



# 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.

1<sup>st</sup> half Autumn Term 2025 - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### TERM DATES 2025 - 2026



#### October Half Term 2025:

Break up: Fri 24<sup>th</sup> October  
Return on: Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> November

#### Christmas Holidays 2025-26

Break up: Fri 19<sup>th</sup> December **at 2.30pm**  
Return on: Mon 5<sup>th</sup> January

#### February Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 13<sup>th</sup> February  
Return on: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### Easter Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March **at 2.30pm**  
Return on: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May is a non-pupil day*  
*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday*

#### May Half Term 2026:

Break up: Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May  
*Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May is a non-pupil day*  
Return on: Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June

#### Summer Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July **at 2.30 pm**  
*Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July is a non-pupil day*

### TERM DATES 2026 - 2027

#### September 2026:

Return on: Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept  
*Tues 1<sup>st</sup> is a non-pupil day*  
*Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> is a non-pupil day*

#### October Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> October  
Return on: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### Christmas Holidays 2026-27

Break up: Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December **at 2.30pm**  
Return on: Tues 5<sup>th</sup> January  
*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan is a non-pupil day*

#### February Half Term 2027:

Break up: Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Return on: Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### Easter Holidays 2027:

Break up: Thu 25<sup>th</sup> March **at 2.30pm**  
Return on: Mon 12<sup>th</sup> April

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April is a non-pupil day*  
*Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is a Bank Holiday*

#### May Half Term 2027:

Break up: Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Return on: Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June

*Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May is a non-pupil day*

#### Summer Holidays 2027:

Break up: Weds 21<sup>st</sup> July **at 2.30 pm**

Please note that after-school wrap-around care will not be available on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 (school pantomime day)

We hope that by giving families plenty of notice, alternative arrangements can be made.  
Thank you for your understanding.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

We began the week by reflecting on which object on our prayer focus might be the most precious. Was it the diamond ring, the baby doll, the beautiful rose, or the hand mirror? As always, I was in awe of the children's intellectual curiosity and the thoughtful justifications they gave for each choice.

Turning to scripture, we listened to the prophet Isaiah reminding us that "we are God's most treasured possession." With this in mind, the children chose the hand mirror—through which we can see our amazing, unique selves—as the most precious object. Together we prayed in thanksgiving for our bodies, our individual gifts, and the love God has for each one of us.

The week has flown by as we have settled fully back into the rhythm of the autumn term. A personal highlight has been visiting Years 2-6 to see their RE lessons. I have been deeply impressed: by our teachers, for their expert guidance, and by our pupils, for their exemplary learning behaviours, reverence, and thoughtful responses.

Next week, I will be away with Year 6 on their annual residential visit to North Norfolk. Although I will miss being in school, I will really enjoy spending some quality time out in the fresh air with our wonderful Year 6.

This week, we were also delighted to award prefect badges to the first group of our new prefects. Congratulations to each of them! I have written to thank them personally for their dedication and willingness to serve our school community.

In preparation for our Catholic School's Inspection which will take place at some point this academic year, we are keen to gain the views of our parents and carers. Please can we ask that you take some time to complete a short survey which can be accessed via the link or QR code below. Thank you for your support with this.

CSI Parent Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/e/huRFncKeqc>



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

God bless,  
Mrs Maguire

## Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	100	96.2
Year 1	96.33	100
Year 2	99.33	97.7
Year 3	98.44	96.3
Year 4	95.63	99.1
Year 5	92.19	93.1
Year 6	96.88	95.6
<b>Whole School total:</b>	<b>96.67</b>	<b>96.8</b>

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 1 for highest attendance this week!



*Congratulations  
to all of our  
certificate  
winners this  
week.  
Well done!*

### Menus

#### Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 2

#### Wraparound Menu

Next week is Week 2

#### Nursery Snack Menu

Next week is Week 2

Please visit the school website to view  
the menus:

<https://www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Menus&pid=72>



### Breakfast Club

Early Bird Breakfast club starts at  
7.30am with food served until  
8.30am.

Universal Free Breakfast Club opens at  
8:15am with children escorted to class  
up till 8.45am

#### 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 (or by contacting the office  
for nursery children).

The cost is £9 per child per session  
YR - Y6

£16.50 per nursery child per full  
session and £8.25 per nursery child  
per half 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



**God says,  
'They will be my treasured possession'  
Malachi 3:17**

Our Global Assembly this week was led by Miss Hilton and focused on International Day of Peace (Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025). We began as we always do with reflecting back on Monday's scripture. We thought about the treasured possessions that God created, including how we are God's treasured possessions and how it is our mission to look after one another. We then learned about what International Day of Peace focuses on and how the world strives for peace, not just on this day, but every day. We explored powerful images from around the world depicting a lack of peace in other countries and supporting the children to realise that not all our brothers and sister around the world are as lucky as we are. With the help of Daisy, the Dove, we thought about how we are called to be peacemakers through our Catholic Social Teaching and how we can build on peace by working together to be peacemakers in school. We reflected on whether Daisy would see a peaceful school and playground if she flew over and what we can do to be more peaceful in each other's company. On our CST wall, we now have mini mirrors which the children can look in to reflect on whether they are being peacemakers. It would be wonderful if you could speak to your child at home about what peace means to them and how they show peace in their lives with their friends and family.

**Dear God,  
Thank you for the gift of peace.  
Help us to be kind, fair and forgiving.  
Show us how to share your peace with others,  
At home, at school and in the world.  
Amen**





# **Branch 1**



## **Creation and Covenant**

**Autumn Term 1**

**“In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth....God saw everything that he had made and, indeed, it was very good.”**

**(Gen 1: 31)**

In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

At the end of this branch, parents are invited to come and celebrate the children’s learning. Please see dates below:

<b>Reception</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October @ 2.30pm</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October @ 2.30pm</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October @ 9.00am</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October @ 9.00am</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October @ 9.00am</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October @ 2.30pm</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October @ 9.00am</b>

## Year 6 to 7 secondary admission round for September 2026

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Friday, 12 September 2025, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

**The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2025.**

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

All of the application information is available on the website above.

May I request the following please:

All parents / carers of children in Year 6 need to log onto the website and make an application **by the closing date of 31 October 2025.**

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2026-27 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.



## European Day of Languages

Advance notice!

On Friday 26th September, we will mark the European Day of Languages.

Pupils are invited to come to school in non-uniform, dressed in the colours of a European flag.



## Parking

A reminder that no vehicles should be stopping on the zig zag lines under any circumstances - not even just to pull over whilst children exit the car.

Please use the car park at the end of Clairmont Road or park slightly further away in Collingwood Road. Thank you for your support in continuing to ensure that our pupils and all members of our school community are kept safe outside school.



## Macmillan coffee morning – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September



Please come and support the Macmillan coffee morning (day!) at St Teresa's. As in previous years, we are inviting each class to come and join in the fun too!

Parents and other family members are warmly invited to the session which their children are attending in order to enjoy the experience with them.

We are suggesting a minimum £1 donation for your child to come and enjoy a cake and a drink. If you are also planning to attend, please "dig deep" and donate as much as you can to this amazing charity. There will be a range of raffles and activities to also get involved with.

Last year we raised just shy of £1000 which was AMAZING!

The timings are as follows:

9:00-9:30	Year 5 preparing the venue
9:30 – 10:00	Reception
10:30 – 11:00	Year 1
11:00 – 11:30	Year 2
Lunch	
1:30 – 2:00	Year 3
2:00 – 2:30	Year 4
2:30 – 3:15	Nursery (in Little Flowers class and Year 5 in the hall)

Thank you in advance for your support, the Year 5 team ☺

# CHURCH AND PARISH NEWS

## First Holy Communion programme 2025/6

Parents meeting – Friday 26/9/25 @7.00pm St. Teresa’s church hall.

Sessions – 9.15am – 10.45 am St. Teresa’s school (pick up from the church)  
NB The first session will only take place in the church.

### Reconciliation

27/09/25 -Introduction – session to start in the church 9.15 am  
11.10.25 God gives you love  
15/11/25- God gives you joy and peace  
13/12/25 - God gives you forgiveness  
10/1/26 – We walk with Jesus

### Communion

**24/1/26 – We walk with Jesus**  
7/2/26 - We learn about the mass & We share God’s word.  
28/2/26- We give thanks & We remember and celebrate.  
21/3/26- We share the bread of life  
25/4/26 - Retreat 10 -2pm (children to bring a packed lunch) –  
16/5/26 - Reconciliation session – times to be advised

### First Holy communion rehearsal

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 @6.00pm -Group 1  
@7.00pm-Group 2

June 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 First Holy Communion service –9am and 11am (in normal mass)

Going Forth Mass – June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9.00am



## Parish Events

### Season of Creation art exhibition from Sunday 21st September until 4th October in the foyer of St Teresa’s Church

Contributions for our Season of Creation art exhibition (drawings, paintings, photographs) celebrating the beauty of God's gift of creation by Friday 19th September please. This is open to all ages and items can be left at the back of Church.

### Parish creation walk on Saturday 27th September at 2.00pm

Why not come and experience the beauty of God’s creation by joining us at the Naze, Walton for a 5km/3-mile walk. Lifts are available from St Teresa’s at 1.15pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Dates for  
the Diary:

### PARISH MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - SATURDAY 27th / SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER

The coffee morning is on Sunday 28th September after 9.00am Mass in the Fr Saurin Hall. Cakes will be sold outside St John's Church on Saturday 27th September and after the 11.00am Mass at St Teresa’s. If you cannot attend but wish to donate, please use the QR code in the parish newsletter. If you can make cakes please do as we do need lots! Please bring them to the Fr Saurin Hall before the 9.00am Mass. Raffle prizes are also needed and donations can be made to Elaine Moclair. Thank you

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ON 29th NOVEMBER FROM 11.00AM - 2.00PM

Preparations are under way for this year’s Bazaar and flyers will be handed out. We would be grateful for donations of chocolate and bottles for the tombola, good quality nearly new items, good quality clean children’s toys and books. Please leave donations in the box in the Church foyer. Thank you for your generosity.





**SAVE THE DATE!**

## **FOST AGM**

**Weds 15<sup>th</sup> October  
7:30pm**

The AGM (Annual General Meeting) is our chance to be transparent, review the past year, and share plans for the year ahead, and your chance to share thoughts, ideas and feedback with us.

Everyone is welcome – please do pop along for a chat, a drink and help us make a difference!

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