

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

No wraparound care on this day

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

No wraparound care on this day

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)

Friday 27th March 2026

(last day of term - early finish)

Friday 17th July 2026

(last day of term - early finish)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

We began the week reflecting on the first week of Advent, lighting the candle of hope. We listened to a poignant story about a boy who discovered hope through planting and nurturing a tiny seed—watching it flourish into a wondrous garden. It was a gentle reminder that small acts of care and kindness can grow into something truly beautiful.



Our marking of the start of Advent continued throughout the week. The Mini Vinnies' Mismatched Day was a huge success, collecting items for the homeless as part of their shoebox appeal—thank you for your generosity. Father Matthias also spent time with our KS2 pupils, enabling many to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On Wednesday, we gathered again for our whole-school Advent service, taking time to think about what it means to wait in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus. I shared scripture – “Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning” – reminding us that Advent is a season of waiting in expectant hope.

Today we enjoyed the wonderful FOST Advent Fayre and the ever-popular Christmas Bake-Off—a huge thank you to everyone who baked, bought or supported. Thank you FOST, the children absolutely love this event!

Last week I wrote to you from the rehearsals for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Christmas Concert. I have to say, the final performance that evening was every bit as FABULOUS as it always is. Not only was it spectacular, but St Teresa's raised £595 in ticket sales alone for BCCS! I'm very much looking forward to treating all the participants—as well as our Lantern Parade stars—to a hot chocolate treat next week.

I do hope you all had the chance to read our OUTSTANDING Catholic School Inspection (CSI) report yesterday. This is such a remarkable achievement for our whole community, especially following our previous Ofsted inspection only 10 months ago.

A polite reminder about use of the staff car park: parents may use the car park before 8:20am for breakfast club drop offs, after 8:45am and until 3:00pm, and again after 4:30pm for wrap-around collection. Please park in the overspill area behind the church so that staff can enter, park and/or leave safely and promptly. A reminder that if you enter the carpark and haven't exited within this frame you may become stuck whilst the gates are closed for pedestrian access only. We do hope this helps families and we thank you, as ever, for your cooperation.

Next week, we are looking forward to the FOST Christmas Discos and our whole-school trip to the pantomime—always a highlight of the year!

Finally, we send our heartfelt best wishes to Mr Rees, who has spent time in hospital this week. We send him all our love and prayers for a speedy recovery.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, and God bless.

Mrs B Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	96.9	98.1
Year 1	97.7	96.7
Year 2	96.3	97.7
Year 3	98.1	97.8
Year 4	98.1	95.9
Year 5	93.5	89.7
Year 6	94.7	94.1
Whole School total:	96.5	95.6

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Reception 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



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](#).

Visit from Sir Bob Russell



On Tuesday Year 1 had a visit from Sir Bob Russell.

He came to tell the children that Twinkle Twinkle, the world's most famous nursery rhyme, was written here in Colchester.



A statue of the poet who wrote Twinkle Twinkle Little Star was unveiled last year in Colchester High Street to celebrate this fact. Sir Bob raised £90,000 for the statue to be created!

Sir Bob gave all of Year 1 their own book mark so they could go home and share this information with their families. Well done Year 1 for listening so attentively and asking Sir Bob some interesting questions.

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.



Managing seasonal illnesses

We have been asked to share the following information, sent from the DfE, with our school community:

“As we move further into the term, we want to remind all settings of the key guidance available to help manage seasonal illnesses and keep pupils and staff well.

[Education Hub Blog](#): Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance - a helpful blog for parents and staff.

[NHS Guidance for Parents](#): Is my child too ill for school? - a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.

[Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance](#): Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.

[A-Z of managing Infectious Diseases](#): Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.

By following and sharing these resources, settings can support healthier school environments and help maintain high attendance as far as possible throughout the winter months.”

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



SNAP’s Christmas Survival Guide for pupils with SEND

SNAP’s updated Christmas Survival Guide is full of tips and advice for this festive season. It is designed to help support you and your family. It covers a number of topics including:

- ❖ making adjustments to decorations
- ❖ making adjustments to foods and gifts
- ❖ festive messy play ideas
- ❖ adapted resources.

The survival guide provides strategies to help make the holiday period less stressful for all the family.

To find out more, visit SNAP’s website.



The background is a solid dark blue. Scattered around the text are several illustrations of hands holding books. At the top, a hand holds an open book with green covers. To the left, a hand holds a closed blue book. To the right, a hand holds a closed red book. Below the main text, a hand holds an open green book on the left, and another hand holds a closed green book on the right. At the bottom, a hand holds an open brown book on the left, and another hand holds an open blue book on the right.

THANK YOU!

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY,
WE RAISED A WHOPPING
£794.48 AT THE BOOK FAIR
LAST WEEK.

WE WILL BE ABLE TO USE SOME OF
THIS AMOUNT TO PURCHASE
SOME NEW BOOKS FOR CLASS
LIBRARIES.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL!

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

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

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



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



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



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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

