

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, Carers and friends,

Our 'Little Way Week' began with an assembly which focused on St Teresa and her amazing life. We learned that she wanted to be a missionary but was too poorly to travel the world, so she set her heart on becoming a nun and doing small things to make a big difference. We reflected on how we can follow in her footsteps and live in her light, doing little things to help others. This week, the children completed some work on St Teresa's Little Ways which they will be able to reflect on if they ever lose their way this year and forget the messages of our Patron, St Teresa or need reminding of her example.



Reflecting each day on a different aspect of St Teresa's teaching has been very special, culminating in today's Feast Day and start of the academic year mass. It was wonderful to see so many families joining us and wonderful to celebrate Father Matthias' first school mass too.

Thank you to FOST for tea, coffee and cake this afternoon too- it's been quite the fitting celebratory day!

Last Saturday we held a special 'Little Flowers' GRAND OPENING party for our nursery pupils and their families- there was face paint, party food, enchanting encounters petting zoo, curiosity party bags and ribbon cutting- do check out the photos overleaf it was a wonderful day. This Saturday we're open again hosting a 'Reception Intake 2026 Open Day' from 10am - 1pm (no need to book). If you are looking to make a Reception place application do come along, encourage anyone you know to pop along too- come and see what makes St Teresa's EYFS OUTSTANDING!

I have enjoyed visiting every class this week and getting a peek into their learning- I've seen some wonderful phonics lessons at KS1, explored some 'disgusting sandwiches' at EYFS (it was all about a book don't worry!), Year 6 were using augmented reality IT to stand on the sand dunes at Blakeney Point reporting about coastal erosion, Year 5 were getting physical in PE, Year 3 were doing some very careful and meticulously presented 3-digit long-addition calculations and Year 4 were exploring poetic devices. I do really enjoy taking the time to visit every classroom- there's no better pick-me-up, it never fails to brighten my mood.

Year 1 enjoyed a day out on Tuesday to Barleylands Farm - I'm told it was a fabulous school trip. Back at school we completed our termly fire drill- I can report that all classes evacuated very sensibly, in good time, including our youngest pupils in Nursery and Reception- very well done everyone.

Tuesday was a particularly busy day as we were also visited by Flavio Vettesse, Director of Education from Brentwood Diocese. It was a pleasure to show him around and he had some wonderful things to say about the academic atmosphere, the calm environment and enriching displays!

This week I have visited two local schools to look at playground provision- I'm really looking forward to working on developing our playground this academic year, hopefully with the help of FOST. If you'd like to hear about the plans do come along to the FOST AGM on Wednesday 15th October at 7.30pm at the school - any friend of St Teresa's is welcome.

NEXT WEEK: On Monday we are encouraging pupils to come to school dressed in green or to accessorise their uniform with green to recognise and celebrate the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

God Bless, have a wonderful weekend, Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



| | Last week % | This week % |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Reception | 100 | 95.4 |
| Year 1 | 99.33 | 98.7 |
| Year 2 | 99.33 | 96.0 |
| Year 3 | 97.81 | 96.9 |
| Year 4 | 95.63 | 95.9 |
| Year 5 | 95.94 | 96.9 |
| Year 6 | 96.56 | 95.0 |
| Whole School total: | 97.8 | 96.4 |

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 1

Wraparound Menu

Next week is Week 1

Nursery Snack Menu

Next week is Week 4

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 declares, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness,” and grants them dominion over the earth.

Our Global assembly was led by Mrs Lewis and centered around the Catholic Social Teaching Human Dignity with the help of Luc the Deer. We shared God's word from Genesis 1:26 and how we are all called to be children of God made in His image. Therefore, we celebrate everyone as unique and special.

We linked this to our focus for October: Black History Month and we shared some stories from Black History beginning with John Blanke, Henry VIII's trumpeter who is documented in many paintings and writings. Then we shared stories on Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Sam Beaver King and Lilian Bader.

This October, we think about all of God's children and thank Him for the brave people who have contributed positively to history and our world. We pray that everyone has human dignity and is treated fairly and respected for their uniqueness, as God intended.

Loving God,

We believe that each person is special because God made us all.

Help us try to make sure all people are treated with respect and have what they need because God made them too.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

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 |

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 2026

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opens on **Monday 10th November 2025**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2026.

THE STATUTORY NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15 JANUARY 2025.

From **10th November 2025**, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Please be aware that Essex County Council are not sending letters to parents about making an application. All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Information regarding admissions can also be found by visiting our school website www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk and following the links to 'Key Information' - 'Admissions'.



Certificates of Catholic Practice

Father Matthias has asked us to let parents know that they should contact him by email via the Church to arrange a time to get Certificates of Catholic Practice signed - thank you.

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

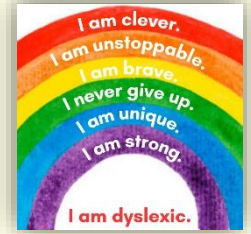
In preparation for our Catholic School's Inspection which will take place at some point this academic year, we are keen to gain the views of our parents and carers. Please can we ask that you take some time to complete a short survey which can be accessed via the link or QR code below. Thank you for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



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



Dyslexia Awareness Week 6th-12th October 2025



Next week is Dyslexia Awareness Week.

Please look at our website to find out more about dyslexia and how St. Teresa's support pupils with dyslexia and literacy difficulties.

<https://www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=SEND&pid=28>

Flu Vaccinations at school - Consent link now open

The immunization team has asked us to share the following information.

Dear Parent/Carer/Guardian,

Flu has had a serious impact on the health of England's population over the past two winters. Vaccinating your child helps reduce the risk of serious illness and plays an important role in protecting vulnerable individuals in your community, friends and family.

Our team will be visiting your child's school soon to offer the flu vaccine. You can choose between the quick, painless nasal spray or a pork gelatin-free injection.

For further information about the vaccines, please read attached E-consent letter (previously shared via Seesaw). Alternatively, click here <https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/essex>. The form is available in 10 languages— select yours when it opens.

If you do not wish your child to be vaccinated, please submit a decline via the same link to avoid further contact from our team.

Note: School aged children cannot receive this vaccination with their GP unless they are clinically vulnerable.

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child

1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed


The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare



Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu  mmunisation

Helping to protect children, every winter

LITTLE FLOWERS' GRAND OPENING PARTY



LITTLE FLOWERS
NURSERY CLASS



CHURCH AND PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion programme 2025/6

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

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.

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.



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!

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