



Weekly Newsletter

St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School



The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Registered number 8111345.

1st Half Autumn Term 2024 – Friday 6th September 2024

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

October Half Term 2024:

Break up: Fri 25th October
Return on: Mon 4th November

Christmas Holidays 2024-25

Break up: Thurs 19th Dec **at 2.30pm**
Return on: Mon 6th January
Fri 20th December is a non-pupil day

February Half Term 2025:

Break up: Fri 14th February
Return on: Mon 24th February

Easter Holidays 2025:

Break up: Fri 4th April
Return on: Tues 22nd April

*Friday 2nd May is a non-pupil day
Monday 5th May is a Bank Holiday*

May Half Term 2025:

Break up: Fri 23rd May
Return on: Mon 2nd June

Summer Holidays 2025:

Break up: Fri 18th July
Mon 21st and Tues 22nd July are non-pupil days

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,
Welcome back to the new academic year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are as excited for the year ahead as I am.

We began the week together on Tuesday with whole school worship. It's wonderful to watch the new year groups filter into the hall with all children looking smart, with a healthy smiley summer glow and of course looking taller!

We listened to the story of Jesus welcoming the children, which always feels apt at the start of the year and then we turned our attention to St Teresa, our patron saint and we reminded ourselves of our joint mission- to do little things with great love. We listened to St Teresa's writings, what she called her 'little way' and thought about how we could each try and adopt her 'little way' this year at school by growing our kindness, our caring, our faith, hope and honesty.

Teachers began their week on Monday with a teacher training day. We refreshed our Safeguarding knowledge and learned about the importance of curiosity in the curriculum and its link to neuroscience. We are enthused to make CURIOSITY a golden thread that runs across our whole curriculum, knowing that if we can inspire curiosity in our classrooms, we stimulate optimum learning conditions in our amazing brains.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for 'Meet the Teacher' this week, I hope you found the sessions informative. You will have already received some paperwork from school this week including our annual data collection sheets and Seesaw codes.

Please get logged into Seesaw with your new codes ASAP, we use Seesaw in the classroom so by accessing Seesaw at home you will gain a window into your child's learning, we also use the platform for homework and it is now our main communication tool for parents; signing up to the Family access allows you to toggle between children.

We are starting the new year remembering our previous Year 6- we have enjoyed spotting many in their secondary school uniforms making their way to school this week. Good luck Year 7- we are thinking about you all!

We are welcoming new staff- welcome Ms Young (Teacher and Year 2 Support), Miss Shergold (Year 5 and 6 LSA), Miss Pamment (Senior SEND LSA), Mr Rees (Trainee Teacher, based in Year 6) and Miss Gooneratne (Early Career Teacher in Year 5). We also have some new names... Miss Spratt surprised us all and got married over the summer break... congratulations to the new (Mr and) Mrs Lewis! And we have some staff starting new roles this September- Mrs Dyball (who introduces herself a little further down) as our new Pastoral Lead and our three new Assistant Headteachers- Mrs Gill, Miss Hilton and Mrs Lewis. We of course look forward to welcoming new families with Reception class starting school next week.

We also have some new spaces this year at school, 'The Hive' and 'The Harbour' have been developed to support SEND needs and teachers have been incredibly busy throughout the summer having had a classroom shuffle around. We look forward to inviting parents into school often this year so you can see first-hand the exceptional learning environment we've established (and continue to grow)!

Please keep reading page 2 for some start of school reminders and key dates. Have a wonderful weekend! God Bless, Mrs Maguire
(PS. I had a restful recovery from surgery over the summer and am very well- thank you for your well wishes).

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.

After School Club - 3.15 - 6pm

Places for the after school club must be booked via the school office.

After School Club



Open

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 menus are available on the school website and via Seesaw



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

Reminders

School Office: Letters/permission slips / forms etc. can be returned to the school via your child's school bag. Our 'internal mail' system will ensure that everything handed to your child's teacher will make its way to the office.

Absence Line- Option 2: 01206 508445. We must account for all our pupils' whereabouts every day. If your child is going to be absent please contact the Office before 9am. In the event we don't hear from a parent and can't make contact with emergency contacts our safeguarding procedures will include a home visit.

Attendance: Nationally new statutory guidance has been introduced. This includes fines for ten unauthorised sessions within a ten-week period and notifying the Local Authority after ten days absence for any pupil. Poor attendance can be a sign of neglect and is therefore treated as a safeguarding concern. As a school I would like us to adopt a supportive approach to attendance- if you are experiencing any difficulties with attendance please contact us.

Punctuality: Children must be in their classrooms by 8:45am as this is when registers are called. Anyone arriving after 8:45 will be recorded as LATE and reasons for lateness will need to be recorded. Once registers close at 9:00 late arrival is recorded as unauthorised absence for the whole morning session, it is important we share this as ten-unauthorised sessions can be liable to a fine. At the end of the day school finishes at 3:15pm. Uncollected pupils will be taken to 'The Harbour' wrap-around childcare, please note although we are sympathetic to the very occasional late pick-up, repeated late collections will be charged for their child's place in wrap-around.

Parent Pay, Tax-Free Childcare and Vouchers: Please keep accounts in credit and contact the office for any queries.

School Clubs: Clubs will begin the week commencing 16th September. Letters with reply slips have been sent home via the children this week. Spares are available from outside the school office.

Jewellery: A reminder that jewellery should not be worn to school with the exception of one small pair of stud earrings - no more than one per ear which your child must be able to remove by themselves for P.E. lessons. If your child cannot remove their own earrings they should be taken out before school and left at home on the days your child has P.E.

P.E.: P.E. kits are worn to school in place of the usual uniform on PE days. Please see individual class Seesaw for PE days.

School Uniform: Please check out the school uniform page of the school website <https://www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=73> if you are unsure of the requirements. A reminder that hair accessories should be small and in school colours only. Long hair must be tied back without fancy hair adornments. Please NAME all uniform- lost property can only be returned if it is named, uniform is expensive and sadly we recycle tonnes of it every year because it is unnamed and remains unclaimed from lost-property. Lost property is displayed outside on the front playground daily.

Snack: Children in Reception and KS1 are provided with a free piece of fruit every day so they do not need to bring in a snack. Children in KS2 are not provided with free fruit and are therefore allowed to bring in a snack for break time. However, in-line with our healthy-school status, this must be fruit or vegetable snack - no bars, crisps, biscuits etc.

Named Water-Bottle: Please send your child to school with a named water bottle every day.

NO NUTS: We are a NO-NUT school due to children with severe allergies. Please be mindful of hidden nut ingredients e.g. Nutella chocolate spread.

School Meals / Free School Meals: As I am sure you are aware, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a school meal each day at no cost to parents. If your child is in Years 3 - 6 the cost of a school meal is £2.30 per day which will be added to your child's ParentPay account on the day that your child has a meal. If you think that you may be entitled to Free School Meals you can check eligibility and make an application via this link: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Consent Forms: Please can we ask that you return Parental Consent Forms and SeeSaw Consent Forms to the school via your child as soon as possible.

Data Checking Sheets: All children have been sent home with a 'Data Checking Sheet' containing all of the information that we hold on our system. Please check the information on the sheet and, if necessary, amend and return the form to school. This is very important as it will ensure that we have the most up to date information should we need to contact you in case of an emergency.

Need to speak to a teacher: Our teachers are available most days on the playground afterschool, please utilise this opportunity for quick communications. If you cannot use this mechanism or your query requires a bit more time please make an appointment via the school office for a phone-call back or a meeting. Logistical queries can be asked via Seesaw.

Parking: Please park considerately and safely on Clairmont Road and beyond!

Attendance Data:

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	This week %
Year 1	100
Year 2	98.36
Year 3	99.19
Year 4	97.66
Year 5	98.44
Year 6	99.22
Whole School total:	98.79



Well done Year 1 for highest attendance this week – 100%!

And ALL green boxes – what a fantastic start – let's keep it up!

Merit Certificates

Congratulations to the following children who received a merit certificate in our assembly this afternoon:

- Y1: Casper, Avyne, Piniro, Minnen
- Y2: Kunmi, Delilah, Robyn, James
- Y3: Eddie, Alice M, Trinity, Maddie
- Y4: Zara, Erin, Jacque, Alex
- Y5: Delilah, Alexandra, Paul, Oscar B
- Y6: Aoife, Mishel, Bayonle, Rowan



New Pastoral Role

At the end of July, Mrs Maguire mentioned in the newsletter that going forward I will be working as the Pastoral Lead at St Teresa's. This is a new role which has been created to enhance the support that we offer all of our wonderful pupils and their families with a particular focus on emotional and mental health care.



Having worked as a Teaching Assistant at St Teresa's for over fifteen years, I am familiar to many of you and your children. However, there are many others that I do not know particularly in KS1. From Monday 9th September I will be opening the gate each morning so please feel free to come and introduce yourself.

If you would like a more in-depth conversation to discuss any concerns you have, school related or not, please email the office and I will be glad to arrange an appointment.

Please note that I am not in school on Thursdays.

I look forward to getting to know you all.

Mrs Dyball

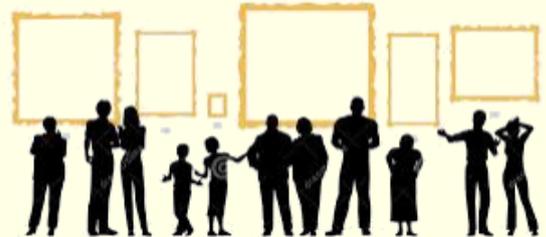
Season of Creation Celebrations at St Teresa's Church

The church is planning to have an art and photography exhibition as part of the Season of Creation celebrations this year with parishioners taking part by sharing the beauty of creation through their pictures or photographs, particularly of images that reflect the wonder of nature that they have seen locally.

The church has invited our pupils to contribute their own artwork to this. If your child would like to submit a picture or photograph please can they be named and left in the porch at the back of the church by Friday 13th September. If you are not able to access the church, please bring the named artwork into school and one of the parishioners will come over to collect them.

The work will then be displayed at the back of the church.

We are sure that you will have lots of lovely images from your summer holidays or that your child will want to create their own picture from their summer holiday memories - it would be lovely to add these to the Season of Creation celebrations.



Thank you in advance for your support.

School Meals / Snacks

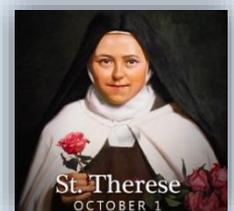
A reminder that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a School Meal and a fruit or vegetable snack free of charge each day. Children in Years 3 - 6 are welcome to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack to eat at break time each day. The cost of a school meal will be £2.30 per day - this will be added to your child's ParentPay account each day that they have a meal. If you think that you may be entitled to receive Free School Meals please visit <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals> where you will find the eligibility criteria and can apply online. If you meet the criteria and are intending to apply it would be a good idea to do this sooner rather than later.

School Mass

You are all warmly invited to join us for a whole school Mass on Tuesday 1st October at 10.00am in Church to celebrate the start of the new academic year and the Feast of St. Teresa.

You are welcome to come back to school after Mass where FOST will be serving tea and coffee in the school hall.

We look forward to welcoming you.



First Holy Communion

Please see the message below from the Church:

First Holy Communion for children who are in Year 3 will recommence on Saturday 14th September at 9.15 am in the church.

Parents/guardians need to attend a meeting in the church hall on Friday 13th September at 6.00pm - please bring a copy of the child's baptismal certificate.



Please see below for the First Holy Communion programme 2024/5

Parents meeting -13/9/24 @ 6.00pm St. Teresa's church hall.

Sessions - 9.15am - 10.45 am St. Teresa's school (pick up from the church)
NB The first session will only take place in the church.

Reconciliation

14/09/24 - Introduction - session to start in the church.

28/9/24 - We join the church - times to be advised

12/10/24 - God gives you love

16/11/24 - God gives you joy and peace

7/12/24 - God gives you forgiveness

11/1/25 - Reconciliation preparation

17/1/2024 - Reconciliation preparation and sacrament (children to arrive at 6pm in the church hall, service to start in the church at 7pm).

Communion

1/2/25 - We walk with Jesus

1/3/25 - We learn about the mass & we share God's word.

22/3/25 - We give thanks & we remember and celebrate.

26/4/25 - We share the bread of life.

17/5/25 - Retreat 10 -2pm (children to bring a packed lunch)

First Holy communion rehearsal

Wednesday 18th June 2025

6.00pm - Group 1

7.00pm - Group 2

June 21st 2025 - First Holy Communion services at 11am and 2pm

Going Forth Mass - June 29th 2025 at 9.00am

Philip Morant School and College – Open Evening

Please see the message below from Philip Morant School and College

Dear Parents and Carers

Philip Morant School and College is a community where everyone feels they belong and are the best that they can be. We warmly welcome you to our Open Evening on Thursday 19th September, 2024.

You and your child will be able to look around our wonderful school and see all we can offer, both in and out of the classroom. There are Headteacher talks at 4pm (arrive 3.45pm), 5pm and 6.30pm and you can book places for one of them [here](#)

You can also visit the school on a normal school day by signing up for one of our Open Morning Tours. They take place during the mornings of Wednesday 25th September, Friday 27th September, Wednesday 2nd October, Friday 4th October, Wednesday 9th October and Friday 11th October. You can book a place for one of them [here](#)

We very much look forward to meeting you and your child.

Date for your Diary Autumn Term 2024

Mrs Burrows, our SENCO, has arranged for Peer Educators to visit St. Teresa's for a coffee afternoon on

Wednesday 18th September 2:15- 3:15pm

A short PowerPoint presentation will be shared, this will explain the Autism Central programme.

This will be followed by a cup of tea/coffee, questions and answers and the offer any support required.

Following this introductory session, further sessions can be arranged based on topics of interest shared at this session.

Autism central is here to help!

Sometimes talking to people who share similar experiences to yours means you're more likely to feel understood and get the support you need.

The Autism Central Peer Education Programme is for parents, carers and Personal Assistants of autistic people of any age. They do not need a diagnosis to access the service. Support is provided by parents and carers of autistic people who are happy to share their knowledge and experience with others.

Please attend if you are interested in finding out more, or if you just fancy a sit down and cuppa!

School Age Community Drop-in

The School Age team at Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services will provide two weekly drop-ins within our Family Hubs across Colchester and Tendring. One of these is for parents and a second for young people. The Family Hub drop-in is available for all young people including those who may be home educated or unable to access the support they require in the school environment. **No need to book, just come along.**

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutrition support
- Physical and sexual health
- Health needs assessment
- Personal hygiene
- Managing health conditions
- Signposting, advice and support.

Berechurch Family Hub, School Road, CO2 8NN

Every Monday 13:30-15:30 drop-in for parents/carers.

Every Thursday 15:30-16:30 drop-in for young people.

Sydney House Family Hub, Maldon Way, CO16 7PA

Every Monday 10:00-11:00 drop-in for parents/carers.

Every Thursday 15:30-16:45 drop-in for young people.

Contact the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services

Tel: 0300 247 0015

(Mon-Friday 9am-5pm)

Services commissioned by:

What to do

Advice on childhood illnesses



Go to school; if needed, get treatment as required



Some restrictions for school attendance



Don't go to school and see the GP

What it's called?	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Asthma flare up	Worsening of usual symptoms		Follow your care plan	Stay off school if feeling too unwell
Chicken pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters		Pharmacy	Back to school five days after on-set of the rash, or when all lesions are crusted over
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eye(s)		Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading*
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene*
German measles/ Rubella	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards		GP	Back to school four days after the rash has started, if feeling well enough. Please let the school know, as pregnant members of staff may be affected.
Glandular fever	High temperature, swollen glands, sore throat; usually more painful than any before		GP	*
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)		GP	Attend school while monitoring symptoms
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness		GP	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, watery inflamed eyes, rash		GP	Back to school four days from on-set of rash, and if feeling well enough
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy, rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		Pharmacy	
Scabies	Itching rash, commonly between fingers, wrists, elbows, arm		GP	Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever	Fever, unwell, red tongue, sandpaper rash		GP	Exclusion period during first 24 hours of antibiotics*
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash		GP	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Pharmacy	Contact GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus		Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis/ Strep throat	Intense sore throat for more than 1 day		Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow. Only need to stay off school if feeling too unwell
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, with a 'whoop'		GP	Exclusion period during first five days of antibiotics
Covid				Visit www.nhs.uk for latest guidance

*Attend school while monitoring symptoms.

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals. If you are unsure about your child's wellbeing, we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Working in partnership with

Should my child go to school/nursery today?

Hertfordshire and West Essex Healthier Together for further information

<https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers>



THE CRAFT HUB PRESENTS

HALLOWEEN HALF TERM

MONDAY
SLIME SESSION

TUESDAY
HALLOWEEN DECOR
MAKING

WEDNESDAY
TSHIRT PRINTING

★ THURSDAY
HALLOWEEN COOKING

FRIDAY
HALLOWEEN CRAFTS

15% DISCOUNT CODE
RNB209

28TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER

BOOK ONLINE AT [HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/THECRAFTHUBCABIN](https://bookwhen.com/thecrafthubcabin)

EARLS COLNE | COLCHESTER | STANWAY



HALLOWEEN CRAFT HUB

OCTOBER

HALF
TERM

9-3PM



EARLS COLNE, THE CRAFT HUB CABIN
CO62JX - MONDAY - FRIDAY



Stanway - Lakelands community centre
30th Wednesday



Colchester Community Association
Monday & Tuesday 28th - 29th





SRR ELITE CHEERLEADING

Enquire today:

EMAIL: srrelitecheerleading@outlook.com

INSTAGRAM: @srrelitecheerleading

FACEBOOK: SRR Elite Cheerleading



Classes:

Monday: Supernova - 4:30-5:30pm - Mersea
Women's Institute Hall, Kingsland Road CO5
8RB

Shooting Stars - 5:00-6:00pm - Colchester -
SEND Friendly
Lakelands Centre, CO3 8WU

Tuesday: Supersonics - 5:00-6:00pm - Colchester
Lakelands Centre, CO3 8WU

Friday: Rockets - 6:00 -7:00pm - Witham
KL Ariel Studio, Perry Road, CM8 3YY

Sunday:

Open Tumble Session - 9:00- 10:00am - Colchester

Shockwaves - Competition Development Team -
10:00am-12:00pm

Iceni Gymnastics Club, CO3 0LE