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 Spring Term 2025 – Friday 17th January 2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

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,

Miss Hilton began the week with the children sharing the story of Jesus' baptism. It's no coincidence that we begin each new year by reminding ourselves of the story of Jesus being baptised in the River Jordan. The story marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and in this moment, Jesus is assured that God is pleased with him, even before he tells his first parable, heals the first leper or goes to the cross. God was with Jesus at the very start of his ministry journey, as God is with us at the start of every new beginning too. Together we role played the story of Jesus' baptism and thought about the symbolism of the dove and the voice of God. We asked God to be with us at each of our new beginnings.

It has been a busy week as new learning topics for the spring term have been shared and explored. New displays have also been popping up across the school. There is clearly lots of enthusiasm about new topics as there has been a record number of children visiting my office to be presented with golden Headteacher award stickers. I especially enjoyed visiting Year 3 this week where I was slightly apprehensive to see upturned tables, but I was quickly reassured to see that this had been done to create a 360-degree canvas for the children to recreate prehistoric cave paintings.

It is not only the children that learn in school, this week the teachers were put through their paces by Mrs Herron who led staff training on PE with an in-depth focus on dance. Mrs Herron shared with the teaching team the feedback received from Sport's Ambassadors which I thought was well worth sharing with you all – please see overleaf.

On Thursday we welcomed Clair Hallums from the 'Create Club' to lead an assembly in which she presented us with a special certificate. 100% of the proceeds from after school 'Create Club' go to St Helena Hospice. Clair shared with the children some of the very special work that St Helena Hospice do and presented the award in recognition of the school's commitment to social value.

Congratulations to our merit certificate winners listed in the newsletter this week. Next week we are launching some new certificates to replace our merits, including from each class a 'Writer of the Week', a 'Resilience Award', a 'Friendship Award', a 'St Teresa's Treasure' (in recognition of doing a little thing with great love) and an 'Intellectual Curiosity Award'. I wonder who will be the first recipients of our new awards? Well done to our Attendance winners this week- Year 3 with 99.69% attendance – so very nearly 100%!

God Bless, Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below | 94 - 97% | 97% and above

	Last week of autumn term %	This week %
Reception	91.33	98.00
Year 1	91.67	98.33
Year 2	98.33	99.33
Year 3	95.63	99.69
Year 4	95.31	96.88
Year 5	96.56	96.56
Year 6	97.50	99.38
Whole School total:	95.23	98.30

Well done to Year 3 for highest attendance this week – it is lovely to see so many green boxes!

Merit Certificates

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

Rec: Gabriel, Oscar, Ella, Victoria, Edward

Y1: Aurelijus, Kester, Kucha, Joyelaa. All of Year 1!

Y2: Irene, Alice, Zohra, Edward, Delilah

Y3: Eddie, Spark, Amar'e

Y4: Josie, Ambrose, Michaiah, Jacob

Y5: Alex N, Jessica, Roberta, Oscar B

Y6: Nkenna, Lenora, Archie, Gabriel, 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

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.

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

Creation Station Charity Assembly

"Beside the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of 'all of us'…To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity."

Pope Benedict XVI

On Thursday, Clair Hallums from St Helena Hospice came attended our assembly and awarded us with a very special certificate of thanks. As many of you will know, Creation Station after school club is not only a very exciting and creative club, but also a way to donate to St Helena Hospice. Many children have taken part in Create club, subsequently raising money for those in greater need than ourselves. With the help of Chikondi the giraffe who says **'We are called to work for the good of each and of all',** we remember the important job we have in recognising and supporting those in need.

We have lots of charities that we raise money for and ask you to support including CAFOD, SANDs, Children in Need and local needs and causes. You are always so generous in your donations and we thank you for this. Please do continue to support your child to understand why we support charities and help those most in need, reminding them that we are following in the footsteps of Jesus and, of course, our patron St Teresa.

We asked God to help those who are in need of support and those who make it their mission in life to support and help others:

Loving God,

We believe that we are all brothers and sisters.

Help us to think about what is good for everyone, not just ourselves.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Amen

Thinking of everyone
The Common Good

Galilee to Jerusalem Celebration

We would like to invite you in to school to share in our learning of the third branch in our 'To Know You More Clearly' RED curriculum.

The timings for the sessions are as follows:

Reception - Wednesday 12th February - 2.45pm

Year 1 - Thursday 13th February - 2.45pm

Year 2- Thursday 13th February - 2.45pm

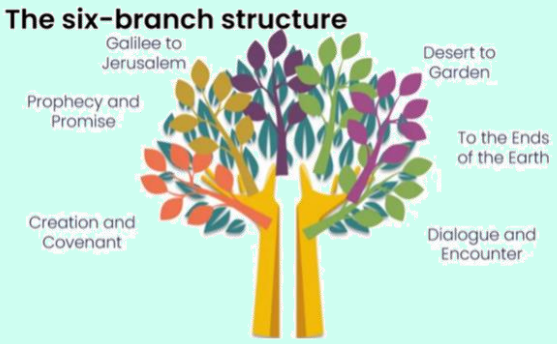
Year 3 - Wednesday 12th February - 9.00am

Year 4 - Wednesday 12th February - 9.00am

Year 5 - Thursday 13th February - 2.45pm

Year 6 - Thursday 13th February - 9.00am

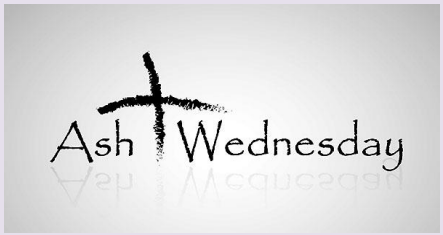
The children look forward to sharing their learning and their amazing books with you.



Forthcoming Whole School Masses in Church

Whole school Masses will be taking place in Church as follows:

Tuesday 28th January at 10.00am -
Mass to celebrate the Jubilee 'Year of Hope'.



Wednesday 5th March at 10.00 am -
Ash Wednesday Mass

You are all most welcome to join us - we look forward to welcoming you.

Learning Support Assistant Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant. For further details and to apply for the vacancy please use the following link:

https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=107736

Parking

Thank you to all parents and carers who park responsibly and considerately when dropping off and picking up their children each day – your co-operation is much appreciated.

We have had a number of reports of vehicles with no blue badge displayed using the disabled bays in King George V playing field car park. Please can we ask that these bays are left free for people with a blue badge to use them.

Thank you.

Attendance Specialist Team
Dedicated Parent Contact Line for Parents

The Attendance Specialist Team now have a line solely for parents to make contact for advice and guidance. The phoneline enables parents to leave their name and contact number for a call back from one of the Specialists. The phone line is strictly for parents only and is accessed by the team twice weekly. The number is: **0333 032 2968**

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
17/1/2025 - 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)

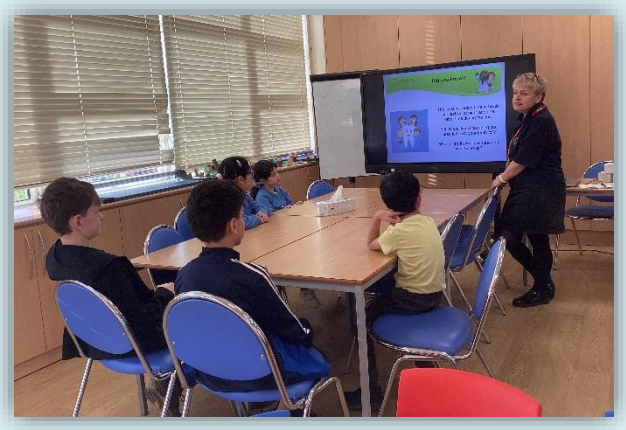
First Holy communion rehearsal
Wednesday 18h June 2025
6.00pm - Group 1
7.00pm - Group 2

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

Going Forth Mass - June 29th 2025 at 9.00am

Congratulations to our new Oral Health Champions!

This week a small group of children agreed to become St Teresa's Oral Health Champions. In the coming months, they will help to spread the message of good oral care across the school.
Well done to Marcus, Mason, Roberta, Ambrose & Marina for completing their training with the Colchester Dental Service!



PE Uniform

For PE, children must wear a plain round neck T-Shirt in their "house" colour (Yellow, red, blue or green – available for purchase via ParentPay for just £2.

St Francis

St Bernadette

St Anthony

St Helena

In addition to this, they must wear **plain navy** shorts in the summer and a **plain navy tracksuit** in the winter

Navy shorts for summer

Plain navy tracksuit for winter

On their feet, children should wear black or white sports trainers or plimsolls for indoor PE. Please note that fashion trainers do not give enough support for exercise and therefore are not allowed to be worn on PE days.

Mini Vinnies

Hello everyone – this week we are writing a message in the newsletter to ask for your help again.

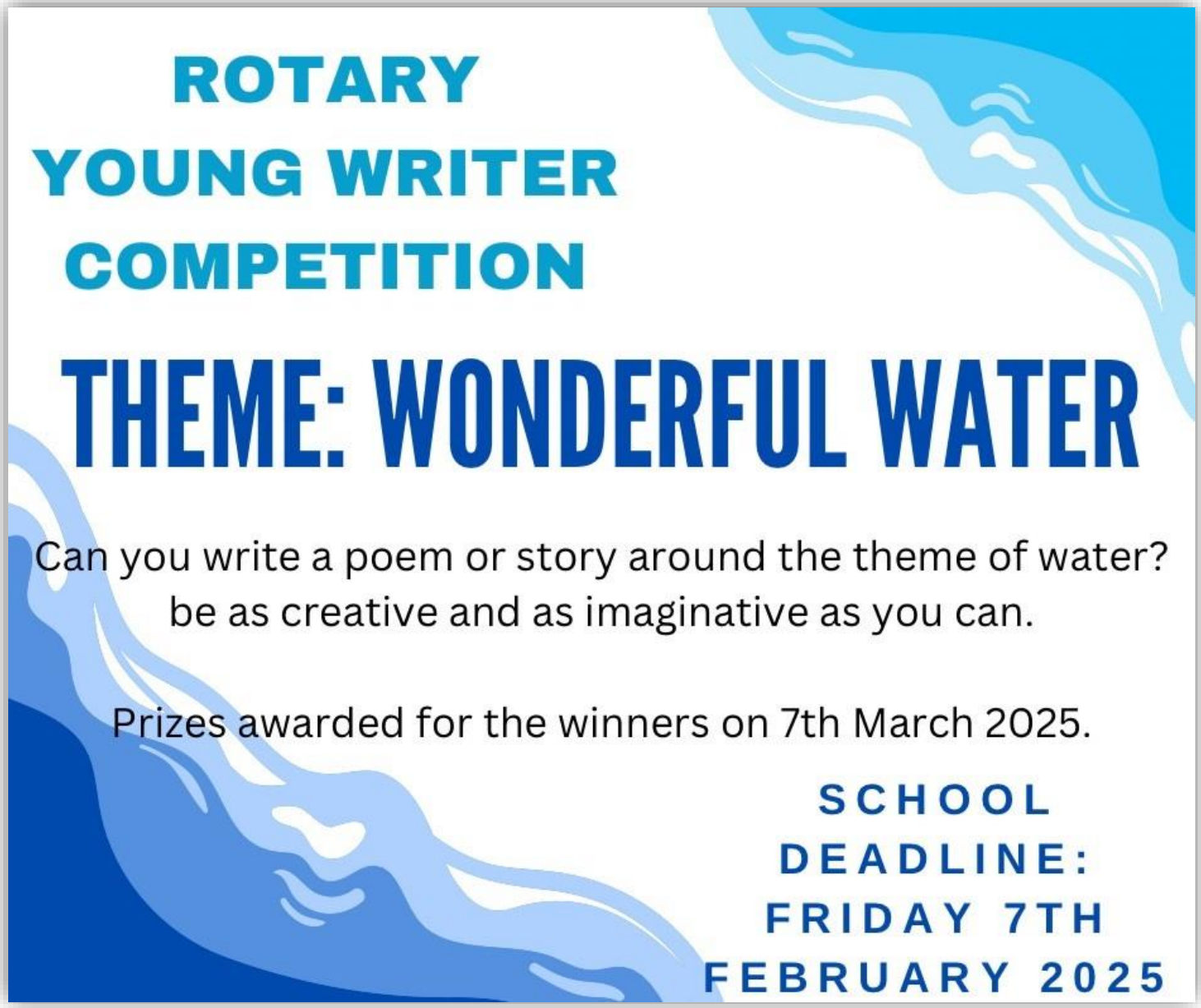
We have exciting news!

We are organising a toy sale to take place during the week starting Monday 3rd March (more information to follow nearer the time).

If you have any good quality toys / books / teddies / football tops / games / puzzles / Lego that you would like to donate for the sale, please bring them to the office when you can.

We are hoping to be able to use the money raised to support less fortunate children in our local community.

Thank you for your support.
Sweet regards
Mini Vinnies



Rotary Young Writer Competition

We are delighted to share the information about the Rotary Young Writer Competition with you.
An information pack with full details about the competition has been shared via Seesaw today.

All children have been given a paper entry sheet today for the Rotary Young Writer competition if they would like to enter. Spare copies are available from the school office if you need one.

Entries must be returned directly to school by Friday 7th February at the latest.

Good luck everyone!

Things our children love about PE at St Teresa's

We love doing sport!

I feel free when I'm running - it's good for my mental health

There are so many opportunities - without experiencing school sport, we wouldn't have taken up Athletics! (Rowan and Nahla)

It gives me goals and helps me achieve them

All the opportunities and afterschool clubs are fun and active.

We have a variety of sports so we get to find out which one we want to get into.

It's great that Sports Ambassadors get to run clubs.

We love the support we get at the events.

Helps us stay active

We are so lucky!

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?

Fully Funded School Support Course
Online Guided Learning with our friendly tutors
Full Time - 6 Weeks - Intensive Course

Fully Funded (FREE) NCFE | CACHE Courses available in levels 1 & 2 with fully funded progressions available for 3 level - starting on **27th January**.

The deadline to enrol is Wednesday 22nd January!

We run ONLY in term time and not during half term/ end of term periods.

This is a six-week intensive course, with online live webinars with Aspire Education's friendly tutors, starting at 9:30am and finishing at 2pm (with lunch break) from Monday to Friday.

This is a six-week course, available in level 1 & 2, with live webinar sessions running from 9:30am - 11:30am, with a 1 hr lunch break, followed by a second 1.5 hr session from 12:30-2pm.

All you need is access to the internet and a laptop or tablet.

These courses are fully funded by the ESFA (Education Skills Funding Agency).

If you are earning less than £23,500 per year or claiming benefits (including Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits, carers allowance or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit) you are eligible for a funded place.

*Please see more details about our eligibility on our website.
www.studysmartuk.online

Take advantage of this opportunity while it's still available.
Please go to: www.studysmartuk.online for more information.

EPINS Project

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

Emotional Regulation:

How to Support Neurodivergent Children with Emotional Processing and Anxiety. This will include information on how sensory differences may impact this area.

This workshop will explore why neurodiverse children may develop difficulties with their emotions, including anxiety and low mood, and how schools and parents/carers can support neurodiverse children and young people with managing their big feelings.

When & Where?

Wednesday 19th March 1:30 – 3pm at St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

How do I book my place?

There is no need to book but it would be helpful to know how many people we need to accommodate.
Please email office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk if you plan/think you may attend.
Thank you

hcrg Care Group | Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service | NHS Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust | Improving together Safer • Kinder • Better

Scouts

9th Colchester
Colchester Estuary

Want to share an adventure?

Have fun and learn key skills for life?

Why not Join us?

Recruiting now for volunteers and young people!

Spaces in all sections!

BEAVERS

Mondays
5pm to 6pm
Wimpole Road
Methodist Church

cubs

Mondays
6:30pm to 8pm
Wimpole Road
Methodist Church

SCOUTS

Mondays
7:15pm to 9:00pm
St Stephen's Church
Canterbury Road

EXPLORERS

Fridays
7:30pm to 9pm
Rowhedge Village Hall

Contact us:

Alex - 07540 455343
David - 07904 702562
George - 07476 781885

SCAN ME

MOVIE NIGHT

KIDS EDITION

25th of January 2025

3 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

St Teresa's Church Hall

Children must bring their adult.

Entry free, donations welcome.

Miss Finney tutoring

ages 3-11

Tutoring services are available in the following subjects:

-Phonics

-Mathematics

-English

-SATs Preparation

-Phonics Screening Test Preparation

-Writing skills

Offering bespoke mobile tutoring for children ages 3-11.

For further information, please contact:

07398091022

vfinneytutoring@outlook.com

@miss.finney.tutoring

WHAT'S ON AT SRR Elite Cheerleading

Monday:

Supernova - Women's institute, Mersea CO58RB 4:30-5:30pm

Shooting Stars- SEND - Stanway Lakeland's Centre CO38WU 5-6pm

Tuesday:

SuperSonics - 3-6yrs old

Cosmos - 7+ yrs old - Stanway Lakeland's Centre CO38WU 5-6pm

Wednesday:

SEND Tumble Class

Private Tumble session slots - Stanway Lakeland's Centre CO38WU 5-6pm

Friday:

Rockets - KL Ariel Studio CM83YY 6-7pm

Sunday:

Open Pay as you go Tumble - 9-10am

Shockwaves - Competition Development Squad - Iceni Gymnastics Club CO30BE - 9am-12pm

HIGH WOODS

HOLIDAY CLUBS

01 *Spring wreaths*

02 *Cooking club*

03 *Bead workshops*

CRAFT HUB

Unlock your creative side this February half term

20TH FEB
9AM-3PM
£28

5-11YEARS
PRESCHOOL SPACES
HALF DAYS

SIGN UP NOW

INSPIRE CREATE PLAY

HOSTED BY CRAFT HUB

HIGHWOODS SQUARE

COLCHESTER CO49SR

the Creation Station

school holiday camp

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

February half term

17th - 21st February, 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.sthelena.org.uk/create

the Creation Station

In support of StHelena

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
- Themes such as colours day, fiesta fun and feelings

FLEXIBLE DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Full day sessions £33 | Half day sessions £23

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.sthelena.org.uk/create

holiday camp

In support of StHelena

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

HIGHLY RATED School Holiday Camps!!!

SCAN ME!

AT A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2025!

EXCLUSIVE PARENT DISCOUNT

USE CODE SCHOOL10 FOR AN EXTRA £10 OFF YOUR BOOKING!

SAVE UP TO £110!

*Minimum 2 days. *Not to be used in conjunction with other offer codes

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

OFTSED REGISTERED

barracudas.co.uk

01480 467 567

Trustpilot