

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

Parents' Evenings

Tues 1st April
3.45 - 6.15pm

Weds 2nd April
5.30 - 8.00pm

Letters giving your appointment date and time have been sent home via the children. If you have not yet booked an appointment and would like to see your child's class teacher, please contact the school office ASAP.

Weds 2nd April:
Y3 trip to Colchester Castle

Friday 4th April:
1.30pm Stations of the Cross

**School finishes at 2.30pm on
Friday 4th April**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week thinking about a fig tree. This was a fig tree that had never borne fruit and a decision needed to be made as to whether it should be cut down. The gardener in our story pleaded to give the tree one more year and avidly dug around the tree enhancing the soil with fertiliser.

We thought about why Jesus told this story. We thought that the tree represents us as God's people and that the fruits God wants us to produce are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. God says, Jesus' teachings are the fertiliser - without them we can't be fruitful.

We never heard in the scripture story whether the tree ever did produce figs but we thought about how, as we continue on our Lenten journey, we could reflect on the 'fruits' we may be lacking and work hard with God as our 'fertiliser' to bear plentiful fruit in the future.

The fig tree wasn't the only tree we thought about this week. In fact, Year 3 and 4 helped us to think about three very special trees with their performances of our Easter production. The school watched the dress rehearsal and parents, carers and friends joined us for performances on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon. The story of the trees gives us hope in God's great plans for us. Year 3/4 asked their audiences for donations, as part of their almsgiving this Lent, and over both performances the classes raised £214 for BCCS- The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. I was such a proud Headteacher, proud of the beautiful performances but also of the classes' clear understanding of the poignant message of the play and that they took the opportunity to put their Catholic social teaching into action with the fundraising. Thank you to all the staff that brought these performances together and to the children for their beautiful singing.

All week we have been thinking about ASPIRATIONS and Mrs Lewis has orchestrated 'Aspirations Week'. It has been a huge success filled with visitors from far and wide showcasing a wide range of careers. There has been great opportunity for curiosity and I have been amazed by the range of questions our children have thought to ask our visitors. A huge thank you to Mr Brotherton, Mr Frost, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Gosling, Mr Ramtohul, Miss Gooneratne, Mr Leeder, Miss Parker, Miss Huish, Mr Mitchell, Father Riq and Mr Selway (and Mrs Lewis has said I must also put my own name) who gave up their time to inspire our children.

Some exciting news that has come my way this week is that Mrs Dyball our Pastoral Lead has celebrated completing her ELSA training- that means she is a qualified Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Being able to offer ELSA support will greatly enhance our SEMH provision. Well done Mrs Dyball.

Well done to our footballers who played away to St John's school in the week and our netballers who played away to Lexden Primary today. Every player represented the school admirably. Very well done!

On Tuesday evening Year 1 children and parents came back to school for a fantastic 'Look Up' exhibition. The children came back to school in the evening wearing their pyjamas and shared lots of their learning around flight. They had a special indoor picnic with their siblings and enjoyed a space story before going home. Sadly, it was too cloudy to see any stars! Thank you so much to Miss Hilton for making this such a special and memorable evening.

Year 4 certainly have had a busy week, as well as the Easter production they have also squeezed in a school trip today to Suffolk Owl Sanctuary. Great work team Year 4!

Next week we turn our attention to the final stages of our Lenten journey. Whilst it may not be Holy Week next week, as a school community it will be. Each day we will turn our minds to the special journey Jesus took during the final week of his life on earth including the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. All parents are warmly invited to attend some of our poignant reflections - please see page 3 for the schedule of events. You are also warmly invited to attend a whole-school Stations of the Cross at 1:30pm on Friday in Church. School finishes for the term directly after the service at 2.30pm.

God bless, Mrs Maguire

Third Sunday of Lent

"Leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year."

Luke 13:9



Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	98.00	94.00
Year 1	94.00	96.00
Year 2	99.00	92.33
Year 3	96.88	93.75
Year 4	98.44	97.19
Year 5	95.00	95.63
Year 6	98.11	96.13
Whole School total:	97.06	95.02



Well done to Year 4 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 Ehioma
Y1 Oliver, Aurelijus
Y2 Charlie
Y3 Ellie
Y4 *School trip so no certificates this week.*
Y5 Ezra
Y6 Leila

Florence
Hermione
Grace
Stacey
Oscar C
Charlie (*Golden Quill*)

Sophie
Scarlett
James
Lydia
Harriet
Mason

Intellectual Curiosity

Friendship

Excellent Manners

Resilience

REC Ace
Y1 Kester
Y2 Robyn
Y3 Spark
Y4 *School trip so no certificates this week.*
Y5 Amira
Y6 Blake

Justin
Amelia
Bertie
Harry
Jacob T
Bayonle

Demyras
Emily
Irene
Holly
Josie
Aila

Harry
Kucha
Kunmi
Henry
Freddie
Victoria

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.



Holy Week



Monday Assembly

Reflecting on the events of Palm Sunday.
Parents welcome to attend at 10.10am.



LENTEN
RECONCILIATION

Wednesday

Lenten Reconciliation Service
Parents welcome to attend at 9.10am.

THE **BIG** LENT
WALK



Thursday Assembly

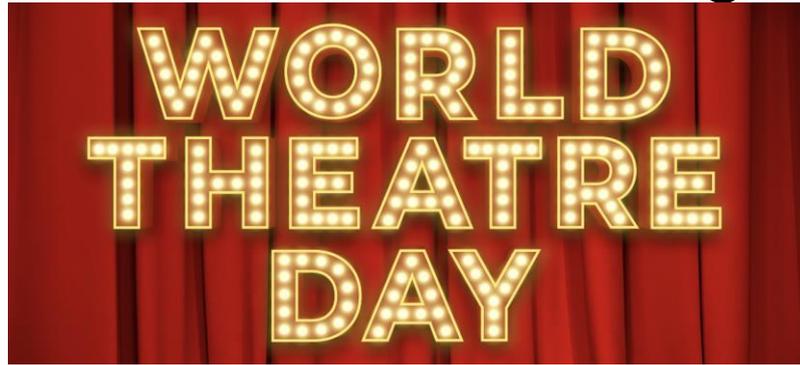
Reflecting on the events of Maundy Thursday.
Parents welcome to attend at 2.30pm.



Friday

Stations of the Cross in Church.
Parents welcome to attend at 1.30pm
School ends at 2.30pm.

Catholic Social Teaching Corner



We all have the right and duty to participate fully in society.

This week our Global Assembly focus was on World Theatre Day and was led by Mr Rees. Mr Rees told us that before he became a teacher, he was an actor! He shared some of his history as an actor and asked everyone about their experiences of theatre. We reflected on our joint experience of going to the Mercury Theatre to see Peter Pan at Christmas. Some children shared that they had been to other theatres including theatres in London. Mr Rees spoke to us about the West End and how lots of shows are shared with the public every day to bring them happiness and enjoyment. We watched a short video about people who work at the Lion King and learned that some children are actors in the West End! We learned also that lots of people make theatre shows happen including directors, actors, lighting technicians, make-up artists. Mr Rees shared how we can be involved in theatre not just as audience members but through different roles such as those mentioned above. He was very happy to see lots of hands up when he asked whether the children go to acting classes! I think it's safe to say having watched Three Little Trees this week, we certainly have lots of talented actors and actresses at St Teresa's! Mr Rees reminded us about Patariki the Penguin and how we should use our gifts and talents because they are our God given gifts.

Taking part

Loving God,

We believe that everyone has special gifts and talents.

Thank you for the gifts you have given us.

Help us to make sure everyone can use the talents you gave them.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer



Participation

'Outstanding primary where the pupils flourish and succeed'



OUTSTANDING - pupils from St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Lexden, with headteacher Becky Maguire

Image: St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Flawless school awarded top marks by watchdog

A CATHOLIC primary school has been praised for being "highly inclusive" while delivering excellent progress.

St Teresa's in Clairmont Road, Lexden, underwent an inspection by education watchdog Ofsted on January 21 and 22.

The last visit was carried out in 2014, which resulted in it being rated outstanding. Now, once again, the school has been handed the coveted rating.

The Ofsted report states: "This is a school where pu-

By NATALIE HENSEL
natalie.hensel@newsquest.co.uk

pils flourish and succeed. They leave with strong academic outcomes and an exceptionally well-developed social and moral compass."

Staff at St Teresa's were deemed "highly skilled" and delivered strong standards while identifying pupils' individual needs.

The report said: "The school is highly inclusive and staff are knowledgeable about how to adapt learning to enable pupils to succeed.

"Pupils with SEND use a wide range of resources where necessary, including technology, to help them succeed. They access the same rich curriculum as others."

The overall behaviour of students is "impeccable", according to the inspector, who highlighted pupils' attentiveness and concentration.

The report adds: "Parents and carers value the support staff give their children when they start so they make a racing start to their

education.

"This continues throughout the school, creating a strong sense of working together between families, staff and the wider community."

Headteacher Becky Maguire said she was "tremendously proud of the whole team".

She said: "They thoroughly deserve credit for their dedication, it is right to have their work recognised in this way.

"It has been eleven years since our previous inspec-

tion so I must acknowledge the work of school leaders, staff and pupils that have passed through our school during that time. With every change and challenge that has come throughout that period, clearly St Teresa's has continued to thrive and grow as is demonstrated in this wonderful outcome.

"It is such a privilege to serve this community. St Teresa's is blessed with very talented and passionate staff, including exceptional teachers who go above and beyond week in, week out."

Breakfast club



Breakfast club and wrap around bookings



As you will be aware we are moving to an online booking system for Early Bird Breakfast Club, Wrap-Around Club and Universal Free Breakfast Club via Parent Pay. We are in the process of writing instruction letters to make the transfer as smooth and clear as possible for parents. These will be shared next week once the existing system ceases.

To support us with the crossover we will stop taking payments for breakfast club and wrap-around using the existing methods on Monday 31st March. If you need to book or pay for sessions for next week, please do these ASAP and at the absolute latest by the 31st of March.

It would also greatly assist us if any outstanding amounts on the current system are settled before the change-over which we plan to complete on April 2nd. If your account is in credit this will be transferred. It is important for us to emphasise that if your account is in debit, you will not be able to make new bookings using the new method until this is cleared.

Message for Year 6 Parents and Carers - Leavers' Mass

As you will know in previous years we have held the Year 6 leavers' mass as part of the whole school end of the academic year mass. We try to make the mass especially poignant for Year 6 but as we are also celebrating the whole school this can make the mass very long.

This year we have decided to plan our celebrations a bit differently, we will still have our traditional end of term mass on the last day of term, however we are planning a very special leavers mass, just for Year 6 and their families on July 17th at 6.00pm with a reception afterwards. We hope that hosting a mass in the evening will allow for more family and friends to join us and because the mass is just about Year 6 we can make it even more special.

Please do put the date in your diary and await further information from Year 6 when they begin their planning of the mass.



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

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



Comic Relief



Your Voice would like to thank everyone who supported Comic Relief by wearing red last Friday.

Thank you also to everyone who entered the Red Nose Day Competition. The prize draw took place in assembly yesterday.

Well done to the lucky winners - Ellie Y3, Nkenna Y6, Cormac Y3, Alex Y4, Millie Y5, Tallulah Y5, Keira Y1, Delilah Y2, Joshua Y3, Harry Reception, Alexandria Y5, Eric Y1, Halsten Y3, Henry Y3 and Myles Y3.

So far, we have raised about £100. If you have not yet made your £1 donation for wearing red last week, please do. The link <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18066> is still active.

Thank you once again
Your Voice

Diversity festival 2025

On Friday the 21st of March 3 pupils attended the Diversity festival in Harwich and learnt about diversity in the world.



Here we are learning different kinds of sign language such as animals and fruits.



This is a wall with many things to feel and touch this is good for some people with different disabilities.



This was a braille typewriter. Braille is a special language for the blind made out of dots.

There was a big room with drums and a man who taught us different kinds of ways to make music!



In here we learn a special kind of dancing called Bollywood dancing (a special Indian dance) it was super fun!



PIC•COLLAGE

Our year 6 boys' team played an away match against St John's on Tuesday. It was a fantastic match resulting in a 3-2 win. BRILLIANT. As always, I am so incredibly proud of their sportsmanship and skill. Well done boys!



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA S

EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE

£1 A TICKET

4 HAMPERS TO BE WON!

Tickets available to purchase on
ParentPay until Easter Sunday, 20th April

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED
WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL**



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040

FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S

Quiz Night

Get your team together and book now to support the Friends of St Teresa's, Colchester!

— QUIZ — RAFFLE — GAMES — CHALLENGES —

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL, 2025

St Teresa's School Hall

Doors open 7pm,
Quiz start 7:30pm

£25 PER TABLE

Teams of up to 8

WIN

Prizes for the Best Team
Name & Best Table
Decoration - get creative!

NO TEAM?

Come along anyway and join others,
or help us out with the event!

Pay now on ParentPay or email fost@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040

Inclusive U's football camp

Please use this link to book

<https://colchester-united-cf.classforkids.io/camp/688>



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

**CLICK
HERE TO
BOOK**



Premier League
**Disability Football
Festival**

INCLUSIVE U'S FOOTBALL CAMP

WHO? Young people aged 5-16 with
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
WHEN? Friday 11th April, 10am-2pm
WHERE? Shrub End Community and Sports Centre, CO2 9BG
COST? £15

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- » **Expert Coaching:** sessions will be led by our FA qualified coaches, who are experienced in working with SEND players.
- » **Skills Development:** enhance your skills through fun football drills, including passing, dribbling, shooting and much more.
- » **Special Guests:** meet Colchester United players and club mascot Eddie the Eagle!
- » **Exciting Rewards:** every participant will receive a Colchester United themed prize, with additional medals and trophies available to be won.

**TO INSPIRE, ENRICH
AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITIES**

Registered Charity Number: 1159381

www.cu-fc.com/cucf
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01206 755160
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#enrichourcommunities



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



Spring into our free Easter Egg Hunt



love every drop
anglianwater



Explore our park to find giant easter eggs hand decorated by local community groups, each marked with a hidden word.

Watersports Centre – Alton Water

**Saturday 12 to
Monday 21 April**

10am to 4pm daily

No need to book,
just turn up.



Scan the QR code to find out more
or visit anglianwaterparks.co.uk/alton-water

Alton Watersports, Holbrook Road, Stutton, Ipswich. IP9 2RY



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'THE RAINBOW FISH' BY MARCUS PFISTER**

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**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SCULPT, CRAFT AND CREATE AN
ORIGINAL ARTWORK ON CANVAS**

MONDAY 14TH APRIL

**10AM-2 PM £40
BRING A PACKED LUNCH AND
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SUPPLIED**

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BOOKING EARLY ADVISED, LIMITED SPACES**



CHILD CARE ONLY
£3.85
PER HOUR



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

OUR EASTER CLUBS ARE PERFECT FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO LIKE TO BE ACTIVE AND ON THE MOVE.

Our clubs are a fantastic place for children to meet new friends, have lots of fun, and create wonderful memories! Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before – from dodgeball to cricket, basketball to archery.



SCAN HERE TO BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE

or visit premier-education.com/holiday-camps



Based on over 20,000 reviews

YOUR NEAREST HOLIDAY CLUBS...

Colchester:

King's Ford Infant School .✦
10th and 17th April 09:00 – 15:30

Chelmsford:

Galleywood Infant School
7th-10th & 14th-17th April 09:00 – 15:30

Manningtree:

Lawford Primary School .✦
7th-9th & 14th-16th April 08:00 – 17:30

.✦ Accepts tax free payments/childcare vouchers

PLEASE BRING

A packed lunch
Plenty of water
Suitable clothing
Loads of energy!



SCAN HERE TO BOOK
YOUR CHILD'S PLACE

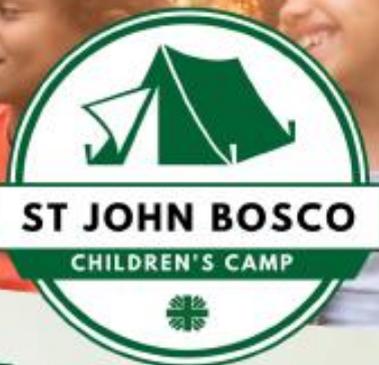
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**26th July
-
2nd Aug
2025**



SUMMER CAMP

**Residential Camp
For Children aged
9-12 Years Old**



£195

Per child

Expected donation



A week-long summer camp where children can explore the outdoors, make new friends, and enjoy a fun-filled activity program.

Set in a supportive environment grounded in Catholic values, helping them grow in both faith and character.

ACTIVITIES

- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Many Sports
- Swimming
- Climbing
- Team Challenges
- Table Tennis
- Volley Ball



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A special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our camp is proudly run by volunteers from various backgrounds, spanning education, healthcare, and other professional fields.

We believe in creating an inclusive environment where each child is respected, nurtured, and encouraged to explore their talents. Just like the children we serve, our volunteers are unique individuals, each bringing their own strengths and experiences to enrich the camp experience.

Rest assured, our volunteers undergo thorough screening: interview, DBS Check, and two references. This ensures only trustworthy individuals care for your children at our camp.



OUR SITE



The camp at Abbotswick offers children an outdoor adventure experience in picturesque surroundings. Children stay in tents, enjoy three daily meals, and participate in various activities in a safe, protected environment.

COST

The expected contribution for your child to stay at camp for a week is **£195**.

It's worth noting that this cost is subsidised by charitable events organised by the charity throughout the year. This fee covers all meals and includes participation in all activities for the week.

Financial aid may be accessible through schools, local organisations or your local Catholic parish.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the camp application form available at www.boscocamp.co.uk.

Please be aware that all applications will undergo review by our bookings team to assess suitability.

Whilst we consider all applications, we expect to be heavily oversubscribed, so very sadly cannot offer a place to every applicant.



Scan QR Code
Application

CONTACT US

☎ 07955 214180

✉ boscocamp@brcdt.org





EASTER HOLIDAYS COLCHESTER FOOTBALL CAMP

Stanway School, Winstree Road, Colchester CO3 0QA.

2 Day Camps

Mon 7th & Tues 8th • Mon 14th & Tue 15th April

10am-1pm • Age 4-5 years • £20 per day

10am-3pm • Age 6-12 years • £25 per day



⚽ **Book Both Days, Save £10!** ⚽



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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



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www.scssports.co.uk



A Journey with a Donkey: A Pilgrim's Adventure!

Educational Day for Year 5 pupils

Saturday 16 May 2025
8.45am - 12.15pm



Book Now



A Journey with a Donkey: A Pilgrim's Adventure!

We are pleased to invite Year 5 pupils to join us for an upcoming Educational Day at New Hall School on Saturday 16 May 2025, from 8.45am to 12.15pm.

This exciting morning of discovery and adventure will take pupils on a memorable 'pilgrimage' across our 70-acre site. Along the way, they will solve creative challenges, experience the joy of cooking, put their determination and courage to the test, and meet our friendly farm animals.

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2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

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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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school holiday
activity camp!!!

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MINI
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TO WIN!

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



OFSTED REGISTERED



Trustpilot



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