

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,

We were about to begin the week in the usual way with collective worship when I was asked to take a telephone call from His Majesty's Inspectorate Ofsted!

Worship was handed over to Mrs Dyball who expertly took over, telling the children about Jesus' first miracle at the wedding of Cana. Mrs Dyball read from scripture with some willing role play support- the children were amazed to see water poured into a wine jug, come out again but turned to wine! This miracle showed Jesus as the Son of God- Mary his mother encouraged him and the school prayed to Mary knowing that, as she did at Cana, she could appeal to her son Jesus on our behalf.



Meanwhile...back in my office I was busy scribbling down instructions and talking to His Majesty's Inspector about this wonderful school. The Senior Leadership Team assembled and assisted me on this 90-minute telephone call- it was then left to inform the wider staff, governors, pupils and you, parents.

By the afternoon it was time to inform the children that we were going to be receiving some special visitors sent from the King to inspect our school. HMI- His Majesty's Inspectors, as you know, then arrived on Tuesday and spent two full days with us.

As a staff one of our biggest strengths at St Teresa's is our team spirit and collegiality so we pulled together and got ready to show our very best teaching and learning. Our staff worked well into the evening making sure everything was at it's very best. Of course, no amount of work with 24 hours to go would ever change the outcome of an inspection but inevitably because our school staff put so much into their vocation everyone wanted it to be just perfect.

Over the two-day inspection, inspectors visited all classes, they saw teaching, looked in books and on Seesaw, spoke to leaders, governors and pupils. Our inspectors observed playtimes, lunchtimes and SEND provision, they spoke to parents, teachers and support staff. They 'deep dived' into Early Reading, Writing, Maths, PE, History, PSHCE, Early Years and Science and scrutinized Safeguarding, Attendance, Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes. I'm sure you can imagine it was exceedingly thorough, leading to a rather intense 48 hours.

Our inspectors left on Wednesday evening sharing with governors many wonderful positive comments. Pupils were certainly at the heart of the inspection process and feedback; your very special children did not disappoint, sharing their knowledge, learning and views. Our inspectors told governors that pupil behavior was exemplary. We now await our report which we will share with you all as soon as it becomes available.

We wanted to end the week with a grand celebration for the children because as I've said, they were fantastic ambassadors. We enjoyed a new style merit assembly and a whole school party to finish the week.

So, all in all it's been quite a week! I'm wishing all my staff a thoroughly relaxing weekend.

God bless you all. Mrs Maguire

A message from Mr P Johnson – Chair of Governors

Dear parents and carers

As you know, St Teresa's was inspected by OfSTED this week. I can share with you that the feedback we received was very positive.

I am sure you will want to join me in thanking every single member of staff for their herculean efforts. OfSTED inspections, which I have seen for myself from both sides, are inevitably stressful occasions and as governors we were extremely grateful for the hours of hard work and late nights put in by everyone. It is impossible, of course, for a school to just put on a show for two days to impress an inspection team, and we know that every day the staff at St Teresa's work as hard as they possibly can with a complete determination to do their best for each and every pupil.

I look forward very much to writing to you again when the report is published, but one thing I can share with you now is that the inspectors were overwhelmed by how wonderful your children are. You can be very proud of them.

God bless you all

Peter Johnson
Chair of Governors
St Teresa's Primary School

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week of autumn term %	This week %
Reception	98.00	98.67
Year 1	98.33	95.33
Year 2	99.33	96.33
Year 3	99.69	96.25
Year 4	96.88	96.88
Year 5	96.56	91.25
Year 6	99.38	95.63
Whole School total:	98.30	95.73



Well done to Reception for highest attendance this week!

Certificates

Congratulations to the first recipients of our new certificates!



Catholic Social Teaching

Writer of the week

Doing Little Things Well

REC Ace
Y1 Emily
Y2 Alice
Y3 Toby
Y4 Olivia
Y5 Samuel
Y6 Amber-Mai

Cara
Charlotte
Joshua
William
Matilda
Ezra
Annie

Noah
Jacob
Kunmi
Eddie
Zara
Jacob P
Caitlin

Intellectual Curiosity

Friendship

Good Manners

Resilience

REC Isaac
Y1 Logan
Y2 Bertie
Y3 Amelia
Y4 Alexis
Y5 Christopher
Y6 Alexandra

Harper
Piruru
Delilah
Harper
Alex
Maisie
Archie

Oakley
Hermione
Leo
Kane
Harry
Sophia
Erin

Luca
Joyelaa
Fela
Esther
Daniel
Emmi
Aoife

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.

Catholic Social Teaching

Corner

CST



On Wednesday some representatives from Mini Vinnies spoke to the school in Praise Assembly about their Toy Sale initiative and the hope that everyone would donate some toys they no longer play with to be sold at the 'toy sale' next half term. They shared their posters and we reflected on the message from Chikondi of thinking of everyone as we celebrated the Catholic Social Teaching of The Common Good. We sang 'Give Me Oil in my lamp' to bring hope into our hearts and follow the examples of Jesus just like his disciples did. We then sang one of new favourite songs which teaches all about Catholic Social Teachings. I have uploaded the music and some children in Year 4 have kindly helped to share the sign language for the chorus on Seesaw. Lots of children have been asking to listen to and learn this song at home.

Christ our light,
your love burns in our hearts and
builds in us a thirst for justice.
God of hope,
we cling to you,
for you renew the face of the earth.

Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other and
all creatures back to your open arms.
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

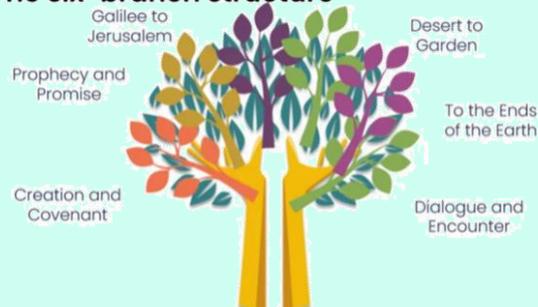
Year 4 - Wednesday 12th February - 9.00am

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.

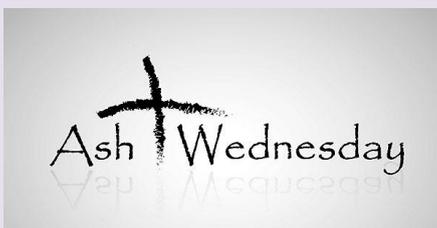
The six-branch structure



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.

Year 6 Religious Art Work

This week Year 6 had been asked to produce a piece of religious art work based on the Scripture readings 'Jesus feeds the five thousand' or 'Jesus walks on water'. Below are some examples (by Erin and Mishel) of some of the absolutely beautiful pieces of work that the class produced. Well done Year 6!



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>



Joint Schools' Concert - Advent 2024



Following the Joint Schools Concert at St. Benedict's College on 29th November, two of our Year 6 pupils visited St. Thomas More's Primary School to present a cheque to Mrs Fisher from Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

Thanks to the wonderful support of parents / carers / family members from all of the schools taking part we were able to collectively donate £3,500 to this wonderful charity. Mrs Fisher has since been in touch and asked me to pass on the message below to you. I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks for all of your wonderful support.

We are pleased to acknowledge and express our gratitude for the joint donation amounting to a fantastic £3,500 which was raised by the four schools in the Colchester area at their Joint Schools' Concert last year.

We are very grateful as always for your support which will allow us to continue to deliver our specialist service to children, young people and their families and so we thank you all.

We would be obliged if you could pass on our grateful thanks to all the pupils, parents and staff for their kindness and generosity.
Mrs Fisher



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)

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





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.



 Essex County Council



Essex Music School

Colchester Juniors Community Music Centre

Saturday mornings

Come and join us in making and learning music together at our Saturday morning Colchester Juniors Centre!

We offer a two-hour Junior music programme specifically for primary school aged students which runs for 10 weeks per term across the school year.

Join our classes in singing, African drumming, jSax, pTrumpet, and our additional ukulele group.



Colchester Community Music Centre, Colchester County High School for Girls, Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US



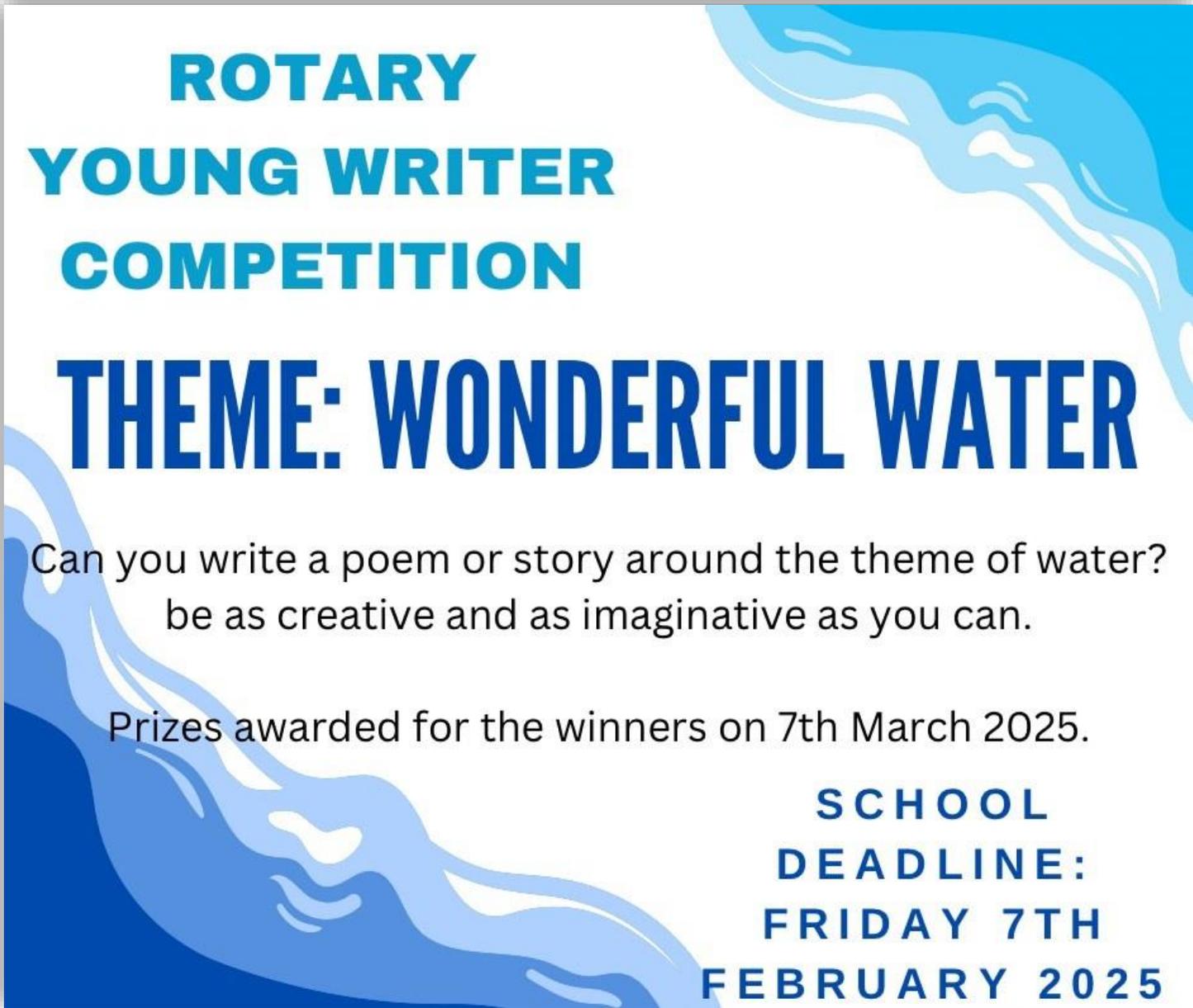
Scan for further details and to register your interest
Website: www.essexmusichub.org.uk
Phone: 0333 013 8953

 **MusicServiceEssex**
 **MusicServEssex**

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



ROTARY YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION

THEME: WONDERFUL WATER

Can you write a poem or story around the theme of water?
be as creative and as imaginative as you can.

Prizes awarded for the winners on 7th March 2025.

**SCHOOL
DEADLINE:
FRIDAY 7TH
FEBRUARY 2025**

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!

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?

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Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

6 Week Course
Mon - Fri
Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

Available In the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
	CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
	CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
	Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that MUST be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.

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

M O V I E N I G H T

K I D S E D I T I O N

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.**



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 | 5-11YEARS
9AM-3PM | PRESCHOOL SPACES
£28 | HALF DAYS

SIGN UP NOW

INSPIRE

CREATE

PLAY

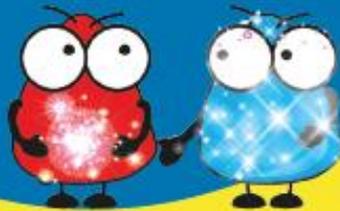
COLCHESTER CO49SR

HOSTED BY CRAFT HUB

HIGHWOODS SQUARE



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

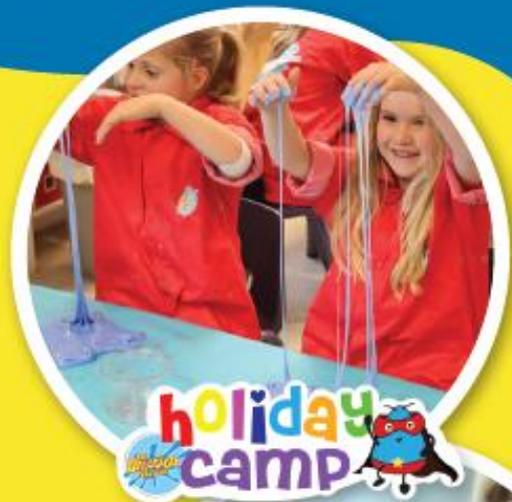
Where

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.sthena.org.uk/create



In support of
St Helena

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



In support of
St Helena



St Helena Hospice Hero Run

Hero Run returns on Sunday 23rd March. Dress up as YOUR hero and join Saunders, our mascot, for the 2km family fun run, or race 5km or 10km to support St Helena Hospice!

Adults run for free with children registering for the Family 2km. We will have stalls including fun activities such 'hulk smash' and 'wet sponge throwing', plus we will have music, food and lots to keep everyone entertained.

Your hero could be anyone, whether that's a superhero, sports icon, a family member, a doctor or nurse... after all, not all heroes wear capes! All ages are welcome and the event is open to all ages.

Your participation means more local people can access the St Helena services they need to make their own choices and live with dignity, regardless of diagnosis or personal circumstances.

The event takes place at Colchester Sports Park on Sunday 23rd March with first race commencing at 10am. Below is a link to our website for further information and registration.



St Helena
Hospice
For the people you love

Hero Run

Run, walk, or fly across the finish line!

Saturday 23rd March 2025
Colchester Sports Park

Not all heroes wear capes!
Dress up as YOUR hero and join our mascot for the 2km family fun run, or race 5km or 10km to support St Helena Hospice!

Sign up now at:
www.sthelena.org.uk/hero25



Kindly sponsored by **JONES & WATSON**

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

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!



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HIGHLY RATED
School Holiday
Camps!!!



OFTSED REGISTERED



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F.T.C



FEBRUARY HALF TERM

•Boys and Girls, Ages 5-13

•4G and Grass Pitches

Venues:

•Braintree Leisure Centre

•Kelvedon Academy

BOOK NOW



As a local school of FITC Academy, we have been given a code for a 10% discount off of the camps.

To take advantage of this, simply click on the below link and type in discount code DZL772

<https://fitc-academy.classforkids.io>

This code will be active until 31st January 2025.



A DAY AT CAMP

WARM UP/BALL MASTERY

Once all the players have arrived, we will start the day with a ball mastery warm up along with some activation drills. This will get the players mentally and physically ready for the day ahead.

TECHNICAL COACHING

For this part of the day we focus on making learning and developing fun. We run lots of professionally designed practices to coach the children many of the attributes in football. This will be via drills, challenges, competitions and games.

MATCHES/TOURNAMENTS

We will then split into age and physicality relevant groups (while taking friendship groups into account) and start our tournament. We will play round robin games, keeping track of all the bonus points earned throughout the day.



A DAY AT CAMP

WHAT WE COACH

Ball manipulation, dribbling, turning, tricks and skills, running with the ball, passing, first touch, shooting, 1v1's, attacking, defending, goalkeeping and more.

FUN ACTIVITIES

Football Tennis
Kick Up Challenge
Cross Bar Challenge
Competitions
Player Relevant Challenges (Such as Saka/Salah)

PRIZES/TROPHIES

Every player who attends a FITC camp will receive a developmental certificate and a medal. There will be trophies on offer for players of the camp and we will also hand out lots of prizes.