

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 the following dates:

Friday 12th December 2025
(school pantomime day)

Friday 19th December
(last day of term - early finish)

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 reflecting on World Poor Sunday. The children listened to the story of the Good Samaritan and thought about how Jesus teaches us to look after those who are poor—not only financially, but also those who are in poor health, those who feel lonely, and those who lack friendship or support.



Highlights of the week have included Year 5's fantastic trip to Duxford. Their 'World Wars' knowledge was firmly cemented. Year 2 also had a wonderful visit to Framlingham Castle. Thank you to our parent volunteers who accompany trips and also to our teachers whose careful planning always make them so enjoyable. Trips are understandably exhausting for staff - thank you for always going that extra mile.

This Saturday, I am delighted to be joining Year 5 alongside Mrs Herron for the Christmas Lantern Parade as part of the city's Christmas light switch-on. Do bring your families along to the High Street to watch the parade if you can—it's our first time taking part but we've heard it's always a magical event.

I hope you all saw the delightful photo of Ms Garton's baby on Seesaw earlier in the week, congratulations to Ms Garton on her baby's safe arrival—such joyful news for her family. There must be something in the water, as I was also able to write to Year 6 parents this week to share Mrs Lewis' lovely news that she is expecting a baby in the spring!

Rehearsals for the BCCS Concert continue and, in Early Years and Key Stage 1, preparations for this year's nativity performances are soon to begin. Dates are shared overleaf for your calendars.

Thank you for your generous donations of toiletries today in exchange for non-uniform. These will be used at the Parish Christmas Bazaar—do come along on Saturday 29th November to try your luck at winning your toiletries back!

A warm welcome to our new staff member, Mrs MacClennan, who joins us as both a teacher and a parent.

There's lots going on next week including:

- ❖ A trip for Year 3 trip pupils to Fingringhoe
- ❖ A Year 5/6 Cross Country competition
- ❖ Red Wednesday - 26th November: We ask pupils to wear red to school as we stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world. There is no charge or collections, but FOST will be serving tea, coffee and cake at home-time in the church hall—please join us.
- ❖ The BCCS Concert: Friday 28th November is nearly here - a reminder that tickets are available from the school office.

Wishing you all a restful weekend. Keep warm!
God Bless Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	98.5	100
Year 1	98.7	94.3
Year 2	99.0	96.3
Year 3	98.1	98.1
Year 4	98.1	97.2
Year 5	88.4	94.8
Year 6	98.1	97.2
Whole School total:	96.9	96.8

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Reception for highest attendance this week – 100%!



Menus

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



We are delighted to share some wonderful news with our school family.

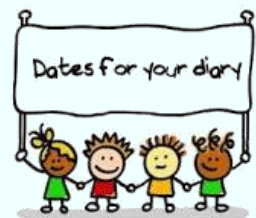
Ms Garton and her husband have welcomed their beautiful baby boy, Stanlee. We send them our heartfelt congratulations and pray for God's blessings on their growing family.

A moment of joy for our whole community!



AUTUMN TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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 KS1 afternoon Nativity Performance 5.00pm KS1 evening Nativity Performance
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner Day Whole School Board Games Afternoon
Friday 19 th December	1.30pm Whole School Christingle Service 2.30pm Early finish - break up for Christmas Holidays (no wraparound)



CHRISTMAS
blessings
TO YOU
AND YOUR
FAMILY

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

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.

Online Safety Session

As promoted on the Essex Safeguarding Children Board website regarding online safety sessions, [ESCB - Online Safety](#), please see below information:

The 2 Johns will be back on Thursday 11 December, 8.00pm with one of their popular online sessions. This is your chance to hear the latest insights, tips, and must-know updates to help keep children safe online – just in time for the holiday season. Save the date and register now by scanning the QR code via [this link](#).



School Car Park

We are happy to share our school car park with parents dropping off at breakfast club or picking up from wraparound, but please can we ask that parents drive through the blue gates to the right into the 'overflow' car park (front playground) so that spaces are left available and are clear for staff to park in. Thank you for your co-operation.



Year 3/4 Round Net festival

A group of year 3 and 4 children took part in a Round net festival on Friday, the 21st of November. They enjoyed learning about this new sport and can't wait to share what they've learnt with the rest of the school! Thank you as always to our wonderful parents who give their time to transport and encourage the children.



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

SPACE website

SPACE stands for Support for Parents and Carers in Essex. It is a new service designed to provide advice, guidance, and support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 25. SPACE is run by a team of peer educators –parents and carers all with lived experience. They understand the challenges and triumphs first-hand. Their role is to support families navigate the process, whatever stage they're at.

How SPACE Can Support Families One-to-One Support: Parents and carers can book a call with a peer educator to discuss specific concerns or explore next steps.

Online Group Sessions: Regular online webinars bring families together to share experiences. They are also an opportunity to gain practical insights on a wide range of SEND topics.

School and Community Events: Peer educators can come along to local coffee mornings and school events. SPACE also attend every Local Offer SEND Roadshow across Essex.

Online Resources: The website provides a comprehensive collection of co-produced resources. The information is designed by parents, for parents. It is grounded in real experience and practical strategies.

How to Access SPACE Schools and organisations can signpost parents and carers directly to SPACE via:
The website: <https://parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk> Email: space@essex.gov.uk Facebook: Essex Local Offer

A vertical promotional poster for SPACE. The top left corner features the Essex County Council logo and the text 'Essex County Council Special Educational Needs and Disabilities'. The top right corner has the SPACE logo, which consists of two stylized human figures in green and pink, with the word 'SPACE' in white capital letters below it. The main body of the poster is purple and contains the following text: 'SPACE offers free support to families of children and young people with SEND.' followed by 'Delivered by peer educators – all parents and carers with lived experience.' Below this is the heading 'Get support your way:' followed by four bullet points: 'in person - meet us at Local Offer roadshows, coffee mornings, and community events', 'by phone - talk one-to-one with a peer educator', 'online - join webinars on key topics, led by peer educators', and 'on the SPACE website - find helpful info and guidance anytime'. The bottom left corner features a QR code and the text 'Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!' and 'parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk'. The bottom right corner shows a photograph of a woman smiling and holding a young child. The background of the poster has a pink wave-like shape at the bottom.



You Are Not Alone - Free Parent Online Drop-In

Parenting an autistic child can feel amazing, confusing, and overwhelming, sometimes all in the same day. That's why we host our **no-cost monthly online drop-in sessions for parents and carers**.

Normally we run the monthly drop-ins on the 1st Tuesday of the month but in **DECEMBER we run 5 drop-in sessions from Monday 1st December - Friday 5th December.**

First Tuesday of every month

7pm - 8.30pm

Platform: Zoom



Erik Wagter - host of the drop-in

What these sessions are all about:

We've created a safe, non-judgemental space where parents can bring their questions, share worries and connect with others who 'get it'.

Topics often included:

- Understanding and responding to challenging behaviour
- Making sense of autism on a deeper level
- The ups and downs of family relationships and dynamics
- Working with schools and professionals
- Meeting like-minded parents and realising you are not alone



What parents say:

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel, and I really do feel less alone and more validated. **My hope is back**'*

Who runs the sessions?

I'm Erik Wagter, co-founder of Autism Family Support Service. Alongside being a social worker, trainer and Solution Focused family coach, I also bring over two decades of personal lived family experience of autism. Sometimes my wife Sally will join in as well.

If you would like to join please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the Zoom link.

Autism Family Support Service
www.autismfamilysupportservice.com

Essex Fire Museum open days

Sunday 23rd November and Sunday 14th December (Christmas open day with Santa's grotto).

There will be opportunities for families to get involved in history trails around the museum, spot hazards in our fire safety room, partake in craft activities, sit on our fire engines (and squirt water 😊). We will also convert our breathing apparatus chamber into a Santa's Grotto (tickets can be purchased on the day) 😊.

The museum is free entry (but visits are by appointment only.....as we are on the site of an operational fire station). If interested, please make a booking via Eventbrite:

Sunday 23rd November 2025:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/essex-fire-museum-open-day-tickets-1555497497889?aff=oddtcreator>

Sunday 14th December 2025:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/essex-fire-museum-open-day-tickets-1555501469769?aff=oddtcreator>

Suggested last admissions are 2.30pm. This is just so that people have enough time to experience everything on site.

Our address and contact details are:

Essex Fire Museum

Grays Fire Station,

Hogg Lane,

Grays RM17 5QS

Phone: 01376 576847

Email: museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

Website: [Fire Museum \(essex-fire.gov.uk\)](http://Fire Museum (essex-fire.gov.uk))

Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2025



Sunday 23rd Of November

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now >



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2025



Sunday 14th Of December

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now >



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk



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

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.



F.I.T.C

CHRISTMAS CAMPS 2025

VENUES

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

WITHAM ACADEMY
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd
December 2025

BOOK NOW



F.I.T.C

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.



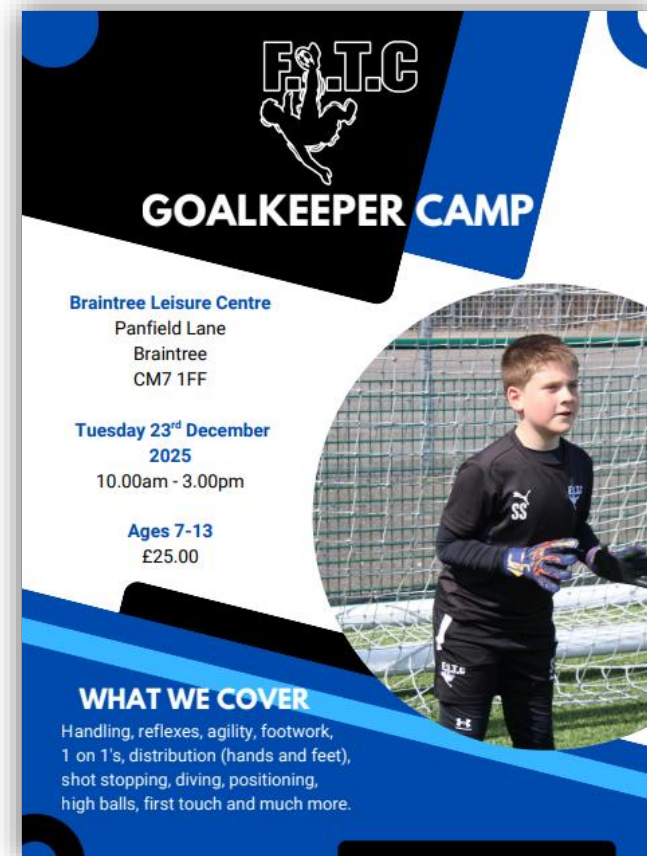
F.I.T.C

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.



F.I.T.C

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.