

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



The Tale of the THREETREES

Wednesday 26th March at 6pm

Thursday 27th March at 2pm

Year 3 & 4 production of The Three Trees

Friday 28th March

Y4 trip to Suffolk Owl Sanctuary

Tues 1st April 3.45 - 6.15pm

Weds 2nd April 5.30 - 8.00pm

Parents' Evenings

A letter has been sent out on Seesaw and further details are information on how to book is overleaf. **Please note that today is the last day to book your choices.**

Dear parents, carers and friends,

It's been an unusual week in that I haven't been in school too much with a variety of conferences and off-site meetings however I know it's been a fabulous week which began with Miss Hilton leading our 'Celebration of the Word' on Monday. Miss Hilton shared scripture, the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert and encouraged the children to think about Jesus' 40 days and 40 nights in the desert and how that links to our Lenten promises. She shared three focus words with the children: pray, fast, give. The children were encouraged to think about the meaning of the three words and how we can live out our Lenten journey keeping God in our heart just like Jesus did in the desert. We thought about how we can pray, not just in the morning, at night or at school, but also at impromptu moments to grow closer to God.



The children were invited by Miss Hilton to join Wednesday Word which takes place on Wednesday lunchtime in the side chapel. She also shared the Family Fast Day envelopes with the children and explained how today is Family Fast day, a day to donate some money to those in the world less fortunate than us by fasting from something we enjoy e.g. sweets, TV, playing on a tablet. It was lovely to see so many envelopes returned to school today. If you still want to donate, please do send them in next week. The final focus word was give, and the children were told that on Wednesday 2nd April the whole school will be taking part in The Big Lenten Walk and next week they will receive a sponsorship form to ask for donations to support our global friends fighting poverty.

Another fabulous part of the week has been science week, orchestrated by Mrs Heath whereby every class has got involved with extra scientific exploration. I have heard (and seen on Seesaw) tales of rockets and explosions, Zooming in scientists, aeroplanes and more. As always, our teachers take a theme and blow us away with exciting learning, going above and beyond to bring curiosity to the classroom, curiosity which we know inspires learning. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in science week, including parents, who I know have helped us scavenge for resources.

Year 3/4 have started work on their Easter production, it's been such a joy to hear singing rehearsals coming from the hall. The dates and times for the performances are published to the side- we do hope parents, grandparents and parishioners will be able to join us.

Uniform reminders, including lost property- as we've experienced some warmer and sunnier weather children have inevitably been shedding layers in the form of coats and PE tracksuit tops which has led to a growing mass of lost property. We can always return named uniform however we cannot return unnamed uniform. Lost property will be placed on the bench in the front play ground where we hope it can be found by its owner. We have added to the collection a large array of lunchboxes- please claim your missing items and get them named. If items remain unclaimed they will be recycled.

With the warming weather we have also opened up the school field today for lunch time play. We don't use the field all year round due to the volumes of mud that end up on floors and uniforms so we're always a little tentative when we re-open the field. We will keep an eye on mud levels and adjust playtime accordingly.

It's been a sporty week at St Teresa's this week with Year 3/4 representatives attending a football tournament on Tuesday, Year 5/6 netball representatives playing an away match vs Lexden Primary and today a home football match vs Camulous. Well done to every pupil who has represented the school in sport this week.

Universal free breakfast club- I wrote to parents this week about the government trial St Teresa's is involved in. My letter is included again within this newsletter. Parents are encouraged to read the communication carefully and use the QR code to make their preferences known. Please note if you would like to use the provision during the first half of the summer term you must sign up by the 21st March.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. God Bless - Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	93.67	98.67
Year 1	99.33	98.33
Year 2	96.00	98.00
Year 3	98.75	96.88
Year 4	95.31	97.19
Year 5	96.25	93.75
Year 6	99.06	97.81
Whole School total:	96.93	97.20



Well done to Reception for highest attendance this week!

Certificates



Congratulations to the following recipients of certificates!



Catholic Social Teaching

REC Sophia
Y1 Aurelijus
Y2 Felicity
Y3 Stacey
Y4 Charlotte M
Y5 Eva
Y6 Aaron

Writer of the week

Dylan
Keira
Hugo
Arlo (golden quill)
Jayden
Oscar C
Lenora

Doing Little Things Well

Ace
Avryn
Robyn
Marina
Sia
Tallulah
Samuel

Intellectual Curiosity

REC Sam
Y1 Adrian
Y2 Grace
Y3 Amelia
Y4 Michaiiah
Y5 Jacob P
Y6 Nkenna

Friendship

Florence
Mila
Clementine
Spark
Jack
Miguel
Aila

Excellent Manners

Boaz
Casper
Cora
Alice H
Zara
Ezra
Tom

Resilience

Ehioma
Irene
Joshua
Arthur
Erin
Daniela
Marcus

Colouring Competitions: KS1 Winners - Bogi and Joshua

KS2 Winners - Matilda and Jacob P

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

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



Dear Parents and Carers

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Breakfast Club and Early-Adopter Universal Free Breakfast Club

The following letter includes lots of information regarding Breakfast Club and the Universal Free Breakfast Club (UFBC) Trial. It is important to read this letter fully whether you are an existing or potentially new Breakfast Club user or if you may wish to consider taking advantage of the new trial of Universal Free Breakfast Club (UFBC).

Universal Free Breakfast Club is a government initiative that St Teresa's is trialling alongside 700 schools in the country; we will be known as an Early-Adopter school. The UFBC will be universally available to any pupil from Reception to Year 6. Universal Free Breakfast Club will run alongside our paid for 'Early Bird' provision. Details of how to sign up for UFBC are included at the bottom of this letter.

Our existing Breakfast Club opens from 7:30am to provide early morning childcare whilst serving a range of healthy breakfast choices. To help us in differentiating between our different provisions we are naming our existing Breakfast Club 'Early Birds'. As of 22nd April, when we return to school after the Easter holidays, the charge for 'Early Birds' Breakfast Club will be £3.40 per day. However, all existing users of 'Early Birds' can still benefit from the UFBC as a subsidy will be applied to our charges of £0.60p per day- this will be applied whilst St Teresa's is part of the UFBC trial. This will reduce the price of 'Early Birds' Breakfast Club to £2.80 per day from 22nd April.

Universal Free Breakfast Club- UFBC- will open from 8:15am to provide childcare whilst serving a healthy breakfast. There will be no charge for UFBC however you will need to sign up to use it.

We have not yet decided where our UFBC will be located but we will write with more details when we know how many children are signed up.

Please note that from after Easter all Breakfast Club bookings, either for 'Early Bird' or 'UFBC' will be bookable via Parent Pay online- details of how to do this will be shared later this term.

To help us plan and staff all our Breakfast Club provisions including 'Early Bird' and 'UFBC' we are asking ALL parents who wish to use either provision to make their preferences known. It is important we get this information ASAP. To support us managing this new provision parents will only be able to sign-up to UFBC once every half term. The cut-off to access UFBC between Easter and May half term is **March 21st**.

Please use the following link <https://forms.office.com/e/EKqb5W668T?origin=lprLink> or scan the QR code below to advise of your preferences via an online form - thank you.

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



On Tuesday 11th March, 10 children from year 3 and 4 participated in the Colchester and Blackwater football tournament.

They demonstrated fantastic skill and sportsmanship and enjoyed every second.

Thank you to Mrs Osman-St Luce and Mrs Fagg who transported the children and provided wonderful support from the sideline.



PIC•COLLAGE



FRIDAY 21 MARCH

Your Voice would like your support to raise money for Comic Relief.

Non- uniform day – make a donation to come to school in non-uniform on Friday 21st March, wearing something red or wear an 80s inspired outfit to celebrate 40 years of Comic Relief.

Take part in our Red Nose Day Quiz about all things red!

If you get more than 10 answers correct your name will be entered into a draw to win a prize.

The quiz sheets will be handed out on Friday 14th March and will need to be returned by Wednesday 19th March.

£1 to enter

I am juicy, often shiny and you may eat me for snack. What am I?

Have fun on the day at school by taking part in our Red Nose Day Treasure hunt.



Please use the link below to donate directly to Comic Relief
<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18066>

You will of course be welcome to use cash to enter the quiz and make a donation

Parents' Evenings - Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd April 2025

A reminder that parent's evenings will be take place on Tuesday 1st April (3.45pm - 6.15pm) and Wednesday 2nd April (5.30pm - 8.00pm).

A letter was shared via seesaw earlier in the week giving further details.

Please use the link or QR code below to access a form where you can choose your first and second choice of time slot

<https://forms.office.com/e/DmDr4ZVHsv>



Please ensure that you have made your choices by Friday 14th March as the link will no longer be active after this date.

Letters confirming your appointment date and time will be sent home during the week beginning 24th March.

We look forward to welcoming you all.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME for Jubilee Year of Hope

Fr Riq has asked us to share the following information via our newsletter:

St Teresa's Church Lexden: JUNE 17TH - 24TH 2025

If you are interested, please contact Katherine Edwards on 07799692045 for further details.
If you require a single room, please contact Katherine as soon as possible due to possible lack of availability.

It also includes attendance to the Diaconate Ordination Mass (only) of our Brentwood Diocesan Seminarian: André Ilies at St Paul's Basilica on the 18th of June at 10am.

Fr Dariusz Krok as Pilgrimage director, with the assistance of Fr Tom Lavin.

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

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



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



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

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

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)

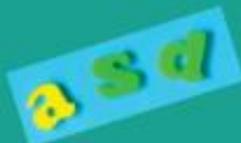
Whatever your situation, our non judgemental sessions have got it covered.

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



Essex County Council

ACL

FREE

**FAMILY SUPPORT
SESSIONS FOR PARENT
& CARERS**

ONLINE



**An opportunity for parents/carers, to come along and connect with a community dedicated to positive growth and development.
All sessions are online**

Sibling Rivalry

11/03/2025 1900 - 2100 Search 'Sibling' via our website

Sleep For Wellbeing

13/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Bitesize Sleep' via our website

Managing Big Emotions

25/03/2025 1900 - 2100 or 28/03/2025 1230 - 1430
Search 'Big Emotions' via our website

Family Wellbeing

27/03/2025 0930 - 1130 Search 'Family Wellbeing' via our website

Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type the key words above in to the 'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY & FAMILY
LEARNING**


Essex County Council



OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY
24TH APRIL
2025

5PM TO 7PM

COLCHESTER COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, NORMAN
WAY, CO3 3US

SCAN TO REGISTER



FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.COLCHESTERTTC.ORG.UK
01206 364728



ACL



Empower Yourself with Essential First Aid Skills

Join our **FREE** Family First Aid sessions to gain the knowledge and confidence to handle common emergencies. Ensure your loved ones are safe with practical skills.

Course Highlights

Everyday first aid techniques, Confidence to act swiftly

Why Attend?

Empower yourself, Connect with local parents and carers, Ensure your family's safety

 When: Book now for sessions taking place March to July 2025

 Where: Chelmsford, Colchester, or Witham

Don't miss out—sign up today!

Visit our website acessex.com and type 'Family First Aid' in to the 'Find a course...' box

COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING



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>



Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities

SPRING TERM ESSEX LOCAL OFFER ROADSHOWS



Help us improve our information
Tell us about your experience to help us make our website work better for you



Are you a parent or carer of a young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0 to 25? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Essex Local Offer Roadshows.



You can chat with teams from Education, Health and Social Care, as well as local support groups and activity providers.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 9:30am and 12:30pm



Book your place on free workshops



Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:
<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>

In Partnership with



Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities



EARLY YEARS ESSEX LOCAL OFFER ROADSHOWS



Are you a

- parent or carer
- Early Years SENCO
- keyworker



of a child aged 0 to 5 with additional needs? Do you want to know what support is available in your area? Come along to one of our Early Years Essex Local Offer Roadshows.



The marketplace is free and there is no need to book. Children are welcome!



Drop in between 1:30pm and 4pm



Book your place on free workshops



Scan the QR Code for all the information, including dates and venues or visit the Essex Local Offer at:
<https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>

In Partnership with



JOIN
SEND THE RIGHT MESSAGE
CHARITY

Drop-in

SEND
COFFEE MORNING



10AM - 12NOON



Thursday 20th March



STRM Head Office
320D High Road
Benfleet SS7 5HB



info@strmsupport.co.uk



07359 068 827



www.strmsupport.co.uk

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

COMPETITION! WIN A FREE WEEK AT CAMP!

PLUS £250 DONATION FOR YOUR
SCHOOL AND A MINI BILLY TOY!

KIDS COMPETITION

Task: Design a new activity for Easter 2025! ☆

ACTIVITY COULD BE:

- ⦿ Based on existing activity with a twist
- ⦿ Repurposing equipment to play in another way
- ⦿ Add your theme to an activity
- ⦿ An activity you love already which you'd like to see at camp

WE WILL REPLICATE YOUR ACTIVITY IDEA AT CAMP!



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WIN A
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SCAN ME!



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TO WIN!

ENTRIES SUBMITTED TO
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BY 25TH MARCH

INCLUDE YOUR NAME, AGE
& NAME & LOCATION OF
SCHOOL WITH YOUR
ENTRY!

Winner announced 27th March
Camp open dates 7th - 17th April



Essex Fire Museum Open Days



Saturday 29th
March

10:30AM
To
4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now



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RUN BY ESSEX CRICKET, COLCHESTER UNITED AND CRICKET
CHARITY CHANCE TO SHINE

TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE OR CONTACT
IAN.GRAY@ESSEXCRICKET.ORG.UK