



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 4th April 2025

Term Dates 2024 - 2025

Summer Term 2025:

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 at 2.30pm
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 at 2.30pm
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 at 2.30 pm
Mon 20th July is a non-pupil day



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

During this last week of term before the Easter holidays, we have taken the opportunity to reflect on the events of Holy week through daily worship.

On Monday we reflected on Palm Sunday and the welcome Jesus received arriving in Jerusalem, a King riding on a donkey! We thought about how we can be welcoming and how we should try to see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet.



On Wednesday we met together in a service of Reconciliation- using the time to reflect, to examine our conscience and to say sorry.



LENTE
RECONCILIATION

On Thursday we met to reflect on the last supper- how Jesus washed his disciples' feet to model how we should be servants to one another; how he took the bread and wine and asked us to remember these as his body and blood and how he gave us a new commandment- to love one another.



We finished the week this afternoon with stations of the cross. We hope we have marked this week with spiritual poignancy.



The whole school community walked over 400,000 steps on Wednesday as we completed our Lenten CAFOD walk. Well done to everyone who has collected a sponsor.

We had very almost 100% attendance at parents' evenings this week at school. We hope you found the opportunity to see your child's books and discuss your child's attainment, progress and development with their class teacher informative and helpful.

Year 3 enjoyed a school trip to Colchester Castle this week. I'm told it was a fantastic day- thank you to our parent helpers who accompanied the trip and to all parents for supporting our dropping off / collection arrangements.

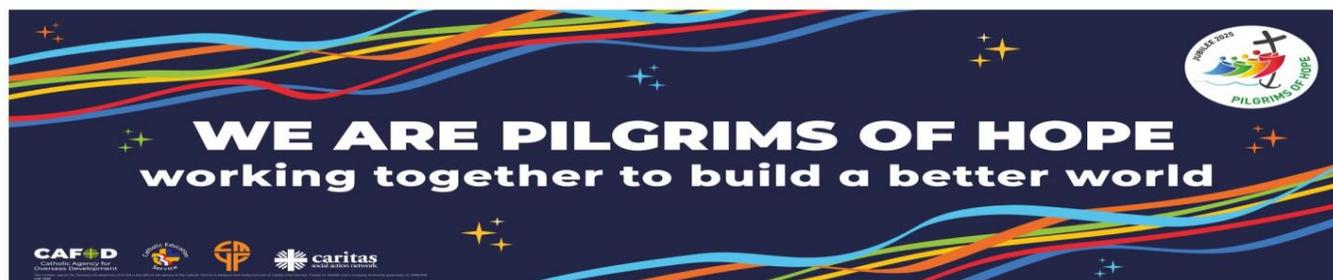
After Easter we begin opening our doors at 8:15am to children whose parents signed up to Universal Free Breakfast Club. We are also now able to take bookings on our new club booking system linked to parent pay. There is no rush to book Early-Bird or Wrap-Around as we no longer cap our numbers. The booking system should help us with admin and planning for adequate staffing- please do bear with us as we get used to it too!

Nursery news- I'm often asked about whether we have heard about our nursery bid and yesterday I found out that St Teresa's has been successful in obtaining a capital grant to create a nursery provision. This is a great first step. There are a few more hoops to jump through before it's a full green light. I will start the hoop jumping with haste after the Easter holidays which will include re-running our consultation and creating an 'interest list' for places.

The end of term marks one good-bye and one good-luck. Firstly, we'd love to wish Mr Rees (Y6 Trainee Teacher) our very best wishes as he is getting married over the Easter holidays- good-luck and congratulations! Our goodbye is to Mrs Hardy- Mrs Hardy has worked at St Teresa's for the past seven years as a midday assistant. Thank you, Mrs Hardy, for your service to our school and good-luck with your new opportunity!

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a wonderful holiday - I pray the sun shines. When it comes, I wish you all a blessed and joyful Easter!

God Bless, Mrs Maguire



Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	94.00	89.33
Year 1	96.00	96.00
Year 2	92.33	97.67
Year 3	93.75	85.94
Year 4	97.19	89.69
Year 5	95.63	95.31
Year 6	96.13	97.10
Whole School total:	95.02	92.95



Well done to Year 2 for highest attendance this week!

Certificates

There was no celebration assembly this week as the whole school attended Stations of the Cross in Church this afternoon.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast club starts at 7.30am.
Food will be served until 8.40am.

Children will be escorted to class up till 8.45am

Those signed up to UFBC- a reminder this is available after 8:15am ONLY.

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 your child's ParentPay account.

The cost is £9 per child per session



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



We believe in putting people in most need first

This week our Global Assembly focus was on World Health Day (7th April) and was led by Miss Gooneratne.

Miss Gooneratne began her assembly by encouraging us to reflect on Poppy the Popokotea's Catholic Social Teaching message of putting people in most need first and how we are encouraged to 'work wherever the need is greatest, refuse to accept the suffering of our brothers and sisters. No one should be beyond reach of the love and support they need.'

We explored this year's theme for World Health Day – Global Action for Universal Health. We thought about how not everyone is as lucky as us to have health care and how we can support our global brothers and sisters, including raising money, just like we have this week through our Big Lent Walk. Miss Gooneratne asked us to think about what health means and how we can be healthy, looking after ourselves. It was wonderful to see the children recognise how they can support their own physical health, but also recognising that mental health and emotional health are also really important and how we should spend time talking and listening to each other. We reflected on how our health is so important and how we should take time to exercise, drink plenty of water, get the right amount of sleep and use our voices more if we have worries or concerns. We had lots of fun dancing together in our assembly, getting active, laughing and having fun!

Loving God,

We believe that when we serve the poor we serve you.

Help us to take special care of those people most in need.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer



Holy Week



This week was our Holy Week at school as we will not be together as a school community for Holy Week. We began the week with a Palm Sunday celebration with each class travelling to Jerusalem giving praise to God moving from the playground into the hall. Year 1 role played the people of Jerusalem praising Jesus and waving their palms. We reflected on how Palm Sunday is a celebration that marks the beginning of Holy Week. On Wednesday we came together again, this time for a Reconciliation Service in which we open our hearts to God and asked for his forgiveness as we continue to grow closer to God this Lent. On Thursday with the help of children in Year 2, we learned about the events of Maundy Thursday when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, shared his last supper and gave them the instruction of loving one another. Today we gathered in the church for a special Stations of the Cross. With the help of Year 5, we heard the story of the last moments of Jesus' life and how he suffered to forgive our sins as we focused on the Stations of the Cross. Each station was brought to life and Year 5 read about each station, helping us to reflect on what happened and how Jesus and his loved ones must have felt.



THE BIG LENT WALK

This year we decided to hold our Big Lent Walk on our school Holy Week in the last week of term. On Wednesday we embarked on our Big Lent Walk in the park and we walked in unison around the perimeter of the field covering just over 2.5km. We had lots of fun walking and talking, spending time with our friends on a beautifully sunny yet windy day raising money for our brothers and sisters in the world who are less fortunate than us. Collectively we have walked over 500km and collected an amazingly generous £580 in sponsorship. Alongside the £104.50 that was collected for Family Fast Day, amazingly it looks like we can support the building of a water tank and platform to store rainwater, which will make a huge difference to a community's life.

Thank you to everyone who generously sponsored and donated money for this important cause and thank you to the children for being so determined in making a difference to the lives of others by walking and taking action.

HOW CAN YOUR SPONSORSHIP HELP?

£28

can buy 10 metres of shade netting to protect young plants from the scorching sun until they are strong enough to grow on their own

£148

can pay the labour costs to build a plant nursery out of anti-greenhouse netting, including installing steel beams and concrete foundations to keep crops safe for years to come.

£737

can build a 5000ltr water tank and platform to store rainwater for use in growing crops



TOY SALE



The Mini Vinnies have worked so incredibly hard this week to put on two toy sales - advertising, setting up and selling items to raise money for a local charity that offers support to families of children with special needs and disabilities in Colchester and the surrounding area. We are so lucky as a school to have such supportive parents who have not only donated the toys, but then come back and bought toys and raffle tickets to raise money for our focus charity. The Mini Vinnies group are so dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others and doing so with a huge smile on their faces. I am so proud of every single member who has given up their lunchtimes to help make this week's fundraising possible. We are very happy to announce that thanks to your generosity, we have managed to raise an incredible £310.32 for SNAP and will be donating it to them after the Easter Holidays. It looks like our donations will go a long way to supporting children in our local community. Thank you once again for your generosity!





Class Photographs

Please be aware that the photographer will be visiting school on Monday 28th April to take the class group photographs. Please can you ensure that your child has their cardigan / jumper with them on that day.

He will also be taking the special Year 6 Leavers' photograph on the same day. Children in Year 6 are invited to bring in an item that represents their hobby / interests for the photo. Thank you.

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 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





We hope you are aware that your school opted to be involved in a pilot project aimed at increasing inclusivity in school and building relationships and communication with parents/carers. The name of this project is Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS).

The aim of PINS was to bring health and education specialists and parent carers with lived experience into mainstream primary settings to:

- ✓ Help shape whole school SEND provision.
- ✓ Provide early interventions at a whole school level.
- ✓ Improve pupil outcomes
- ✓ Upskill school staff and improve confidence.
- ✓ Support strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers.

At the start of the project, we asked you to complete an online survey. The questions in the survey were to give an overview of the school's approach to inclusion to help us understand the current strengths and potential areas of improvement in your child's school.

Now that the project has ended (on the 31st of March 2025), we would like to invite you to complete the survey again, so we can measure any change since your school has been involved in the pilot.

Please use this link to complete the Survey it should take less than 5 minutes of your time.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XW7QGG7>

The survey is for all parents and carers of children attending your school. If you have more than one child attending the school, you do not need to complete the survey for each child, unless you feel it would appropriate.

The individual information provided will only be accessible to Essex Family Forum (www.essexfamilyforum.org) and will be stored securely. We will produce a summary of the survey results to help us evaluate the pilot, but any information provided that could identify any individual will be anonymised. The only time any individual information will be shared is if it raises a concern for someone's safety.

Please visit our website to sign up as a free member and follow us on social media to find out what is going on in Essex for SEND families and how you can be involved.

28.03.25

Through our four rounds our attacks improved.



With much practices and hard working WE WON!!! Well done St Teresas.



They showed excellent sportsmanship and we are very proud of them.



When playing at Lexden primary we thought about our techniques at defending at a distance without being called for obstruction.

We also had some beautiful footwork coming from our yr6 pupils.



Thank you for all the helpful support from the parents.





Netball gold at the CPSL Tournament 2025

On 3/4/25 the St Teresa's netball team took part in the Colchester Netball tournament. We played 6 games and won 5 out the 6 games! We drew in points with St Michael's but in the end, the goal difference meant we came first 🏆 Well one Amber, Nahla, Aoife, Izzy, Lisa, Lewis, Alex and Bayonle. A huge thank you to our parent helpers: your support means we can compete in sporting events.



PIC•COLLAGE

YEAR 3 AND 4 SPORTS

Today, a few children from year 3 and 4 attended a sporting event at Thurstable school. All children had a wonderful time being active and represented the school beautifully. Thank you to everyone who transported the children and supported them.



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

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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



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SCS WHATSAPP GROUP



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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IN COLCHESTER

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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




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5TH-21ST APRIL

Closed Sundays & Mondays, except Bank Holiday Monday when we are open!



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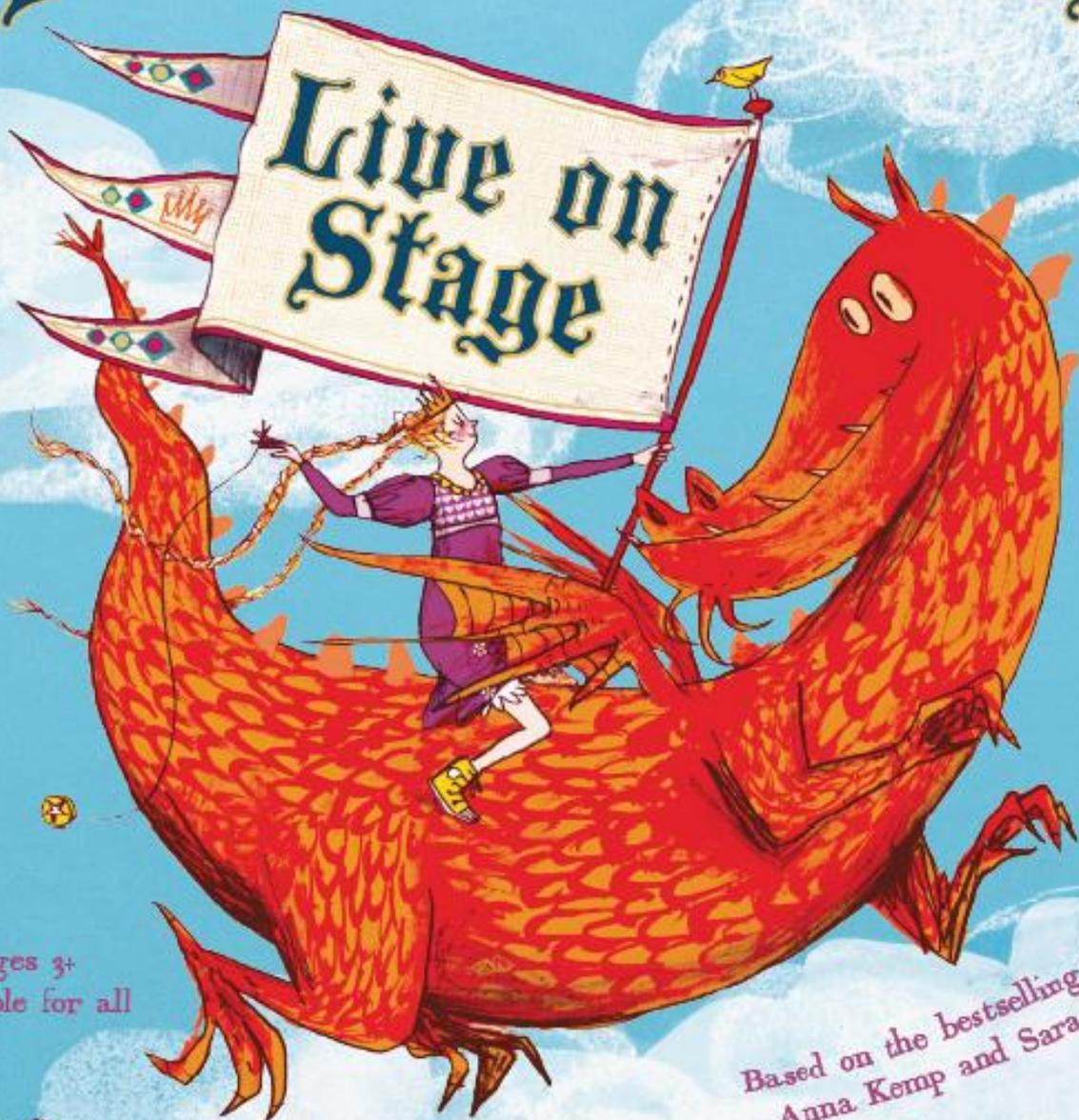
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Wednesday 9th April, 11.30am & 2pm

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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.



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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!



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Colchester
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OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2025

5PM TO 7PM

COLCHESTER COUNTY HIGH
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SCAN TO REGISTER



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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BLACKS, U8S**

TRIALS

25/26 SEASON

**SATURDAY 12TH APRIL, 12-2PM
POWER LEAGUE COLCHESTER**



Barry - 07846367445

Josh - 07496838368

BARRACUDAS

ACTIVITY DAY CAMPS

COMPETITION! WIN A FREE WEEK AT CAMP!

PLUS £250 DONATION FOR YOUR
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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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