

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**

Harvest Mass in school hall – 10am on Thursday 23rd October.

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,

I began the week by sharing some photos from my pilgrimage to Assisi. It was a joy to show the children some of the beautiful churches and sacred places connected to St Francis and St Clare. Assisi is known as a City of Peace, and the spirit of simplicity and hope that fills its streets is truly inspiring. Together as a school, we asked St Francis to intercede for us as we prayed.



It was wonderful to attend the FOST AGM on Thursday evening. Following the annual audit of accounts, we heard that FOST raised a combined total of £9517 last academic year – what an incredible achievement! We made exciting plans for the year ahead, including the ever-popular Advent Fayre, complete with bake sale. In addition to the usual contributions towards the pantomime, it was agreed that current funds will be used to develop our playground provision. This will benefit every child, with a refurbishment of the KS2 playground (including new safety surfacing), ongoing consumables such as chalk, and the introduction of the OPAL Play programme! I'm very much looking forward to sharing developments as they unfold. We'll also be inviting the children to share their "Dream Playground" ideas – so look out for a competition over half term!

The highlight of the week for the children has most certainly been our first Diversity and Inclusion Day. Inspired by a visit to the Harwich Education Partnership event last academic year, Mrs Dyball has worked tirelessly to bring the experience to St Teresa's. The children spent the day rotating through exciting workshops – learning British Sign Language, exploring sensory activities, and even taking part in Bollywood dancing! The day ended with a joyful celebration assembly, during which Mrs Dyball shared a special letter sent to her (and to the children) from MBE Floella Benjamin herself! We thanked God for our unique selves and the rich diversity that makes our school so special.

We were also visited by the school photographer this week – I can't wait to see the images that were captured!

On Tuesday, our Year 7 pupils returned for a reunion pizza evening – complete with disco and a lively game of dodgeball. It's always a joy to see how confidently our former pupils are growing into their next chapter.

We look forward to seeing many of you next week at Parents' Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday, as well as at our Harvest Festival Mass at 10am on Thursday (held in school), and at our class Liturgies celebrating the end of branch RE Celebrations - details overleaf.

Before I close, I must also share a very special farewell. Today we wished Ms Garton and her husband the very best as she begins her maternity leave. She is more than ready for a well-earned rest, and we will be keeping her in our prayers as they await the safe arrival of their little one.

Have a wonderful weekend and God bless,

Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	97.7	95.0
Year 1	99.3	99.3
Year 2	99.0	98.7
Year 3	100	97.8
Year 4	99.4	100
Year 5	96.1	94.5
Year 6	96.9	96.6
Whole School total:	98.3	97.5

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 4 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 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 - 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.*

AUTUMN TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Tuesday 21 st October	9.00am 2.30pm	Year 3 Creation and Covenant class celebration Year 5 Creation and Covenant class celebration
Wednesday 22 nd October	9.00am 9.00am 3.45 - 6.15pm	Year 2 Creation and Covenant class celebration Year 6 Creation and Covenant class celebration Parents' Evening
Thursday 23 rd October	10.00am 1.00 - 3.00pm 5.30 - 8.00pm	Harvest Festival Mass in School Flu Vaccinations Parents' Evening
Friday 24 th October	9.00am 2.30pm 2.30pm	Year 4 Creation and Covenant class celebration Reception Creation and Covenant class celebration Year 1 Creation and Covenant class celebration
		Break up for October half term
Monday 3 rd November		Return to school
Tuesday 4 th November		Year 4 trip to Flatford Mill
Thursday 6 th November		Road Safety sessions for Year 5 and Reception - further details to follow
Friday 7 th November		Ten Pin Bowling competition (selected pupils)
Monday 10 th November		Liturgical Dance Day at St. Teresa's (selected pupils)
Tuesday 11 th November		Year 3 and 4 trip to First Site to watch 'Dog Man'
Wednesday 12 th November		Year 5 and 6 trip to First Site to watch 'Wicked'
Thursday 13 th November		Lantern Making Workshop (selected Y4 and Y5 pupils)
Friday 14 th November		Child In Need Day
Tuesday 18 th November	12.30 - 3.00pm	Flu Vaccination catch up session
Wednesday 19 th November		Year 5 Trip to Imperial War Museum, Duxford
Friday 21 st November		EYFS Super Me Day!
Wednesday 26 th November		Year 5 and 6 cross country competition School Mass in Church - wear red for RED Wednesday
Friday 28 th November		Joint Schools Concert at St. Benedict's College (selected pupils)
Tuesday 2 nd December		Sir Bob Russell to visit Year 1 and present Twinkle Star Bookmarks
Wednesday 3 rd December		Years 4, 5 and 6 Reconciliation in School
Friday 5 th December		FOST Advent Fayre and Christmas Bake-off
Monday 8 th December		9.00 - 9.30am iRock end of term Christmas performance in assembly
Wednesday 10 th December		FOST Christmas Discos - timings TBC
Friday 12 th December		Whole School trip to the Mercury Theatre - Christmas Pantomime (<i>no wraparound</i>)
Monday 15 th December	2.00pm	EYFS Nativity Performance
Tuesday 16 th December	2.00pm	EYFS Nativity Performance
Wednesday 17 th December	2.00pm 5.00pm	KS1 afternoon Nativity Performance KS1 evening Nativity Performance
Thursday 18 th December		Christmas Dinner Day Whole School Board Games Afternoon
Friday 19 th December	1.30pm 2.30pm	Whole School Christingle Service Early finish - break up for Christmas Holidays (<i>no wraparound</i>)





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

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.



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.

Parents Evenings - Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd October

The children should have brought home letters this week giving details of the day and time of your parents' evening appointment.

If you did not complete the online form to request an appointment, but would like to see your child's class teacher, please contact the school office directly and they will try to arrange an appointment for you in the remaining available slots.

Thank you.



Parish Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 29th November from 11am - 2pm

The parish bazaar is fast approaching!

As in previous years the school will be running a toiletries / stationery tombola. Please can we ask for your support by sending in donations for this stall? Traditionally we ask EYFS and KS1 families to donate toiletries and KS2 families to donate stationery items. These can be large or small items and suitable for both children and adults.

The parish are also asking for donations of chocolate or items for the bottle stall.

Donations can be placed in the marked box in the entrance area of the school - thank you.

Thank you in advance for helping the school to support the parish in this way.



Flu Vaccinations at school - Thursday 23rd 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 waving her right hand. 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 i mmunisation' logo and the 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

Flu i mmunisation
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@nhs.uk 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

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

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.

