

Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Christmas Holidays 2024-25

Break up: Thurs 19th Dec at 2.30pm

Wrap around club will be available from 2.30pm on this day

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

Term Dates 2025 - 2026

September 2025:

Return on: Weds 3rd Sept

Mon 1st is a non-pupil day

Tues 2nd is a non-pupil day

October Half Term 2025:

Break up: Fri 24th October

Return on: Mon 3rd November

Christmas Holidays 2025-26

Break up: Fri 19th December

Return on: Mon 5th January

February Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 13th February

Return on: Mon 23rd February

Easter Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 27th March

Return on: Mon 13th April

Friday 1st May is a non-pupil day

Monday 4th May is a Bank Holiday

May Half Term 2026:

Break up: Thurs 21st May

Fri 22nd May is a non-pupil day

Return on: Mon 1st June

Summer Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 17th July

Mon 20th July is a non-pupil day



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week thinking about- who lives in a house like this? The children were shown pictures of royal palaces, Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. Some pupils were expertly able to identify these landmarks and we quickly ascertained that kings and queens live in such places. We played a matching game- who 'lives' here- a mechanic matching a garage, a teacher matching a classroom, a pig matching a pigsty. The last round left us a bit confused- we had to match where we would find a 'baby' but the only option left was 'stable'. But the children quickly recognized that baby Jesus was found in a stable. Unlike the kings we know today Jesus never did live in a castle or a palace. I introduced the children to the feast of Christ the King- we thought about how our king was extraordinary- he was a healer, teacher, friend to the poor and he taught us that even kings can and should be servants to others. We thought about how we could be servants to one another this week at school.



Year 6 parents were able to meet with Mrs Lewis this week for their postponed parents evening. Thank you to everyone that came. Year 6 is such an important year and we are so glad of your support. I hope you found the opportunity to talk with Mrs Lewis informative and celebratory.

Securing specialist teaching in MFL- Modern Foreign Language - for KS2 has been a priority this term following the departure of Mrs Wilson. I'm delighted to share that since October half-term Mrs Walklett has been visiting school every Tuesday alongside two volunteer A-level French students from Colchester Royal Grammar School to deliver French in a fun, interactive and authentic way. Do see if your child can share what they have been learning and take the opportunity to practice at home as a family.

On Wednesday Year 5 set out on a school trip to Duxford as part of their topic on the world wars. They came in costume and looked fantastic. I'm told they had a thoroughly brilliant day. Thank you to the teachers for organizing the trip and to parents for providing great costumes.

It has been wonderful and inspiring this week to visit some classrooms and see some fantastic teaching and learning. I have visited English lessons, alongside Mrs Gill, to see the teaching of writing in action. Writing is an area of development for our school this year; we achieve very well against other local schools and we exceed national statistics for attainment outcomes in writing but of course we are always striving! Based on the lessons I have seen this week our teachers have taken up the challenge with gusto.

The Book Fair, organized by Mrs Gill has been an amazing success this week at school. Thank you to everyone that visited- I'm thrilled to know how much our children LOVE books and that reading for pleasure is alive at St Teresa's.

I am actually writing this newsletter remotely today because I am at St Benedict's with the children performing in the BCCS concert later this evening. Rehearsals have gone magnificently and I look forward to telling you all about the spectacular in my newsletter next week. What a way to finish the week and begin the festive season!

As we move into December and the Advent season life at school gets pretty busy- coming up next week: Year 4 orchestra concert on Wednesday, Year 2 school trip to Hedingham Castle, a basketball tournament and Year 3 trip to Colchester Zoo.

God Bless, Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	93.87	94.19
Year 1	86.00	98.33
Year 2	94.67	98.67
Year 3	96.88	92.50
Year 4	91.25	90.63
Year 5	96.88	94.69
Year 6	96.25	90.63
Whole School total:	93.74	94.16



Well done to Year 2 for highest attendance this week!

Merit Certificates

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

- Rec: Sophie, Thiago, Harper, El-Nathan
- Y1: Hermione, Noah, Eric, Piniru
- Y2: Hugo, Augustus, Bertie, Kunmi, Clementine
- Y3: Oscar, Alice H, William, Harry
- Y4: Eva, Harry, Alex, Sophie
- Y5: Nuala-Rose, Pheonix, Evangeline, Miguel
- Y6: Victoria, Nahla, Aila, Mishel, Rowan



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

Breakfast club



School Meals

The dinner menus are available
on the school website and via
Seesaw



After School Club - 3.15 - 6pm

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



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

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.



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex. CO3 9BE

Tel: 01206 508445

Email: office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs B Maguire

November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run jointly between schools and Essex Police.

Operation Encompass is the reporting of police attended domestic abuse incidents to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, where there are children in the home.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, (DSL) known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have experienced a domestic abuse incident. For your information, the Key Adults at St. Teresa's are Mrs Maguire and Mrs Dyball.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Maguire
Headteacher



St Teresa's School is part of The Rosary Trust a Catholic Multi Academy - Registered Number: 08068528



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

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment



IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 2024

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 4th November 2024**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2025.

THE STATUTORY NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15 JANUARY 2025.

From **4th November 2024**, 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 'Key Information' - 'Admissions'.

Certificate of Catholic Practise

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

Wednesday 4th December 2024 from 2.00 - 3.00pm

Wednesday 8th January 2024 from 2.00 - 3.00pm



First Holy Communion

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

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

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 18^h 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



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Christmas Cards

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) continues to support the emotional health and wellbeing of children, young people and families and are seeing an even greater need for their services at this time.

If you would like to support them by buying some of their charity Christmas cards, you can do so via their website here: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-cards/>

FORTHCOMING ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Please note, at this stage all dates are provisional - we hope to be able to stick to these published dates but they may be subject to change if necessary

Saturday 30th November 11.00am - 2.00pm
Parish Christmas Bazaar



Monday 2nd December at 9.00am
Advent Service in the School - Parents invited

Friday 6th December
FOST Advent Fayre (further details to follow)



Monday 9th December
Mince Pie Monday!!! (further details to follow but do save the date!)



Thursday 12th December
FOST Christmas Discos (times TBC)



Friday 13th December
Whole School to the pantomime at the Mercury Theatre

Saturday 14th December
School choir performing with the Choral Society in Church



Sunday 15th December at 3.00pm
Parish Carol Service in Church (school will be participating)
Further details to follow nearer the time



Monday 16th December at 6.00pm
Rec, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Nativity



Tuesday 17th December at 2.00pm and 6.00pm
Rec, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Nativity



Wednesday 18th December
Christmas Dinner Day - menus to follow in due course
This will also be Christmas Jumper Day
(children are invited to wear something Christmassy instead of their uniform if they would like to)



Thursday 19th December
Christingle Service at 1.30pm in Church
Last Day of Autumn Term



2.30pm finish
(wrap around club available from 2.30pm on this day)



Advent Fayre Donations



We are currently planning the FOST Advent Fayre, and we have a range of different stalls planned.

We would like to ask for your help to make this event a successful and enjoyable experience for the children.

Would you please be able to donate any of the following? Some of these you may have them at home already!

Individually wrapped sweet treats.

For example: chocolates, sweet, biscuits, hot chocolate, coffee sachets, etc.

Men's and women's toiletries:

Mini or travel size. For example: Bath or shower items, nail varnish, make up, deodorant, accessories, etc.

Unwanted gifts:

Unused, new or nearly new items that could be a Christmas gift for someone else.

For example: toys, craft sets, larger toiletry sets, bags, socks, scarfs, gloves, candles, photo frames, jigsaws, etc.

Books:

Adults and children's books

Stationery items:

Mini-notepads, colouring books, puzzle books, pens, pencils, erasers

Bracelet

making kits:

Unwanted and unused beads, letters or thread

Unwanted Christmas decorations and baubles

Packaging:

We need cellophane bags (all shapes and sizes), ribbon, Christmas stickers, small gift bags (organza or hessian).

We also have an Amazon Wishlist, link: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/3E8IXL4CCC0IQ?ref_=wl_share

We are really looking forward to helping the children buy some gifts for their friends and family! Thank you for your support!!!



— FOST — ADVENT FAYRE

**FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER
THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

The FOST elves have been working hard
to bring you gifts galore!
For Mum or Dad, grandparents,
siblings, friends and more!

So on Friday 6th December
when you come to school
Be sure to bring some coins with you
plus a bag for your shopping haul!

*Suggested spend
no more than £5.
Please bring change
where possible in a
named purse, wallet or
envelope and provide a
named carrier bag*



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040



FOST

Christmas

DISCO

12TH DECEMBER | KS1 5PM - 6PM
SCHOOL HALL | KS2 6:30PM - 8PM

TICKETS £4
PURCHASED VIA PARENTPAY

PAY IT FORWARD - Purchase an extra ticket for someone who might not otherwise be able to attend.
(No physical tickets will be sent home.
Children will be signed in and out at the doors.)

Drinks, sweets, snacks and disco accessories sold on the night.
Suggested spending money no more than £5.

Tickets are currently limited due to the number of adult volunteers available for this event. If you can help out, please get in touch - fost@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040

Flu Vaccine Catch up Clinics

Has your child missed their school vaccinations?

We are running catch up clinics for the flu vaccine this winter, your nearest clinic is:

**16/17 Clough Road,
Severalls Business Park,
Colchester, CO4 9QS**

- Saturday 7th December
- Wednesday 18th December
- Monday 23rd December

**It's easy to catch up, simply
call for an appointment on
0300 790 0597.**

For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website:
eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines

#GetWinterStrong





Winter 2024/2025

Newsletter

FREE
until
JAN 25



Understanding the Teenage Brain

Watch this recorded session in your own time, to learn why our teens think, feel and behave very differently from adults and how we can support them.

Thursday
5th Dec
19:00 - 21:00
£24



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes and giving practical interventions. Clear explanation of the condition in all its forms and extremely useful advice.

Tuesday
17th Dec
19:00 - 21:00
£24



Facing Defiance

Effective interventions for handling defiant behaviour. ADHD, ODD and PDA relevant as well as regular challenging behaviour. Introduction to the FACE programme - Facing Defiance - 6 week course

Tuesday
7th Jan
19:00 - 21:00
£24



Anxiety-Based School Avoidance

Understanding and supporting children who are anxious about school. Steps you can take to help them back into the classroom.

Thursday
9 Jan
19:00 - 21:00
£24



AUTISM: Improving Communication

Looking at how small changes in how we communicate with children on the spectrum can lead to big improvements.

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



WINTER TIMETABLE

Talks are delivered online via zoom 7pm to 9pm £24 each

If you can't make the date ask for the link to the recording, available for 48 hours afterwards

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to the PARENT page

FREE - Decreasing Depression FREE - Anxiety Explained	25 NOV 20 JAN
What is ACT?	26 NOV, 21 JAN
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 NOV
Supporting a Child with ADHD	5 DEC, 2 JAN
Understanding Anger	16 DEC, 13 JAN
Facing Defiance	17 DEC, 14 JAN
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	19 DEC, 16 JAN
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	7 JAN
AUTISM: Improving Communication	9 JAN
Raising Self-Esteem	27 JAN
Supporting Healthy Sleep	28 JAN
Improving Family Communication	4 FEB
Introduction to OCD	18 FEB

facefamilyadvice.co.uk

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Please see the flyers below giving details of FREE workshops n offer for patients within the North Colchester Primary Network surgeries, which includes Bluebell Surgery, Highwoods Surgery, Lawford Surgery, Mill Road Surgery and Winstree Medical Practice. You are able to book onto the workshop using this link <https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/referralSelf>



NHS
North Colchester PCN
Comprising of Bluebell Surgery, Highwoods Surgery, Lawford Surgery, Mill Road Surgery & Winstree Medical Practice

extra
ADHD Online Workshop

This workshop will help parents/carers to understand Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and give tips on how to positively manage their children's behaviour

Monday 2nd December
11am - 1.30pm
Online

Karen - Senior Programme Design & Facilitator.

Lauren, MBACP
Integrative Counsellor and Associate Facilitator

Funded by...
CVST
COMMUNITY FUND

admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891



NHS
North Colchester PCN
Comprising of Bluebell Surgery, Highwoods Surgery, Lawford Surgery, Mill Road Surgery & Winstree Medical Practice

extra
Emotional Regulation

This workshop will help parents/carers to support their children through those BIG emotions. We will explore core emotions, what triggers them and learn strategies to help our children on the journey towards self regulation.

Monday 16th December
11am - 1.30pm
Online

Karen - Senior Programme Design & Facilitator.

Lauren, MBACP
Integrative Counsellor and Associate Facilitator

funded by
CVST
COMMUNITY FUND

admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891



School holiday camps



Schools out! Give your children somewhere fun and safe to come during the school holidays where they can be creative, make friends and learn!

When Christmas break

Weekdays, 23rd Dec - 3rd Jan*, 8am to 5pm

Where

St John's Primary School, Clay Lane Grove, Colchester, CO4 0HH

What

A blend of fun and learning for children aged 5-11

Book now at www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/create



holiday camp



In support of
StHelena

*Excluding 25th and 26th Dec and 1st Jan 2025

School holiday fun!

Let The Creation Station in support of St Helena entertain your children by enrolling them in our school holiday activity days!



Activities include:

- Slime making
- Creative fun activities
- Outdoor adventures
- Creative cooking sessions
- Holiday themes such as magical Christmas crafts



FLEXIBLE
DROP OFF AND
PICK UP!

Full day sessions £30 | Half day sessions £20

10% discounts on full week bookings and 5% discounts for siblings. Plus discounts for NHS staff. To take advantage of these discounts please email contactus@thecreationstation.co.uk before making your booking.

Each camp day includes breakfast and snacks. For a small additional fee of £3.50, lunch can also be provided.

100% of the profits from the holiday camps go towards local charity, St Helena Hospice to support people in your community facing dying, death and bereavement.

Book now at www.sthelenahospice.org.uk/create



In support of
StHelena



BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED
School Holiday
Camps!!!



AT A SCHOOL
NEAR YOU IN **2025!**
EARLY BOOKING OFFER!

LOWEST RATES GUARANTEED
BOOK BY 31ST JANUARY

SAVE UP
TO £100!



- ⦿ 4½ to 14 year olds!
- ⦿ 80+ Activities!
- ⦿ Choice each session!
- ⦿ Specialist Courses!
- ⦿ Flexible bookings!



✓ OFTSED REGISTERED

 barracudas.co.uk
 01480 467 567

Essex

ACTIVate

Free holiday clubs, fun activities and food
across Essex and Thurrock!

- ✓ Specialist SEND, mental wellbeing and youth clubs
- ✓ Sports and games, arts and crafts, cooking and so much more!
- ✓ Nutritious snacks and tasty meals
- ✓ Run by qualified, local club providers
- ✓ Family support, resources and guidance
- ✓ Discretionary paid and paid for spaces

WHAT IS ESSEX ACTIVATE?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the exciting activity clubs run by Active Essex! During school holidays, local club providers across the county deliver free holiday clubs and fun activities to get eligible primary and secondary children active, as well as support young people to make friendships and learn new skills, helping to enhance their wellbeing.

Please only book your child/ren a space at an Essex ActivAte club if they will attend. If they are booked on and do not attend, other children may miss out on this beneficial opportunity across the holidays.

www.activeessex.org



@EssexActivAte



Turn this flyer over
to read more on how
to book a space!

SCAN ME



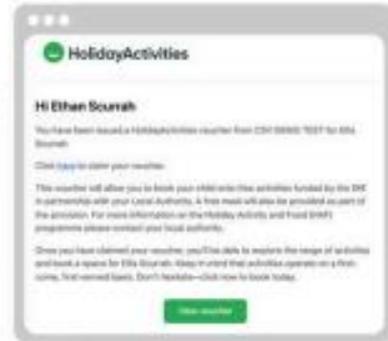
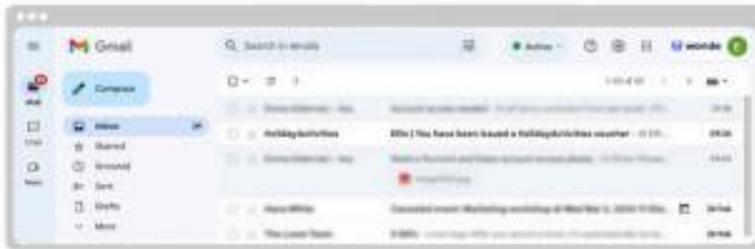


HolidayActivities

A guide on claiming your voucher and booking activities

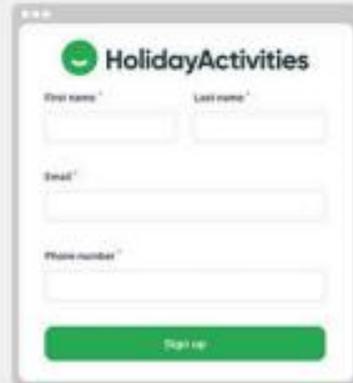
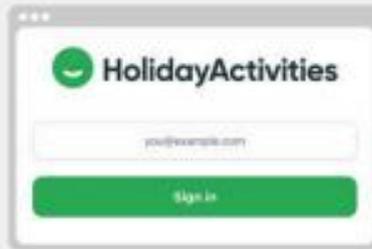
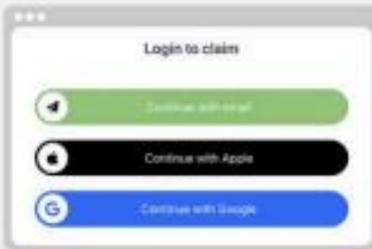
Step 1 - Open the email and click the green button

This voucher will come from hello@holidayactivities.com



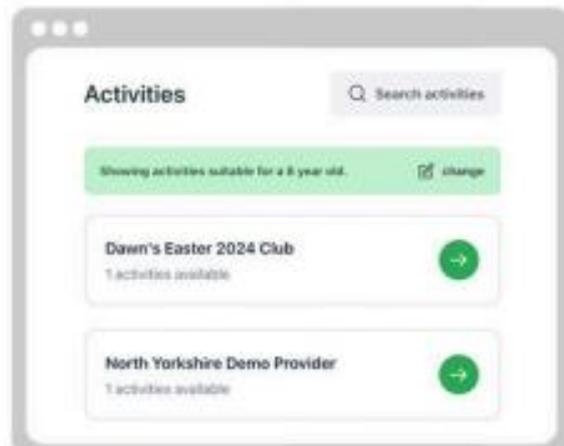
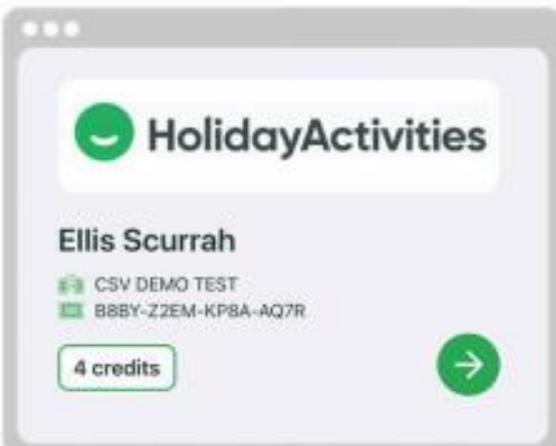
Step 2 - Select *Continue with email* and log in/sign up

After selecting Continue with email, you will be asked to enter your email address. If you do not have an account, you will be asked to sign up



Step 3 - Making a booking

Clicking the green arrow on the voucher of your child will take you to a list of providers. From here, you can browse available activities and, once you find one suitable, you will be asked to complete a booking form.





WINTER HOLIDAY School's OUT Activities



Accept all
Childcare
Vouchers
& Gov.UK Tax
Free Childcare

The number one activity camp in Essex is coming to Colchester Royal Grammar School this Winter Holiday! We can't wait to welcome children from all schools in the Colchester area for festive winter themed activities!

Ofsted
Early Years
Provider



HAF FUNDING

Head to
app.holidayactivities.com
to make your booking!



COLCHESTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Creffield Road Entrance, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3ND
Ofsted Number: EY548121



Winter Holiday
Thursday 2nd January
Friday 3rd January



WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE
VOUCHERS & OFFER
TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!

MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILDCARE FROM
8am - 6pm

AGES
4-14



CHRISTMAS CAMP 2024

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR DISCOUNTS AND OFFERS

INFLATABLE FOOT DARTS



KIDS
FAVOURITE

AXE THROWING



INFLATABLE FUN



NERF GAMES



DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CRAFTS 🍪 AND
SPORTS ⚽ AVAILABLE EACH DAY

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR
CHRISTMAS DATES & VENUES

Ofsted
Registered

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET

OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR
STAFF ARE



A Hilarious Family Christmas Show

**New for
2024!**



Duggie Dug Dug's

Nativity Delivery

Friday 20th December

4.30pm

@ Kingsland Church

Book Tickets £7 each

SCAN ME





Essex Fire Museum Christmas Open Day (With our Santa's Grotto)

Free entry, but
booking is essential as
we are on an active fire
station site.

Contact us to book:
[museum@essex-
fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@essex-fire.gov.uk) or 01376
576847.

10.30am to 4.00pm
(Last entry: 2.30pm)



Date: 15th Of December

