

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026



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,



We began the week by wearing odd socks! I know that's not how I would usually start a newsletter – but it was for a wonderful reason. We were delighted to welcome back Blu and Rio from Andy and the Odd Socks, the CBeebies band, to raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week.

The key message of odd socks is that it is absolutely ok to be different! The children were so inspired – not only by Blu (aka Mr Ramtohu) and his bandmate Rio, but by the message of celebrating our individuality. Wearing odd socks is such a simple but powerful reminder of our Catholic social teaching on human dignity – that each of us is unique, loved by God, and called to love others just the same.

On Monday, St Teresa's hosted a Liturgical Dance Day, welcoming children from across the Rosary Trust to share in worship through movement. The children collaborated beautifully, and their final performance was truly moving – a joyful expression of prayer in action.

On Tuesday, we paused as a school family to mark Remembrance Day. Together, we listened to Scripture, prayed for those who gave their lives for others, and joined in a moment of silence and reflection.

This week also brought great excitement for our cinema trips! Years 3 and 4, followed by Years 5 and 6, enjoyed visits to take part in the Into Film Festival. The children were wonderfully behaved and returned with smiles – “the walk was worth it” was the unanimous verdict!

On Tuesday afternoon, we received notification of our Catholic School Inspection. Over Thursday and Friday, we have been blessed to welcome two inspectors and additional representatives from the Diocese. They observed lessons and collective worship – both whole school and class-based – and met with pupils, staff, governors, and leaders. It has been an intense but uplifting few days. We are so proud of how our children shone, confidently sharing their faith, joy, and pride in our community. Thank you to all parents who spoke with inspectors or completed the survey. We will share the report with you as soon as it becomes available.

Yesterday, Year 5 took part in a lantern-making workshop in preparation for the Colchester Christmas Lights Switch-On. The finished lanterns are AMAZING! They will soon join other Colchester schools in a beautiful lantern parade, spreading light and joy as we move towards Advent.

Today, we supported Children in Need by wearing our pyjamas to school! Our pupils never fail to rise to the occasion with enthusiasm and compassion – living out the Gospel value of helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Well done, St Teresa's!

After such a joyful but intense week, I know our staff are looking forward to a well-deserved rest this weekend – and I hope you, too, find time for family, laughter, and peace.

God bless,
Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	96.2	98.5
Year 1	97.0	98.7
Year 2	96.3	99.0
Year 3	98.1	98.1
Year 4	97.2	98.1
Year 5	90.6	88.4
Year 6	93.8	98.1
Whole School total:	95.6	96.9

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 2 for highest attendance this week!



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 - 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



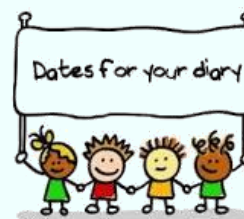
Remember to check Seesaw and the website for useful information, letters and dates!

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 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 - Tickets can be purchased via Parent Pay EYFS and KS1: 5 - 6pm KS2: 6.15 - 7.30pm Please note that for children in Little Flowers nursery an adult will need to stay for the duration of the disco. Thank you
Friday 12 th December		Whole School trip to the Mercury Theatre - Christmas Pantomime (no wraparound)
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 (no wraparound)



Flu Vaccination Catch Up Session - Tuesday 18th November 2025

Please be aware that there will be a flu vaccination 'catch up' session on Tuesday 18th November 2025. This is for children who were absent or didn't have consent during the first visit.

Parents / carers who have not yet responded to the e-consent form are still able to register their CONSENT or DECLINE for the flu vaccination via the following link:

<https://eastanglia.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/Essex>

If your child did not receive the vaccination and you would like them to receive it during this second catch up session it is imperative that you complete the consent form in advance of the session.

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 (sucrose gelatine).

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

Flu Immunisation
Helping to protect children, every year

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.

Consultation on Admissions

In accordance with the Schools Admissions Code, the Governing Body of St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester, wishes to consult with stakeholders and the wider community on their proposals to modify their admission arrangements for the academic year 2027 - 28.

As determined by the Schools Admissions Code, this consultation is for parents / carers of children aged 2 - 18, other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements, all other admissions authorities within the local area, the local authority and the Diocese of Brentwood.

The statutory six-week consultation period will run from 5th November 2025 - 17th December 2025. A copy of the consultation can be found on the school website www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk under 'Key Information' - 'Admissions'.

Comments on the proposal to revise the Admissions Criteria are invited and will be considered and used by the Governing Body to inform their final decision on whether to implement the proposed revisions.

Consultation responses should be made in writing to St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9BE or by email to office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

The closing date for responses to be received is 16th December 2025.



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.



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.



Supporting your child with social communication challenges



Supporting your child with social communication challenges



This workshop is for you if your child has a social communication challenge (with or without a diagnosis of autism). Learn more about social communication skills in young children and how they develop, how to help your child (18months-5 years of age) if they are at very early (or pre-verbal) stage of development, strategies that work well to support social communication skills at home and resources you can access.

Written and delivered by very experienced speech and language therapists and advisors for the children's communication charity, Speech and Language UK.

Friday 12th December 10am-12pm.

This is a virtual session and will be delivered via Zoom.

Please register your interest with us by emailing: Julie.hall@essex.gov.uk

Please note there is a limited number of spaces.

14.11.25



Today was Pudsey day! Here at St Teresa's, we celebrated with a pajama day, with all proceeds going to Children in need, following our CST core values of participation, preferential option for the poor and solidarity. Thank you to everybody who donated to this worthwhile charity!



PIC • COLLAGE

FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER

Christmas DISCO



10TH DECEMBER | CHURCH HALL | **EYFS/KS1 5PM - 6PM**
KS2 6:15PM - 7:30PM

£4 PER CHILD

Payment can be made on ParentPay
until Monday 8th December.

Drinks, sweets, snacks and disco accessories sold
on the night. Suggested spending money no
more than £5, in change where possible.

*For those in Little Flowers Nursery, an adult will
need to stay for the duration of the disco.*

Numbers will be limited to allow us to remain within a safe child:adult ratio as per all risk assessments.



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

nanny • babysitter • childcare services

MADDIE NEWMAN

Colchester + surrounding areas

Fully insured + qualified

Enhanced DBS

Safeguarding trained

Paediatric first aid certified

5+ years childcare experience

Level 3 health & social care

Services:

Day time hours or wraparound

School pickups / drop-offs

Babysitting

Help with homework or creative play

Meal prep or light tidying

Experience with babies, toddlers, school-aged children

£15 p/h

whatsapp: +44 7741474541

call: +44 7432 388078

message for any enquiries

WINTER CAMP

School's OUT

Activities

Essex's top Activity Camp is returning to Colchester County High School this coming Holiday - We can't wait to welcome children from the Colchester area and beyond!

Offering expansive outdoor areas, a state of the art sports hall, amazing cooking & baking facilities and an indoor heated swimming pool, it's the perfect setting for your child to spend their holiday!

Accept all Childcare Vouchers & Gov.UK Tax Free Childcare

Ofsted
Early Years Provider

COLCHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US
Ofsted Number: EY2837204

WE ACCEPT
GOV.UK Tax Free Childcare

Trustpilot ★★★★★

Choose individual days or come for the week for 20% OFF

TO BOOK VISIT www.schoolsoutactivities.co.uk

CHOOSE YOUR DAY CAMP

All of our age-specific days camps run during Half Terms, Easter, Winter and the long Summer Holidays. Which one will you be joining?

Early Explorers

4-6 yrs

Designed by Primary School Teachers to aid in the development of children in Early Years.

Activities include:

- Sensory Play
- Painting
- Baking
- Inflatable Fun
- Water & Sand Play
- Musical Workshops
- Parachute Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Outdoor Exploration
- Face Painting
- Hungry Hippos
- Scavenger Hunts

Explore & Discover

Creative Crew

7-12 yrs

A day camp for girls and boys who want to explore their creative side, be active and have time to chill.

Activities include:

- Arts & Crafts
- Slime Workshops
- Learning Magic
- Dance & Drama
- Baking
- Escape Rooms
- Hama Beads
- Circus Skills
- Clay Modelling
- Tie-dye
- Bubble Workshops
- Archery

Making Memories

Adrenaline Adventure

7-12 yrs

A day camp designed for those looking for an action-packed week jammed full of exciting activities!

Activities include:

- UV Activities
- Archer
- Football
- Mario Kart Arcade
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Laser Tag
- Pickle Ball
- Dodgeball
- LEGO Workshops
- Basketball
- Inflatables

Adventure Awaits

Next Generation

13-16 yrs

Once children mature into teenagers they want to gain more responsibility, so we offer them a chance to assist on one of our other day camps whilst having fun during their school break.

Activities include:

- Assigned Mentor
- Working Journal
- Learn Valuable Skills
- Apply & Improve
- Assist in Leadership
- Work Experience
- Gain Rewards
- Build Confidence

Leadership Ready

EarlyBird 8am-9am → **Drop Off** 9am-9:30am → **Lunchtime** 12:30pm-1:30pm → **Pick Up** 4:30pm-5pm → **Extended Fun** 5pm-6pm

As a local School to us at FITC Academy, we would like to offer every student at your school a "20% discount" off of the camps we are running this Christmas. We have a two day camp in Witham, a two day camp in Braintree and also a Goalkeeper Specific day camp coming up across the 22nd and 23rd December 2025. To take advantage of this, simply click on the following link and type in discount code XCJ046 <https://fitc-academy.classforkids.io> This code will only be active until 21st November 2025, so book on fast to take advantage.



FITC

CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2025

VENUES

BRAINTREE LEISURE CENTRE
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd
December 2025

WITHAM ACADEMY
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd
December 2025

BOOK NOW



FITC

A DAY AT CAMP

WHAT WE COACH
Ball manipulation, dribbling, turning, tricks and skills, running with the ball, passing, first touch, shooting, 1v1's, attacking, defending, goalkeeping and more.

FUN ACTIVITIES
Football Tennis
Kick Up Challenge
Cross Bar Challenge
Competitions
Player Relevant Challenges (Such as Saka/Salah)

PRIZES/TROPHIES
Every player who attends a FITC camp will receive a developmental certificate and a medal. There will be trophies on offer for players of the camp and we will also hand out lots of prizes.



FITC

GOALKEEPER CAMP

Braintree Leisure Centre
Panfield Lane
Braintree
CM7 1FF

Tuesday 23rd December 2025
10.00am - 3.00pm

Ages 7-13
£25.00

WHAT WE COVER
Handling, reflexes, agility, footwork, 1 on 1's, distribution (hands and feet), shot stopping, diving, positioning, high balls, first touch and much more.



FITC

A DAY AT CAMP

WARM UP/BALL MASTERY
Once all the players have arrived, we will start the day with a ball mastery warm up along with some activation drills. This will get the players mentally and physically ready for the day ahead.

TECHNICAL COACHING
For this part of the day we focus on making learning and developing fun. We run lots of professionally designed practices to coach the children many of the attributes in football. This will be via drills, challenges, competitions and games.

MATCHES/TOURNAMENTS
We will then split into age and physicality relevant groups (while taking friendship groups into account) and start our tournament. We will play round robin games, keeping track of all the bonus points earned throughout the day.