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.

2nd Half Spring Term 2025 – Friday 28th February 2025

Term Dates 2024 – 2025

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

Forthcoming Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday 5th March
10.00am Ash Wednesday Mass in Church

Friday 7th March
World Book Day – dress up

Wednesday 26th / Thursday 27th March
Year 3 & 4 production of The Three Trees

Friday 28th March
Y4 trip to Suffolk Owl Sanctuary

Tuesday 1st / Wednesday 2nd April
Parents' Evenings

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week meeting collectively in worship. As we continue to embrace our jubilee year the theme we thought about was 'hope'. I started by asking pupils what their hopes and dreams were for the future- it was great to hear amazing aspirations- wanting to explore the world, wanting to be a teacher, wanting to be a volcanologist! I told the children the story of 'three little trees' who grew up with aspirations for the future however God had other very special plans for them. Do ask your child about the story and see if they can remember how the trees' plans changed and how they ended up doing very special work for God. I was very excited to share with Year 3 and Year 4 that they will be using this story as inspiration for an Easter production later this term which we look forward to inviting parents and parishioners to attend.

It was with great pride that I wrote to the school community yesterday with the outcome report from our visit from His Majesty's Inspectorate- Ofsted- who visited St Teresa's back in January. I do hope you have been able to read the fabulous report that opens, **'this is a school where pupils flourish and succeed'**. As I wrote in my covering letter there has been change and challenge in the eleven years since our 2014 inspection but thanks to exceptional teachers and staff, curious and eager pupils and a very supportive parent body, the school has clearly grown from strength to strength. I hope everyone in the community can join us in celebrating this wonderful achievement!

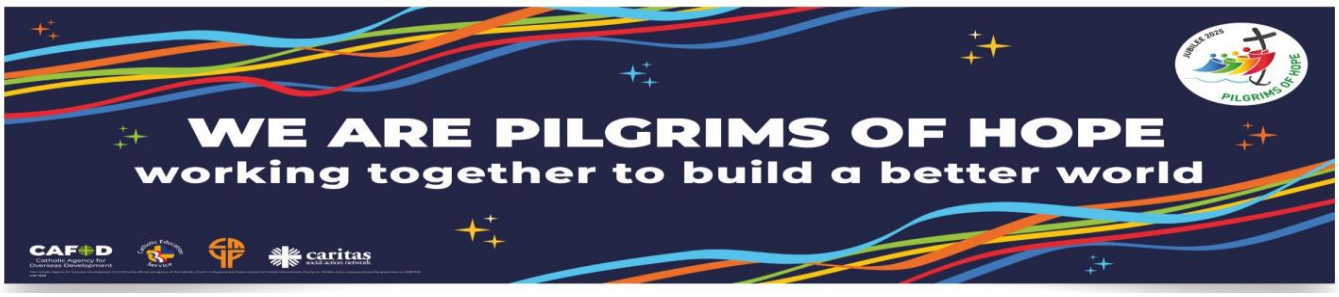
This week marked the start of some changes to our Breakfast Club provision, we have opened our doors earlier from 7:30am and are serving a wider range of breakfast food options. If our earlier start means you would like to access Breakfast Club do get in touch with the school Office who can get you booked up.

More Breakfast Club news- you may have seen in the press that St Teresa's is named as a school trialing the government's 'Universal Free Breakfast Club' during the summer term. Lots more detail will soon become available but what I can share in order to manage parental expectation from the outset is that, as set out by the government, this will be for 30mins before the register, so in our case this means 'free' after 8:15am and that this is being funded at 60p per pupil per day. My initial thoughts for existing Breakfast Club users who require childcare prior to 8:15am is that they will carry on using the provision as it is but they will be able to benefit from a daily subsidy saving during the trial period. It is likely we will set up a separate provision and ask parents to sign up in advance to access 'Universal Free Breakfast Club' (after 8:15am at no charge). The purpose of the trial is for us to act as testers and feedback following the trial to government as to the viability of the programme prior to a government planned nationwide rollout at some point in the future. **More details will be shared as our plan for making the most of this trial opportunity come together.**

Nursery news- as you will be aware St Teresa's has applied for a capital grant to incorporate a school-based nursery into our school. The government have notified us that decisions as to whether schools have been successful have been delayed, we should now be notified by May half-term. I know I get a couple of 'is it going ahead' update requests on the gate most weeks- I will of course keep you posted!

It's been a busy learning-packed week at school but I've run out of space to tell you about it so keep reading overleaf for more highlights and details of next week- Lent and book week…

God Bless Mrs Maguire



A message from Mr Peter Johnson – Chair of Governors:

OfSTED Inspection:

As you know, we can now share with you the result of our recent OfSTED inspection. Those of you who have made even a cursory glance at the criteria for outstanding will know how difficult it is to achieve this in any one area; to be graded outstanding in all areas is remarkable, and testament to all the hard work and dedication shown by the staff at St Teresa's, and the support of all those involved with our wonderful school. It was a real privilege to be present at the final feedback session, which was the best of its kind I have heard. The children often tell me that being at St Teresa's is like being in a family and even in the short time the inspection team were at the school this obviously became apparent. As they write in the report: '[the support that staff give their children] continues throughout the school, creating a strong sense of working together between families, staff and the wider community.' Congratulations to you, too, and may God bless you always.

Peter Johnson

Chair of Governors

Attendance Data

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

	Last week %	This week %
Reception	92.00	92.00
Year 1	97.67	98.00
Year 2	96.67	98.00
Year 3	98.13	98.75
Year 4	91.56	96.88
Year 5	94.06	93.75
Year 6	98.75	96.25
Whole School total:	95.55	96.24

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Well done to Year 3 for highest attendance this week!

Certificates

Congratulations to the following recipients of certificates!

	Catholic Social Teaching	Writer of the week	Doing Little Things Well
REC	Harper	Edward	Katie
Y1	Joyelaa	Logan	Mila
Y2	Augustus, Cora (from Miss Hilton)	Kunle	Fela
Y3	Eddie	Joshua (golden quill)	Toby
Y4	Erin	Karena	Olivia
Y5	Roberta	Jacob P	Evangeline
Y6	Isabella	Gabriel	Annabel

	Intellectual Curiosity	Friendship	Excellent Manners	Resilience
REC	Cara	Noah	Finley	Justin
Y1	Eric	Kucha	Alicia	Minnen
Y2	Clementine	Leo	Hugo	James
Y3	Harry	Laila	Alice H	Arlo
Y4	Alice	Josie	Kairos	Jayden
Y5	Ezra	Daniela	Alexandra	Sam
Y6	Mishel	Lisa	Alexandra	Oliver

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club starts at 7.30am.
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

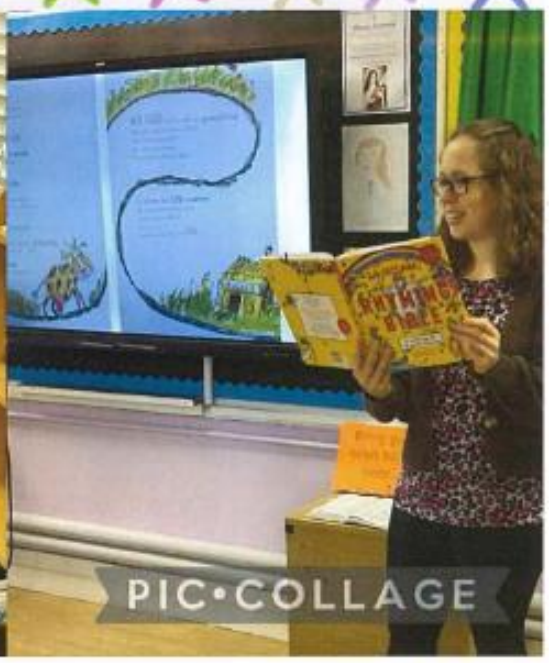
Places for the after school club must be booked via the school office.

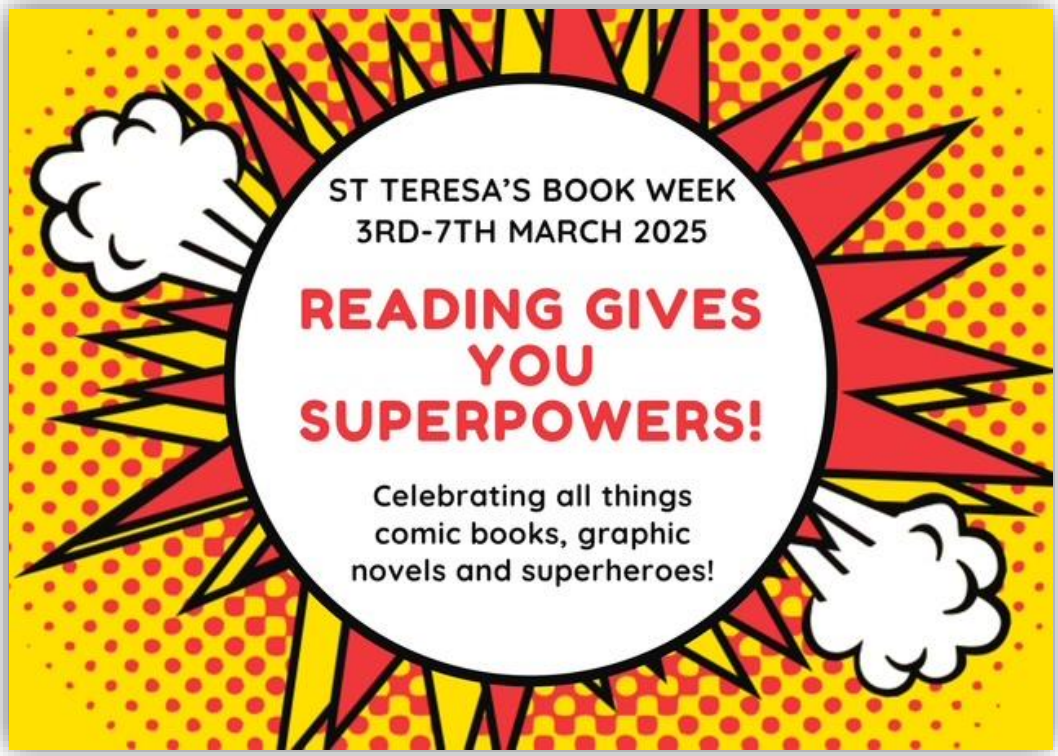
After School Club

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.

Dear parents and guardians,
We hope you're having a lovely week so far.
This week, we were very lucky to receive these beautiful Bibles from the Jerusalem Trust. They were given to us only on Wednesday and we have already been enjoying them and using them in our learning. We can't wait to hear more beautiful bible stories from these books and the ones which are being delivered shortly.
HOW LUCKY ARE WE!
Enjoy your weekend!





A message from Fr Riq Fernandez

As you may know, CAFOD have commissioned the production of an icon specifically for the Jubilee Year of Hope:

https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-icon

We are delighted to let you know that Chris Driscoll, the CAFOD community participation co-ordinator at the Diocese of Brentwood, has invited us to host the icon here at St Teresa's Church, Lexden next week from the morning of Monday 3rd of March to the morning of Thursday 6th March.

If your parish or school would like to visit the icon as groups or individuals you are very welcome to do so.

Our church will be open most of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week because of this, but we ask, if possible, to contact us in advance if you wish to plan a visit, please.

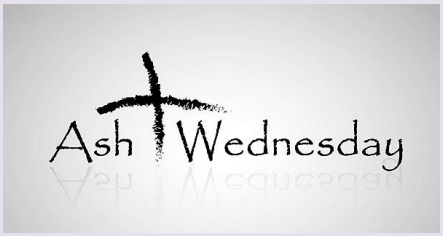
If you have any questions, please contact me, our office at the church or Mary and Peter Johnson our parish organisers at:

maryandpeter13@btinternet.com

Thanks for being part of this amazing event,

God bless you all...

Fr Riq Fernandez
Brentwood Diocese UK



Ash Wednesday Mass

You are all most welcome to join us for our Ash Wednesday Mass which will take place on **Wednesday 5th March at 10.00 am in the church.**

Mini Vinnies

Thank you to everyone who has already very kindly donated items for the toy sale. We have a wonderful array of items to sort through and I know that many people have asked if they can still bring donations in to school, therefore we have decided to hold the toy sale at the end of the spring term during the week beginning Monday 31st March.

Hopefully this will give you plenty of time to have a spring sort out to look for items to donate and to save up your pennies to purchase a new toy or book at the sale.

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

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
1/3/25 - 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

Essex Teaching Awards

We are excited to announce the Essex Teaching Awards, a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of our dedicated educators and staff. These awards honour those who go above and beyond to make a positive impact on our students and school community.

We need your help to ensure our amazing teachers and staff receive the recognition they deserve. If you know a teacher, teaching assistant, headteacher, or any other staff member who has made a difference in your child's education, please consider nominating them for an award.

Your nominations help us celebrate the hard work, dedication, and passion of our team. To submit a nomination, please visit https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/essex-teaching-awards

Thank you for your support in recognising the incredible efforts of our educators and staff. Together, we can celebrate the excellence in our school!

Ipswich School - Discovery Morning

Ipswich School have asked us to share the following information with our Year 5 parents:

Dear Parents

We would like to invite your child to our Discovery Morning on Saturday 17 May 2025. This would be an opportunity for them to experience Ipswich School and meet some of our teachers.
Starting at 9.15am, there will be sample lessons in a range of subjects such as science, humanities and languages. These are fun and interactive sessions which we hope will inspire your child as they start to think about senior school. Lunch will be provided for them at 12.45pm - you are welcome to join us - but if your child would prefer to bring a packed lunch, please let us know. We will finish at 1.30pm. Further details will be sent closer to the time.

If your child would like to come along, please book their place using the form on our website at

Event Registration Form

We do hope your child will join us! If you have any questions, please email admissions@ipswich.school.

Kind regards

The Admissions Team

EPINS Project

Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

This series of jointly run sessions for schools and parents/carers will explore nurturing the unique strengths of neurodiverse children and young people and provide advice and guidance on how to support them with the challenges they face. They aim to promote the use of consistent approaches from home and school. This is to ensure neurodiverse children are happy, healthy, supported and ready to learn and able to engage in the classroom. Any parent or carer is welcome to join regardless of whether their child has a neurodiverse diagnosis.

The recorded content of these sessions has been developed by the Psychology in Schools Team, Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, and will be facilitated by the EPINS Neurodiversity Inclusion Facilitators, part of Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Services.

BOOKING INSTRUCTIONS
To book your free place

Session 1: Neurodevelopmental Diversity:

What Every School and Parent Needs to Know

Tuesday 11th March, 7pm, MS Teams

Session 2: Learning and Executive Functioning

How Parents and School Staff can work together to support neurodivergent children

Wednesday 19th March, 7pm, MS Teams

Session 3: Emotional Regulation

How to support Neurodivergent children with emotional processing and anxiety (including how sensory differences may impact in this area)

Thursday 27th March, 7pm, MS Teams

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

ACL

Join Our Community – ADHD & ASD!

Become part of a community that understands and supports.
Our FREE online ADHD, and ASD sessions are more than just learning opportunities—they're a chance to connect, grow, and thrive together.

Understanding ASD in children	(a bitesize, online, 1 week session)
Understanding ADHD in children	(a bitesize, online, 1 week session)
Understanding ADHD & ASD In Girls	(online, 4 sessions over 4 weeks)

Whatever your situation, our non judgemental sessions have got it covered.

Sign Up!
Scan the QR code, or
Visit our website **aclessex.com**
and type **ASD** or **ADHD** in to the
'**Find a course**...' box

SCAN ME

COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING

asd ADHD ACL Essex County Council

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

The Essex Local Offer Roadshows for all Schools

The Essex Local Offer Roadshows are back! These are for parents/carers to visit and ask questions about SEND. The date for Colchester is:

- Wednesday 19 March 2025 – Colchester

The morning marketplace is for parents/carers of children with SEND aged 0 to 25. The afternoon marketplace has an early years focus. No booking is needed, just drop in.

Further information can be found by following the link below:

https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows

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.