

### 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**

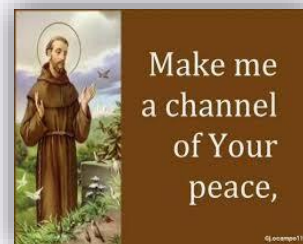
**Harvest Mass in school hall - 10am on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

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 thinking about St Francis of Assisi, celebrating his feast day by wearing green to school. I spoke to the children about the significance of the colour green and how St Francis is often thought of as the first eco-warrior. He befriended animals and found God in the beauty of creation, using the outdoors as a place for prayer. Together, we reflected on how we can follow his example—living simply, caring for nature, and helping those in need. Throughout the week, we have used St Francis' beautiful words, "Make me a channel of your peace," in our worship across school.



I am writing this newsletter today from the beautiful town of Assisi, where I have been blessed to join our Trust headteachers on a pilgrimage—an annual time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal. Before returning to his father in heaven, Pope Francis invited us all to be Pilgrims of Hope this year—people who bring light, faith, and encouragement into the world. Walking in the footsteps of St Francis here in Assisi has been a profound reminder of the power of simplicity, kindness, and peace.

I have lit a candle in every church I've visited and have kept you all very much in my prayers at mass. I look forward to telling the children about my experiences next week.

Back at school it has been a hive of activity! Some of our children attended an archery sports event, marking the first of what will hopefully be many sporting events that Mrs Herron arranges for us to take part in. This is only made possible by the generosity of parents in transporting the children to the events, without these parents, participation in these events would not be possible.

In Global assembly (see Catholic Social Teaching Corner), we focused on Harvest and how we are so lucky to live in a country that can harvest food. We thought about the Catholic Social Teaching - preferential option for the poor and thought about how we can do a small thing this Harvest time, and think about those less fortunate than ourselves in our local area. We have decided to collect boxes of cereal this harvest to donate to our local foodbank for children who do not start the day with breakfast. We are going to try and collect as many boxes of cereal as we can to line the corridors and the hall and have fun with a domino style challenge on the last day before half term. **We will be celebrating Harvest mass in the school hall on Thursday 23rd October at 10am - you are all invited to join us.**

We finished our week with a very special celebration assembly where we gave thanks for our incredible support staff, without whom running the school would be impossible. They are the most caring, loving and helpful team who go out of their way to support the teachers in educating and keeping the children safe. Mrs Herron produced the most heart-warming video, filled with the voices of the children who our support staff mean so much to! Thank you, St Teresa's support staff, for being one in a million.

Next week is another busy week, especially with our first ever Diversity Festival taking place on Thursday. Mrs Dyball has asked if you would speak to your child about what makes them unique in preparation for the 'This is Me' portrait that they will be creating with Mrs Gill on Thursday. Perhaps you could think about family origins; other languages; traditions (especially around Christmas, Easter); special places; particular clothes, sport, music and artistic talents. You could upload some of this information onto Seesaw, especially if your child is in KS1. A HUGE thank you to Mrs Dyball for organising such a wonderful event which we will of course be sharing snippets of in our newsletter and on Seesaw next week. Please also remember that Thursday is individual photograph day, so do send your child to school with their uniform on. No PE lessons will be taking place on Thursday, so please ensure your child is in their uniform if it was meant to be a PE day for them. We are welcoming back lots of our Year 7 pupils for a pizza evening on Tuesday - we are so excited to hear about their new school adventures. FOST are holding their AGM on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm and are inviting everyone to come along and share their ideas - FOST do an incredible job of supporting our school and it would be wonderful to see lots of people sharing ideas to go alongside the amazing plans FOST already have in the pipeline.

**Please do remember to book your parents evening appointments (Reception - Year 6).**

I hope you all have a peaceful weekend with your families.

God bless you all,  
Mrs Maguire

## Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	95.4	97.7
Year 1	98.7	99.3
Year 2	96.0	99.0
Year 3	96.9	100
Year 4	95.9	99.4
Year 5	96.9	96.1
Year 6	95.0	96.9
<b>Whole School total:</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>98.3</b>

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 3 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 1

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 - 6.00pm

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



**“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”**

**John 3:17**

Our Global assembly was led by Mrs Gill with a focus around the Catholic Social Teaching Preferential Option for the Poor. The assembly began with one of Mrs Gill’s favourite songs: Cauliflower Fluffy and the prayer focus table was surrounded by boxes of cereal and various harvest vegetables. Mrs Gill then focused the children’s minds on scripture from the bible, by sharing the scripture above. It encouraged the children to reflect on the importance of thinking of others, not just themselves because that is how God wants us to live. Mrs Gill shared what Harvest is and why people, especially farmers, celebrate Harvest. She reflected on how our neighbours from other countries, especially poorer countries do not have the land which is necessarily capable of harvesting food and so they are reliant on others sharing their resources fairly. Mrs Gill shared the challenge that we have for the children over the next few weeks. She reflected on ‘Faith in Action’ and how we can do a little thing to make a big difference.

We are going to be collecting as many boxes of cereal as we can to donate to the foodbank so that children less fortunate than they are, are able to start the day with breakfast. We are going to try and collect as many boxes of cereal as we can for our St Teresa’s Cereal Domino challenge. The children seemed very excited and are determined to collect as many boxes as they can!

**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**

**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.

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.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION** **ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 2026**

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opens on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://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](http://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](http://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.



### **Individual School Photographs - Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

Please note that the photographer will be in school on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October to take individual photographs of the children. **Please can you ensure that your child wears their school uniform including their jumper / cardigan on that day.**

Siblings will be photographed together during the day as a matter of course.

If you have older / younger siblings not at St. Teresa's and you would like them included in a photograph with your child, the photographer will be available from 8.00am in the School Hall - please come along from 8am and photographs will be taken on a first come first served basis.

If your child is in the nursery but does not normally attend on a Thursday, you are welcome to bring them to the school from 8.00am (either in uniform or their own clothes) to have their photograph taken.

*Please note that it is not possible to photograph cousins / friends etc. together due to time constraints.*

Flu Vaccinations at school - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1.00 - 3.00pm  
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.**



The poster features the NHS logo in the top right corner. The main title is 'flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child' in large blue font. On the left, a young girl with a large afro hairstyle is smiling and holding up her right hand, showing five fingers. To the right of the girl, there are five numbered points in blue text, each followed by a short paragraph explaining the benefit. At the bottom left, there is a small text box with a note about the vaccine. At the bottom right, there is a box with the text 'For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu'. The bottom of the poster has a light blue background with the 'Flu immunisation' logo and tagline 'Helping to protect children, every winter'. At the very bottom, there is small copyright and contact information.

**NHS**

# 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](http://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

**Flu immunisation**  
Helping to protect children, every winter

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If you want to order more copies of this poster, please visit: [healthpublications.gps.uk/home.html](mailto:healthpublications.gps.uk/home.html) or call 0300 123 1002.

# 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 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

### 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