

### 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 thinking about the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. The children know that during this season we try to grow closer to God by making small changes for the better.

This week we listened to the scripture story of The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The Pharisee lived a seemingly holy life, praying and giving to the poor, while the tax collector was dishonest and cheated others. In the temple, the Pharisee boasted of his good deeds, whereas the tax collector humbly examined his conscience, said sorry for his sins, and vowed to do better.



Jesus told this story to remind us of the importance of serving others without pride and of seeking forgiveness with sincerity. We took time to reflect and pray together on this message.

This week we also hosted our Autumn Term Parents' Evenings. We like to hold these meetings around half term so that teachers can share how your child has settled into their new class. The evenings were very well attended, and we hope you found the conversations informative and helpful.

Yesterday we celebrated Harvest Festival Mass – a wonderful way to conclude the half term. Thank you to Father Clements for celebrating Mass with us, and to our Chaplaincy Team for preparing and leading such a joyful service.

This morning brought great excitement as we watched our cereal box dominoes! Together, we collected 147 boxes of cereal for Colchester Foodbank – a fantastic effort. This is a terrific example of our children living out Catholic Social Teaching by helping those in need, just as Jesus asks us to. Thank you for the donations.

It was also lovely to welcome so many parents to our 'End of Branch' RE Celebrations this week. I hope you will agree, these opportunities for collective worship and time to share and celebrate your child's progress, attainment and enjoyment in Religious Education are joyful occasions!

Our Governing Body also met this week. I have written separately regarding their decision to increase in the cost of school dinners from January. Please do have a read of my letter.

I was told by a parent this week that, despite congestion and curb parking along Clairmont Road, the car park at St George's field was half empty. Please help us keep the traffic moving for everyone's calm morning and pupils' safety. Please avoid driveways and zig-zags.

When we return to school after half term please ensure the children are dressed in winter uniform (shirts and ties with skirts/pinafore dresses or trousers). Polo shirts can still be worn in Nursery and Reception. PE kit should always be in line with our uniform policy and should not be general sports wear. Thank you!

This half term has been a long one – eight busy weeks – and everyone is ready for a well-earned rest. I am already looking forward to our return to school and the build up to Advent.

I hope you enjoy a peaceful and happy half term with your families.

God Bless - Mrs Maguire

## Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	95.0	94.6
Year 1	99.3	96.7
Year 2	98.7	96.3
Year 3	97.8	95.6
Year 4	100	95.8
Year 5	94.5	94.2
Year 6	96.6	97.2
<b>Whole School total:</b>	<b>97.5</b>	<b>95.8</b>

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 6 for highest attendance this week!



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

### Menus

New menus will be starting  
after the half term break

#### Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 1

#### Wraparound Menu

Next week is Week 1

#### 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.*

## AUTUMN TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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



### Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> November

Anti-bullying week take place from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November we are delighted to be welcoming Blu from Andy and the Odd Socks into school to lead an assembly. **We would like to invite all of the children to wear Odd Socks on that day** as it is a great way celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! (No monetary donations required).



Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile initiative.

### Caretaker News

Our wonderful caretaker Mr Price is leaving us at the end of November- he's decided it's time to start easing himself into retirement by cutting down! We will be very sad to see him go but no one deserves a rest and an opportunity to travel more than Mr Price!

So now our search begins for a new Caretaker- if you know anyone who may be suitable, please do share the link to our new vacancy.

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=114472>



### 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.

### Parish Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Children in Need

Donations to Children in Need can be made via ParentPay using this link:  
<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=18948>

We would also be delighted to receive cash donations on the day.

Thank you in advance for your support.

# HELP CHILDREN IN NEED!!!!

Wear PJs on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2025

PLEASE DONATE £1 OR MORE TO WEAR YOUR PYJAMAS TO  
SCHOOL

NO SLIPPERS ALLOWED!

YOUR VOICE WILL BE ORGANISING A ' CHALLENGE 25 '  
TREASURE HUNT AT THE SCHOOL ON THE DAY.



*Together, we can*  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

BY ALICE AND WILLIAM YEAR 4 YOUR VOICE REPRESENTATIVES



We are excited to invite all children to take part in our Playground Design Competition!

We want their brilliant ideas on how we can make our playground an even more fun, inclusive and inspiring space for everyone to enjoy.

#### **What you need to do:**

Create and submit a design of what you think our dream playground should look like! Ensure you write your name and class on your entry.

A bird's-eye view of the current playground will be uploaded to Seesaw to help children with their designs. We encourage you to think creatively about areas for all year groups, making sure that everyone can play, explore and feel included.

Would you like a sand pit? A climbing frame? Quiet zones? Water play? Bikes and scooters? Or something else...

Entries can be hand-drawn, models or a digital design; these can be submitted via Seesaw or can be brought into school.

**Our closing date for competition entries is Monday 10th November.**

Our winning designers will be invited to join our brand-new 'Playground Design Team', helping to shape the next phase of our playground improvements.

Good luck- Mrs Maguire and Mrs Herron

# 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 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.

