



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.

1st half Autumn Term 2025 - Friday 26th September 2025

TERM DATES 2025 - 2026



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

TERM DATES 2026 - 2027

September 2026:

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

October Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 23rd October
Return on: Mon 2nd November

Christmas Holidays 2026-27

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

February Half Term 2027:

Break up: Fri 12th February
Return on: Mon 22nd February

Easter Holidays 2027:

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

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

May Half Term 2027:

Break up: Thurs 27th May
Return on: Mon 7th June

Fri 28th May is a non-pupil day

Summer Holidays 2027:

Break up: Weds 21st July **at 2.30 pm**

Please note that after-school wrap-around care will not be available on Friday 12th 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 and Carers

I am writing to you this week in place of Mrs Maguire, who is currently away with our Year 6 pupils on their residential trip to Norfolk. We keep them all in our prayers as they enjoy new experiences, grow in confidence, and strengthen their friendships during this special time together.

I believe this is my very first St Teresa's newsletter and what a wonderful week it has been here in school. I began the week talking to the children about Luke's Gospel where we learnt that whoever is faithful in small matters, can be faithful in big ones too. We reflected on what it means to be truly rich; rich in kindness, generosity and honesty. We thought about all of the little ways that we can show our faith in God through small, selfless acts that make a big difference - just like St Teresa of Lisieux. This shows God that he can trust in us to do both small and mighty things.

This week I have been lucky enough to visit our EYFS department to see the amazing work that the team there are doing in helping our youngest school members to settle in. What a joy to see so much rich learning taking place through play and curiosity and what an amazing space Miss East and Miss Hilton have created for our children to thrive in. Our little learners are already making huge strides along their journey at our school! The children have been busy discovering how germs can spread and subsequently, getting into good hand-washing habits!

Year 1 were visited by a plethora of pets this week as part of their animals topic and had great fun learning all about how to take care of God's precious creatures. Don't tell Mrs Maguire but we also had a special visit from her two new pets, the gerbils, who behaved impeccably for us.

In Year 2, I have been hearing all about the wonderful senses descriptions that the children have been writing, imagining they are in a dragon's cave. I have read some super similes and expanded noun phrases - amazing work, Year 2!

Year 3 have been exploring French as part of their celebrations for European Languages Day today. I heard some very competent counting to 20 in French and some wonderful music that had me wishing I was in a café by the Eiffel Tower eating a delicious pastry!

Year 4 have been beaver away on some outstanding writing as part of their book study: The Firework-Maker's Daughter. I saw some fabulous writing in role as the main character, Lila. Keep it up, Year 4!

To finish the week, our fabulous Year 5 class, led by Mrs Herron, have organised another hugely successful Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you to all of those that contributed a delicious treat and/or came along to purchase something for this great cause. We look forward to hearing how much has been raised and will let you know in the newsletter next Friday.

Can we also offer our huge congratulations to Mrs Herron who, along with the school, was awarded Gold in the Sport's Mark for this year. We are all so grateful to Mrs Herron who is such an inspiring leader and champion of sports in our school, providing so many opportunities for our children to get involved and be active across the curriculum.

Here in school, the week has continued with its usual busy rhythm of learning, prayer and community life. As always, we are grateful for the hard work of our staff and the wonderful enthusiasm of our children, who remind us daily of the joy and curiosity at the heart of our Catholic mission.

We look forward to welcoming Year 6 back next week and hearing all about their adventures. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements and events happening across our school community in this edition of the newsletter.

We are also excited to welcome our new Little Flowers families to celebrate together at the nursery grand opening party tomorrow afternoon.

With every blessing, Mrs Gill

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	96.2	100
Year 1	100	99.33
Year 2	97.7	99.33
Year 3	96.3	97.81
Year 4	99.1	95.63
Year 5	93.1	95.94
Year 6	95.6	96.56
Whole School total:	96.8	97.8

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Reception for highest attendance this week!



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

Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 3

Wraparound Menu

Next week is Week 3

Nursery Snack Menu

Next week is Week 3

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



Everyone should have access to their fair share of resources

**“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt,
so that you may know how to answer everyone.”**

Our Global Assembly this week was led by Mrs Gill and focused on European Languages Day. As the children came into the hall, they heard a recording of different ways to say ‘hello’ in different languages.

Mrs Gill began by asking the children to think about whether they had a connection with another European country. The hall was filled with chatter as the children had the chance to talk with their partners about people who they are connected to within Europe. Mrs Gill reflected on our Catholic Social Teaching of Distributive Justice, where we should all have access to a fair share of resources and asked the children to keep this in their head as she shared more information about languages throughout Europe. The children reflected on whether learning another language was important and why. There were lots of excellent ideas including; ‘Yes, because it means you can communicate with more people.’

Mrs Gill reminded us that on Friday, the children would be wearing the colours of European flags to show respect for other cultures and languages around Europe. Mrs Gill reminded us that showing respect to others and celebrating our differences by working together helps us to create a loving world in which everyone has the right to be treated fairly and have a fair share of resources.



Loving God,

We thank you for the many languages spoken across Europe and around the world.

Each language is a gift, showing us the richness and beauty of your creation.

Help us to listen to one another with respect.

You created us equal, yet different. You call us to share fairly - food, friendship and opportunities.

Teach us to use our voices for kindness and justice.

Bless our school community, our families and all children everywhere. May we celebrate our differences and work together to build a fairer and more loving world.

Amen



Branch 1



Creation and Covenant

Autumn Term 1

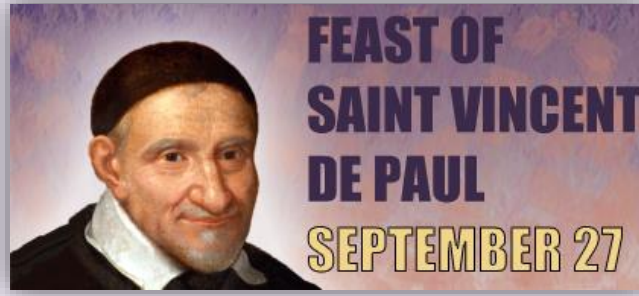
“In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth....God saw everything that he had made and, indeed, it was very good.”

(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:

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



Tomorrow is the Feast of Saint Vincent De Paul, which means it is the Minnie Vinnie's feast day as well. Happy Feast Day to all our current Mini Vinnie's and potential new ones.

Just a reminder that I have put an activity on Seesaw for children in Year 3-6 who may wish to become a Mini Vinnie. I will archive this activity on Monday, so if you would like to join the Mini Vinnies, then please complete the activity by Monday and let me know why you would like to become one.

Happy Feast Day also to our parish 'Saint Vincent De Paul Society', we look forward to working with you more in the coming year.

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.

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

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.



Parent Survey

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>



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 3rd June 2026 @6.00pm -Group 1
@7.00pm-Group 2

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

Going Forth Mass – June 14th @ 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.



F R I E N D S O F S T T E R E S A ' S

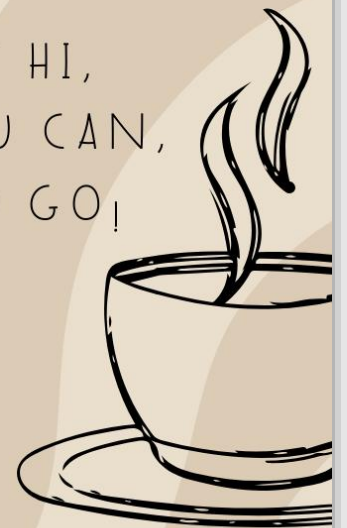
Invite you to a
welcome
coffee drop-in!

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER FROM 3PM
ST TERESA'S CHURCH HALL

TEA, COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS, SWEETS & SNACKS

POP IN AFTER SCHOOL TO SAY HI,
SIT AND STAY FOR A CHAT IF YOU CAN,
OR JUST GRAB SOMETHING TO GO!

JUST GIVE A DONATION
IF YOU CAN!



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

FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER

St Francis

NON-UNIFORM DAY

Wear **GREEN**
to celebrate the feast
of Saint Francis,
patron saint of
animals, the
environment, and
ecology



When? MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER

In return, we are asking for donations for our Advent Fayre. if you can donate any of the following, we would be extremely grateful!

Individually wrapped chocolate, sweets or treats
New & unused mugs, mason jars or glasses
New & unused socks



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



SAVE THE DATE!

FOST AGM

**Weds 15th 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!