



Weekly Newsletter

St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School



The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Registered number 8111345.

2nd half Autumn Term 2025 – Friday 28th November 2025

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026



Christmas Holidays 2025-26

Break up: Fri 19th December at 2.30pm

Return on: Tues 6th January

Monday 5th January is an additional INSET Day

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.

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week reflecting on the feast of Christ the King. Alex in Year 5 volunteered to be our 'king' and was swiftly dressed in fine robes, a crown and jewels. He was given a throne and a goblet to represent wine, along with many 'servants'.



Scarlett in Year 2 volunteered to represent Jesus, and together we explored how Jesus did not wear fine clothes; His crown was one of thorns, and rather than being served, He served others. We listened to scripture and spent time reflecting on the true meaning of Christ the King.

On Saturday, Year 5 pupils took part in a very wet lantern parade for the city's Christmas light switch-on. Our children were AMAZING in truly horrid conditions, their lanterns were spectacular and I was so proud to walk alongside them. Well done to Mrs Herron and Year 5.

On Monday, Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Fingringhoe nature reserve, where they had a great time exploring the outdoors.

This week we have really enjoyed hosting a book fayre- thank you to Mrs Gill for organising.

On Tuesday our Governing Body met. We discussed the school's financial health, received updates on premises projects completed over the summer—including the nursery/Hive/Harbour and Year 1 refurbishment—and looked ahead to planned works for the spring term, including playground development. Governors also heard feedback from our recent Catholic School Inspection, and they look forward to sharing the report with you when it is published. Please also see the important letter attached from our Chair of Governors regarding the return-to-school date following the Christmas holidays.

We certainly created a blanket of red for Red Wednesday this year, with pupils dressing in red to mark the occasion. We wear red—the colour of martyrs—to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians around the world. Although we sadly had to change our plans to attend Mass, Year 5 and 6 did a fantastic job creating an assembly for the whole school to mark the day.

Today, I am writing this newsletter from the BCCS concert rehearsals. As you know, several schools from the Rosary Trust come together for this wonderful event, combining singing and a nativity to raise funds for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Each school learns a different part and it all comes together in one fantastic performance. I can't wait to watch the show this evening and look forward to sharing more with you next week.

Do come along to the Parish Bazaar this Saturday from 11am, hosted here at school and in the Church Hall. There will be lots of stalls and plenty of festive cheer.

Coming up next week: As we move into Advent, we will have Reconciliation available for KS2, and of course the much-loved and anticipated FOST Advent Fayre on Friday- shopping bags at the ready!

Wishing you every blessing as we begin Advent this weekend.
God Bless - Mrs Maguire



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex. CO3 9BE

Tel: 01206 508445

Email: office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Maguire M.A. NPQH



25th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Additional INSET day Monday 5 January 2026

I am writing on behalf of the governing board to inform you that we have approved an additional INSET day on Monday 5 January 2026. School will be closed to pupils on this date and will reopen on Tuesday 6 January 2026 for the spring term.

As you know, the school has experienced an exceptionally busy period, including two inspections within ten months. These inspections were remarkable landmarks for St Teresa's and a testament to the faith, dedication, and professional expertise of our staff. We are sure that parents will be delighted with the latest CSI inspection report when it becomes available. The recognition the school has received reflects not only the hard work of staff, but also the strength of our whole community in working together on behalf of our children.

The governing board feels it is important now to ensure that staff have the time and space to reflect on the outcomes of these inspections, to consolidate the excellent practice that has been recognised, and to plan for an equally successful future. It is also important to recognise that the wellbeing of our staff is central to our mission as a Catholic school. We believe that those who serve our children so faithfully each day will appreciate this opportunity to reflect after what has been a very intense and demanding time.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support of our school community; may God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

Peter Johnson
Chair of Governors



St Teresa's School is part of The Rosary Trust a Catholic Multi Academy - Registered Number: 08068528

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	100	96.9
Year 1	94.3	97.7
Year 2	96.3	96.3
Year 3	98.1	98.1
Year 4	97.2	98.1
Year 5	94.8	93.5
Year 6	97.2	94.7
Whole School total:	96.8	96.5

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Years 3 and 4 for highest attendance this week!



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 2

Wraparound Menu

Next week is Week 2

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.

Thank you Mr Price



Today is a very sad day for us at St Teresa's as it is the day we say goodbye and good luck to our amazing, dedicated caretaker, Mr Price. I am sure you will have all spoken to or seen Mr Price at some point on the gates in the morning or afternoon (regardless of the weather) doing his bit to keep the children safe and the traffic flowing. He has been a dedicated member of staff for 5 years (to the day) and we have been so lucky to have such a hardworking, positive and helpful member of our team. Whenever you ask Mr Price to do something, he goes above and beyond, always putting the needs of others first. He is thorough and takes great pride in his work and we will be lost without him!

Who is going to ever replace such a wonderful man?

We wish him all the luck in the world as he moves on to pastures new and thank him for his service, kindness and loyalty every day.

Advent Service and Thanksgiving Thursday

On Wednesday 3rd December, we will be marking the start of Advent with a special Advent Service in the school hall at 9am. If you would like to attend, you are more than welcome to stay after drop off and come into the hall just before the service begins. It is a short service led by Mrs Maguire, with a poignant focus on what we are waiting for during this season of Advent.



Branch 2 Prophecy and Promise

Autumn Term 2



"In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets" (Heb 1:1).

In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. They will explore the expectant waiting for the Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ.

Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

**You are invited to join us for Thanksgiving Thursday on
Thursday 11th December 2025
at the timings listed below:**

Reception	9.00am – 9.25am
Year 1	9.30am-9.55am
Year 2	10.00am-10.25am
Year 3	11.00am-11.25am
Year 4	1.20pm-1.45pm
Year 5	1.50pm – 2.15pm
Year 6	2.20pm – 2.45pm

Year 5 and 6 Cross Country

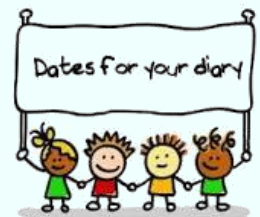
On Wednesday, a group of year 5 and 6 children participated in the annual event. They demonstrated teamwork, stamina and resilience and we couldn't be prouder. Well done everyone! Thank you to all who helped. Myself and the children appreciate all your support.



AUTUMN TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES



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)
Sunday 14 th December	3.00pm	Parish Carol Service in Church. Children from the school choir will be performing two songs during the service (school uniform need not be worn)
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)



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.



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](#).

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.

St Teresa's Church
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



SPACE – Supporting Parents and Carers in Essex for all schools

SPACE is a new service in Essex. It provides support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (aged 0 to 25). What makes SPACE unique is the team of Peer Educators — parents and carers all with lived experience. How SPACE can support families:

- One-to-One Support: telephone support
- Weekly webinars bring families together to share experiences.
- Attendance at School and Community Events
- Website providing resources and guidance.
-

For more information visit:

parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk

Contact: SPACE@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council
Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities

SPACE

SPACE offers free support to families of children and young people with SEND.

Delivered by peer educators – all parents and carers with lived experience.

Get support your way:

- **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
- **on the SPACE website** – find helpful info and guidance anytime

Book your place for an online session, or a phone call today!
parent-send-support.essex.gov.uk

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



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

FREE

Messy
Church



CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH

Sunday 14th Dec 2025

3:30 until 4:30pm

Join the mess, get stuck in with crafts, listen to amazing stories, sing songs and have a great afternoon out with other families.

Daniel Room, Kingsland Church, 86 London Road,
Colchester CO3 9DW

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



SCS CHRISTMAS COLCHESTER FOOTBALL CAMP

St Michael's Primary School, Camulodunum Way, Colchester, CO2 9RA

2 Day Camp

Monday 22nd December & Tuesday 23rd December

- 10 am - 1 pm > Age 4-5 years > £20 per day
- 10 am - 3 pm > Age 6-15 years > £25 per day



Inspiring Children in Sport



JOIN OUR COLCHESTER SCS WHATSAPP GROUP



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCS EVENTS IN COLCHESTER

PLEASE EMAIL: colchesterscs@gmail.com

or CONTACT LUKE ON 07593 557556 to book your child's place

Boys and girls welcome. Packed lunch and drinks bottle required

Payments can be made by cash or card on the day of camp



www.scssports.co.uk



SCS CHRISTMAS COLCHESTER MULTI-SPORT CAMP

Braiswick Primary School, Apprentice Drive, Colchester, CO4 5SE

1 Day Camp

Tuesday 23rd December

- 10 am - 1 pm > Age 4-5 years > £20 per day
- 10 am - 3 pm > Age 6-12 years > £25 per day



Inspiring Children in Sport



JOIN OUR COLCHESTER SCS WHATSAPP GROUP



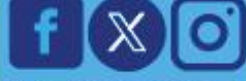
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www.scssports.co.uk

