart of Christmas



At the heart of Christmas is . . . Jesus



This term, as leaves turned brown, the days got colder and the nights drew in, the nation once again turned its gaze towards Christmas and the uncertainty of surrounding COVID-19. Yet, the Christian message of this festival, a message of hope, peace, joy and love, will remain steadfast and has remained unchanged for 2021 years; an event and message so significant that it marks the beginning of a new time. We have a story to tell. God became human and made his dwelling among us – heaven coming to earth in the form of a baby boy. Whichever way you tell it, whether in word or deed, in-person or online, this story alone makes every Christmas wonderful. Listen to this song by Lauren Daigle entitled 'Light of the World':

http://www.viewpure.com/_cLhaZIB_Spo?start=0&end=0.



This Christmas message has shone brightly at Becket Keys. We have had our daily Advent reflections and prayers, a virtual musical Advent calendar to provide daily delight, Eucharists and a wonderful Christmas Carol Concert. The question has constantly been - Are we ready?

It is so important to keep reminding ourselves what we are getting ready for! How much time have we focused on talking with, and listening to God? How much time have we invested in reading His Word? Are we ready, like the shepherds and the wise men, who dropped what they were doing to seek out and worship the new-born King? Are we ready, like the Christians of the first century, to speak out about our faith and share the story? Are we ready to make Christmas all about Jesus?

I pray that we will delight in the true meaning of Christmas and the blessings of Jesus Christ will be with us forever. I pray that we will find quiet in the middle of this chaotic, celebratory Christmas season to meditate on this truth and make Christmas all about Jesus.

So, as we journey to the stable, let us pray:

*Lord, grant us the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is
purity;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.
May we find hope, peace, joy and love
in the Christ child.
God be with us always.
Emmanuel!*

Amen.

**Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2021 –

MONDAY 3RD JANUARY 2022

*

INSET DAY

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

*

ALL STUDENTS BACK TO SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2022

*

YEAR 12 EXAMS

TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY –

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2022

*

YEAR 11 CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022

Becket Keys

Church of England School

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[@BecketKeysMusic](https://twitter.com/BecketKeysMusic)

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[@BecketKeysArt](https://twitter.com/BecketKeysArt)

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