

Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Christmas Holidays 2024-25

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 **at 2:30pm**
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 **at 2:30pm**
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,

As we entered into the third week of Advent we were reminded about the upcoming JOY we will feel at Christmas. School has certainly been a joyful place this week which so much festive cheer and building excitement for the Christmas holidays ahead. What a week!

The whole school started the week watching the dress rehearsal for the upcoming KS1 nativity- the retelling of the first Christmas is always so special to watch enacted by our youngest pupils. This was a poignant and joyful way to start our week.

Reception and KS1 went on to wow their audiences on Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon and finally again on Tuesday evening with their nativity play. The children did an amazing job- their voices were loud and clear and the singing from every class was delightful. I said this after every performance- the children did brilliantly- how the staff quite manage to pull it off every year I do not know. During each performance we held a raffle, raising proceeds for the charity SANDS and we are delighted to share that our audiences raised a grand total of £464 - that is simply fantastic- well done everyone.



On Wednesday it was CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY- a truly memorable and special day. Thank you to FOST for providing every child with a Christmas cracker and for all of the wonderful Christmas decorations that have adorned the school this Advent. We must say a massive thank you to the school kitchen team led by Mrs Soltys - providing a delicious Christmas dinner for 220 hungry children and 40 staff is quite the challenge. We all loved our Christmas dinner!

And that brings us finally to today, our last day of term finished off this afternoon with a beautiful Christingle service in the Church. This is a first I believe for St Teresa's school and a tradition I hope we can continue. The children certainly did a fantastic job of decorating their Christingles. The real poignancy is in the symbolism behind the parts, with the word 'Christingle' itself meaning 'Christ child'. What a fitting way, with Christ at the centre of our hearts, to finish the term together.

I found out this week that a former Headteacher of St Teresa's, Mrs Hurdidge, has passed away. Mrs Hurdidge served the community of St Teresa's School as Headteacher between January 1989 and July 2005. I'm sure it would bring some comfort to her family to know the community at St Teresa's will join me in saying a little prayer for her today.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all our staff and governors to wish the children and all our families a very special and very blessed Christmas. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on January 6th!

God Bless - Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	97.10	96.77
Year 1	99.00	98.33
Year 2	98.33	96.67
Year 3	97.50	98.83
Year 4	90.94	96.09
Year 5	95.31	94.14
Year 6	97.81	96.48
Whole School total:	96.53	96.75



Well done to Year 3 for highest attendance this week!

Merit Certificates

There was no merit assembly this week due to the Christingle Service.



Prayer Request from the Diocese of Brentwood

Dear all

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Valerie Reynold (Hurdidge) RIP** who died recently. Val was, in the past, the much loved Deputy Headteacher at St Francis Braintree and Headteacher at St Teresa's, Lexden.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

We pray also for all who mourn her loss - *Our Lady Queen of Sorrows, intercede for them.*



Wrap around care survey

We would like to ask for your input so we can evaluate our current wrap-around provision, including breakfast club and after school wrap-around. As such, please could we ask you to complete this parent surveys via the QR code or the link below. If any question is not applicable, please answer NA.

<https://forms.office.com/e/bTEjS5LtTt>

Breakfast Club and Wrap-Around
Parent Feedback Survey



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.



Mini Vinnies



Thank you to all those who bought a ticket for our film night earlier this month. The money raised allowed us to work alongside the SVP at church and purchase gifts for the needy and housebound in our local community. The Mini Vinnies worked exceptionally hard to pack the gifts and we managed to give 14 gift bags full of treats and 20 packets of mince pies to Mr Johnson on behalf of the SVP this morning. Our treasurers calculated what was spent and what we have remaining for our next focus in January.

Pastoral Focus

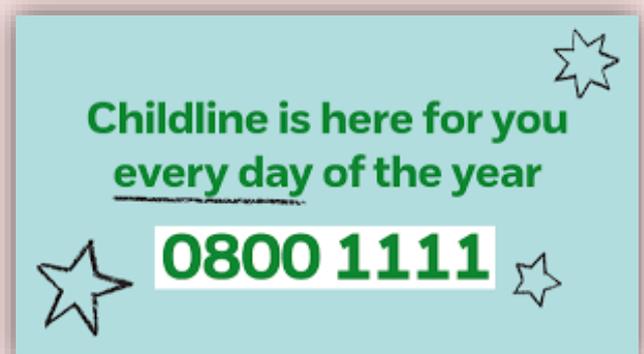
For many Christmas can be a time of excitement and joy.

A time for families and friends to spend time together and celebrate.

For others, however, it can be a time of stress, painful reminders and anxiety.

Below are a few of the organisations that are there for those who find Christmas a struggle. Whether someone is looking for support with mental health, coping with bereavement or simply finding the Christmas season difficult, they are there to support and signpost help.

Remember: It's ok not to be ok



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 day to sign Certificates of Catholic Practise:

Tuesday 14th January 2024 from 2.00 - 3.00pm *Please note change from original date advertised*****

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

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



Safeguarding Information

Essex police have launched a campaign to keep children safe online - please do visit their page via the link below where you will find lots of useful tips and guidance around settings for devices, gaming, smart phones and social media.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/sort-your-settings/>

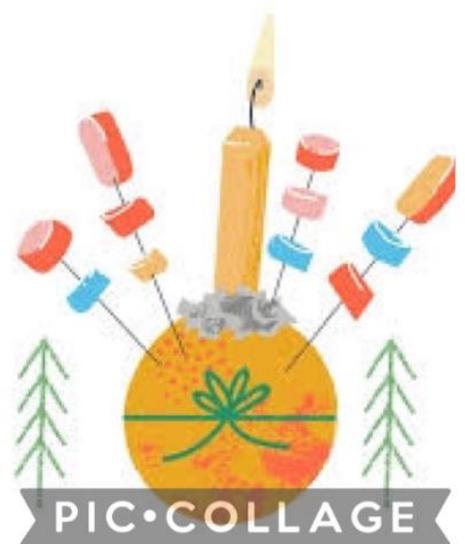




Thank you Prefects!



The Year 6 prefects have been working so hard behind the scenes to organise Christmas card deliveries and Christingle bags! Thank you for your dedication and support prefects, your hard work is greatly appreciated!



YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU



Would you like the opportunity to speak about how your child's school can improve inclusion for its neurodivergent pupils?

Join us at a 'cuppa and chat' hosted by Essex Family Forum as part of the PINS project.

(find out more [HERE](#))

Your school is committed to working with EFF to hear your voice and want you to speak openly with EFF about how the school can improve.



The next meeting is-

31 January 2025
2.15-3.15

At this meeting topics discussed will include:

- Regular Coffee Mornings - what form would you like these to take?
 - One Plan Meetings - timing and model
- SEND support at school - beneficial approaches and interventions
- Emotional Based School Avoidance - the school's offer , what could be improved?
- The Hive and Harbour - your views on these 'spaces'
 - Whole school events - are these accessible?
 - Wraparound care - do/would you use it?
- Lunchtimes – what do you know about lunchtimes?
- The future - how would you like SEND at St. Teresa's to look in 2, 3 or 4 years time?
 - What would your 'magic wand' do for SEND at St. Teresa's?



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

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



Whats on at the craft hub this christmas!



Adult craft evening

Friday
December 6th
7-9pm
Kofi, Earls colne
high street



Family pom pom wreath workshop

Sunday
December 8th
2-3.30pm
Earls Colne
Recreation club

Christmas decorations curious crafters special

Friday
December 20th
1-2pm
Quaker meeting house
Burrows road

Christmas disco!

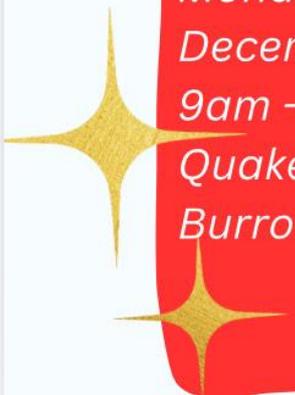
Friday
December 20th
4pm-5.15pm
Quaker meeting house
Burrows road

Christmas holiday club

Monday
December 23rd
9am - 3pm
Quaker meeting house
Burrows road

New years holiday club

Monday
December 30th
9am-3pm
Quaker meeting house
Burrows road





CHRISTMAS COLCHESTER FOOTBALL CAMP

St. Michael's Primary School, Camulodunum Way, Colchester CO2 9RA

2 Day Camp

Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th December

10am-1pm • Age 4-5 years • £15 per day

10am-3pm • Age 6-12 years • £20 per day

JOIN OUR COLCHESTER
SCS WHATSAPP GROUP



FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT SCS EVENTS
IN COLCHESTER

PLEASE EMAIL: colchesterscs@gmail.com
or call Luke on 07593 557556 to book your child's place.

Boys and girls welcome. Packed lunch and drinks bottle required.

Payments can be made by cash or card on the day of camp.
Kit needed: Sports clothing, shin pads, trainers/boots



 SCS Coaching
 @scscoaches
www.scssports.co.uk





FREE SCS MULTI SPORT CAMP

with our HAF Programme

hafprogramme.scs@gmail.com

Is your child eligible for income related free school meals?
If yes, you can apply for our FREE multi sport camp using your holiday activity voucher code. (WONDE)

**COLCHESTER - ST MICHAELS PRIMARY CO2 9RA
DECEMBER 23RD AND 24TH**



**23RD XMAS HAMPER
24TH XMAS PARTY
FROM 2:30 - 3:30**



Please book through this QR code :





Colchester Teacher
Training Consortium



Open Evening

Weds 15 January

5-7 pm

Held at CCHSG
Norman Way
Colchester
CO3 3US



Outstanding primary & secondary
graduate teacher training in Essex & Suffolk
See website or scan QR to book

www.colchesterttc.org.uk

01206 364728 | enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk

