

Term Dates

Academic Year 2023 - 2024

Christmas Holidays 2023-24

Break up: Weds 20th Dec

Return on: Thurs 4th January



February Half Term 2024:

Break up: Fri 16th February

Return on: Mon 26th February

Easter Holidays 2024:

Break up: Thurs 28th March

Return on: Mon 15th April

Monday 6th May is a Bank Holiday

May Half Term 2024:

Break up: Fri 24th May

Return on: Mon 3rd June

Summer Holidays 2024:

Break up: Fri 19th July

Mon 22nd July is a non-pupil day

Tues 23rd July is a non-pupil day

Dates – Trips / Events etc.

Please see separate page
for 'Christmas'
events and dates.

Breakfast Club



Breakfast Club starts at 8.00am.
Food will be served until 8.20am
only. Children will be escorted to
class at 8.40am.

School Meals

The dinner menu for next
week and the first week back
after Christmas is
'Week 1'.



Remember to check
the app and website
for useful information,
letters and dates!

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well.

We started off this week with three very special Nativity performances - honestly, they really were amazing! I heard every single word, the singing was fantastic, the acting worthy of Oscars, the dancing joyful and the looks of absolute pleasure and delight on the faces of everyone involved was a picture to behold. I am sure you will appreciate what a huge amount of hard work goes in to these productions and will want to join me in thanking everyone involved. KS1 staff - you are amazing!

Since I started at St Teresa's seven years ago 273 newsletters have been written and we estimate that about 260 of them have been written by me - and this is my very last one (although I will be writing to you all next week). I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those people who make St Teresa's such a wonderful place.

Thank you first of all to you parents - for so many things. For encouraging your children, for supporting them with their homework, listening to them read, helping them learn lines and lyrics, for encouraging fundraising and for so much more. Thank you to the Governors who work so tirelessly behind the scenes, making sure that we give your children the very best of educations. Thank you to the staff: teachers, teaching assistants, LSAs, kitchen staff, MDAs (dinner ladies) office staff and of course Richard our Caretaker and Matt our cleaner who all do over and above what is expected of them, day in day out. Thank you to FOST. Since September they have organised non-uniform days, a Christmas Market, a visit from Fr Christmas and the Christmas Discos - all of which have raised money which will be spent on your children. Tora and Clare are handing over the reins now but there are more events planned for next year so please keep an eye out for further details next term! Thank you to those of you who give up your time to volunteer in school - going on trips and volunteering in class. Your time and help are very much valued and appreciated.

Most of all though thank you to you children. You are what makes St Teresa's such a special place. I really hope Fr Christmas comes to visit - I am sure he will - you are all such wonderful children. I have bought some 'learn to read' gifts from Cafod in thanks to you all for being such special children so, somewhere in the world, some children will be taught to read in your name and will have their lives transformed.

This is the last shout out for food bank goodies. If you have a Christmas goodie to donate please bring it in to school before Tuesday's Carol Service as the children will bring them up to the altar during the service. I look forward to seeing many of you there. It really is a very special event and a timely reminder of what Christmas really is about. I also look forward to seeing many of you at the Parish Service on Sunday - we will be singing two, very contrasting, songs!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Whatever you have planned, enjoy.

Mrs Kelly

Attendance Data:

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	84.00	80.33
Year 1	89.67	95.67
Year 2	96.00	94.33
Year 3	93.44	94.06
Year 4	92.81	95.63
Year 5	95.00	92.81
Year 6	91.82	93.03
Whole School total:	91.87	92.33



Well done Year 1 for highest attendance this week.

Virtues to Live By

Our current virtue is GENEROSITY

Generosity:

You give what you have by sharing it with others or helping someone who is in need. You give and do not expect a gift in return or any attention, praise or reward for giving and you do it cheerfully. To share what you have teaches you not to be selfish. Generosity helps you to treat other people as your neighbour. You are not afraid of losing what you give. You are generous because you know there is enough for everyone.

"You should give what you have decided to give, not grudgingly or because you are made to, for God loves a cheerful giver."

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

FORTHCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm

Parish Carol Service in Church

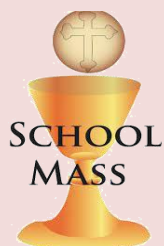
Please see the flyer overleaf

(Children from the school who will be participating
need to wear their school uniform)



Tuesday 19th December

School Carol Service at 1.30pm in Church



Wednesday 20th December

End of term Mass at 9.30am in Church

Last Day of Autumn Term

The
Joy of
Christmas

IMPORTANT - ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 2024

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 6th November 2023**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.

THE STATUTORY NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15 JANUARY 2024.

From 6th November 2023, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Please be aware that Essex County Council are not sending letters to parents about making an application. All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Information regarding admissions can also be found by visiting our school website www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk and following the links to 'Admissions'.

Certificate of Catholic Practise

Please be aware that Father Rick will be available at the school on the following day to sign Certificates of Catholic Practise:

Wednesday 10th January 2023 from 2.00 - 3.00pm



Online safety information for parents

We have been asked to share the following with parents / carers:

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Or do you have friends or family who are?

Visit www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online.

#StaySafe

Age Well East - Get Creative Competition

As you may be aware, back in November the whole school took part in the 'Get Creative' competition run by Age Well East to bring a little festive cheer to those who may be feeling lonely at this time of year. We have just been notified of the winning designs.

Congratulations to:

Amelia - Reception

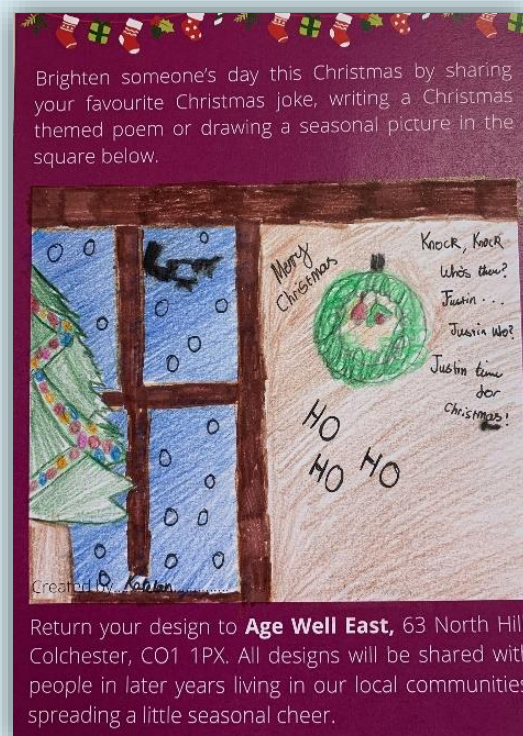
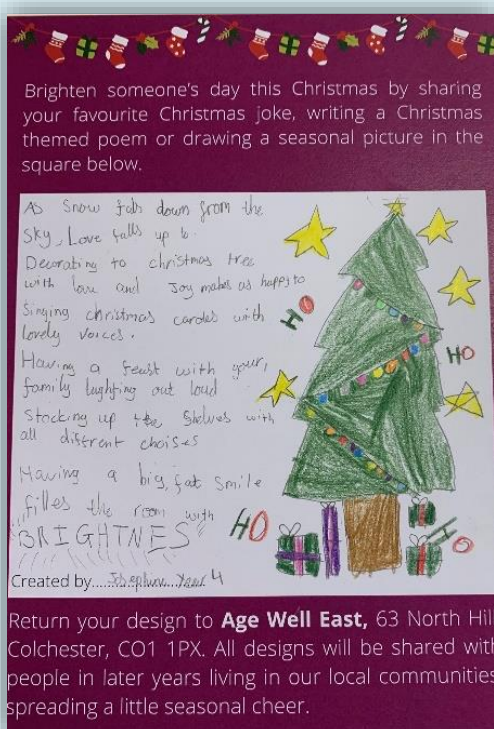
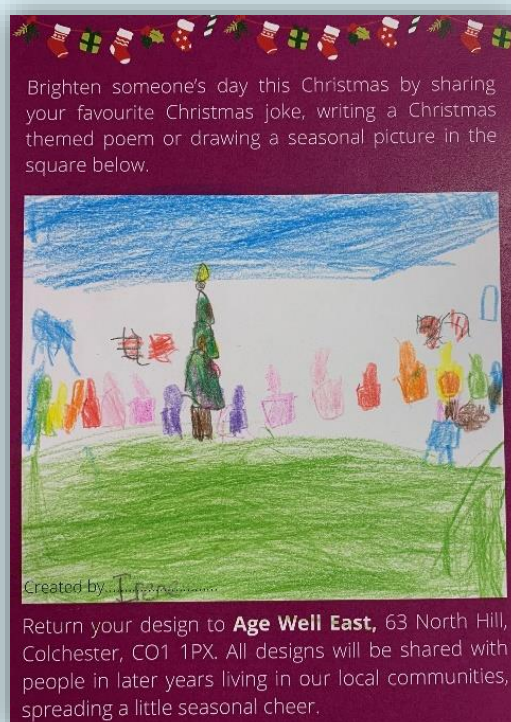
Irene - Year 1

Josephine - Year 4

Katelan - Year 6

Certificates and prizes will be on their way to you very soon!

Well done to every single child who shared a picture or joke to help someone feel a little less lonely at Christmas time - what a wonderful gift to give - you should be very proud of yourselves!



Charitable Work

Congratulations to two of our pupils, Jessica and Lydia, who completed a sleepover at St Leonard's church last weekend to raise money for the homeless. Whilst there they listened to a talk from the charity to explain what the charity does and then slept in the unheated Church in their sleeping bags. If you would like to donate - the Just Giving link is included below - thank you.



Kirsty's fundraiser for Colchester Engagement & Next Steps (Colchester Night Shelter)
[justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com)



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Well done to Archie who, with the help of his Grandma, supported Colchester Food Bank by saving his money and buying an item a day for a month, to help create his own Christmas advent hamper. It was delivered on Saturday in time for Christmas deliveries.



We are very proud of them all for their commitment to supporting these very worthwhile causes.





*Festive Friday*

A big thank you to all the parents and family members who came to school today to see their children's books, have a cup of tea and a mince pie. Well done and thank you to year 6 Your Voice who organised the mince pies and chocolate biscuits, we couldn't have done it without you. In total, the parents raised £60 for charity- thank you for all your donations.



PIC • COLLAGE



# St Teresa's Advent Carol Prayer Service

3pm, Sunday 17th December 2023

## St Teresa's Church

Led by the Youth Choir and joined  
by pupils from St.Teresa's.School.

If you haven't already, please do take a tag from  
the giving tree to donate a gift to a child in need.  
These will be presented at the altar during the service.

If all the tags are gone, please do still bring a gift if you are able!  
Leave all presents unwrapped.



*We are occasionally asked to promote activities/clubs etc. from local groups. Such activities are not quality assured by the school and parents should be aware of the need to reassure themselves of the quality and safety of the services on offer, for example by visiting, looking at inspection reports etc.*

THE ROTARY CLUBS OF CLACTON IN COLLABORATION WITH  
CLACTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AND FRIENDS PRESENT



CCHS  
01255 424266



CCHS CANTEEN  
11:30AM - 2:00PM

# CCHS CHRISTMAS DAY DINNERS ARE BACK!

SCAN ME

REGISTER YOUR  
INTEREST IN  
ATTENDING THE  
DINNER AS A  
GUEST



**25TH DEC 11:30AM FOR A  
12:00PM START**

FOOD PREPARED BY THE CEO OF TLC GOURMET: AN EX STUDENT,  
THAT WE ARE PROUD TO BE WORKING WITH,  
CHEF THOMAS LEATHERBARROW

SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER  
CLOSES 15TH DECEMBER 7:00pm



CONTACT DETAILS

[cchsxmasdinner@rotaryclactonjubilee.org](mailto:cchsxmasdinner@rotaryclactonjubilee.org)







CHRISTMAS DAY  
10AM-12PM  
BLUEBIRDS, 114  
PIER AVENUE

FREE BACON ROLL, SOUP AND HOT  
DRINK, TO ANYONE WHO WANTS  
SOME HOT FOOD AND COMPANY  
CHRISTMAS MORNING.



# Daily Gazette

## Christmas in the Classroom

**Tuesday 19th December 2023**

**Don't forget to buy your copy!**





BOOK NOW!



# SCHOOL HOLIDAY CHILDCARE EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISCOUNT!



USE CODE:  
**SCHOOL10**  
For an **EXTRA £10 off a week!**  
\*Not to be used in conjunction with other codes

## EARLY BOOKING OFFER

➤ Save up to £79  
(& additional £10 with code!)

## LOW DEPOSITS!

➤ Just £10 per day or  
£25 per week per child



SCAN ME &  
LEARN MORE!

Visit **barracudas.co.uk**  
or call 01480 467 567

Low deposit offer ends 31st Dec 2023  
Early booking offer ends 31st Jan 2024

