



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 12th December 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

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 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,

There is no full newsletter from me this week- it has been a wonderfully busy and joy-filled week as we have continued our Advent journey together, preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. We finished the week, as you know with a whole school trip to the pantomime- it was a magical day out to remember!

I realise it's an exceptionally busy time for everyone so hopefully this shorter newsletter may be a blessing but I do ask you to read the remaining pages carefully- there is plenty of information about the final week of term next week and some reminders about parking considerably and keeping everyone safe.

Have a wonderful weekend and I do look forward to seeing everyone next week for our final week together of 2025! I do also hope to see many of you at the parish carol service at 3pm on Sunday in the Church, our school choir pupils will be singing (no need for uniform).

See below for: Christmas dinner details, Christingle details, review the updated term dates to the side, nativity performances...

God Bless, Mrs Maguire

PARKING

Sadly, we have received complaints from our neighbours this week regarding parking. The neighbours we spoke to report that this week has been the worst week they have ever experienced with cars blocking driveways, parking on the pavement and obstructing residents from entering and exiting their properties. We have heard about residents' cars being damaged and even about verbal abusive (in front of children) from parents arguing with neighbours when they've been asked to move. Sadly, parking on the disco evening seemed a particular concern.

I have huge empathy with the residents who put up with inconsiderate and unsafe parking and I implore the small minority of parents who do not follow our guidelines to use King George's Field carpark or the surrounding roads to make a change moving forward.

We pride ourselves on maintaining good relationships with our neighbours and the wider community and we do not want to damage those good relationships with something that could easily be avoided.

Once again, I urge you all to show consideration to our neighbours by not parking across, or even on, driveways and to use the car park at our disposal, at the end of Clairmont Road, to avoid congestion along the road.

I cannot police vehicles parked on pavement areas and staff are busy supporting pupils at key transition times but I will reiterate the repeated message: parking on pavements and across driveways on Clairmont and Collingwood Road causes obstruction to families with young children / babies in prams who have to walk in the road and also causes worse congestion for everyone as the flow of traffic is impacted.

PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

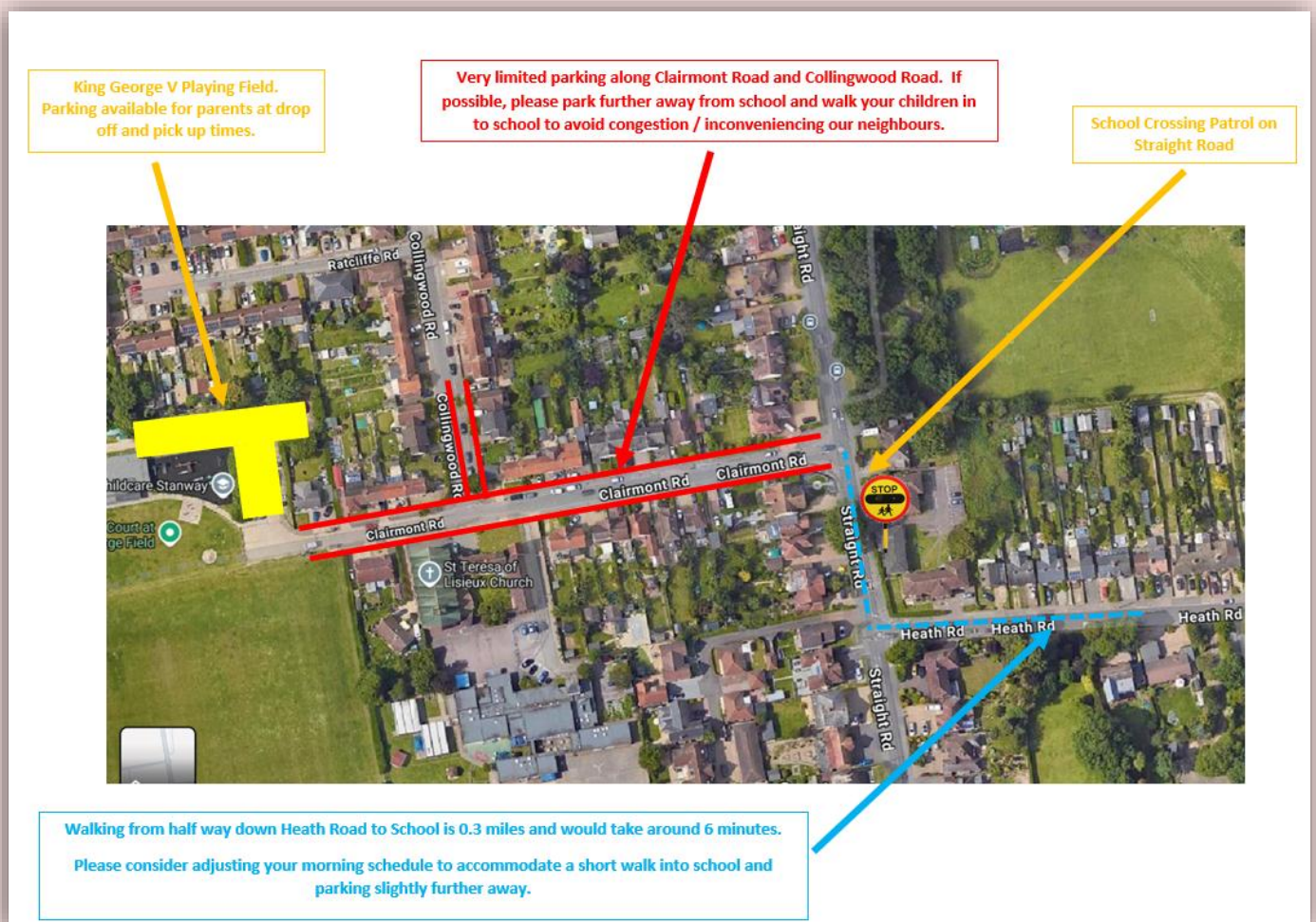
The safety of our pupils is always our top priority, and we kindly ask all families to help us maintain a calm and considerate environment at drop-off and pick-up times. Our school is located within a residential area, and we also have a responsibility to minimise congestion and be good neighbours to those living nearby.

Please take note of the following important guidance:

- The yellow zigzag markings outside school are a strict no-stopping zone at all times. Parking or waiting on these lines is not permitted under any circumstances.
- Please do not park across residents' driveways. This causes understandable frustration and can lead to complaints and enforcement.
- The school car park is for staff use only, unless specific permission has been granted.
- Families using Early Bird Breakfast Club (7:30-8:00am) or Wraparound Care (4:45-6:00pm) may use the car park during those times.
- To protect children and families at the busiest times of the day, there are windows during which no vehicles may enter or exit the school car park - typically during the main drop-off and collection periods. Please respect these restrictions for the safety of all.

To support you in planning a safe and stress-free journey to school, we've attached a map showing suggested parking areas, average walking distances, and the location of local lollipop crossings. A short walk can make all the difference to safety and ease of movement for everyone.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation. By working together, we can ensure our school site remains safe, welcoming, and respectful to all.



Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	98.1	97
Year 1	96.7	96
Year 2	97.7	92
Year 3	97.8	97.5
Year 4	95.9	90.3
Year 5	89.7	96.8
Year 6	94.1	94.7
Whole School total:	95.6	94.9

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

Well done to Year 3 for highest attendance this week!



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 1

Christmas Dinner will be served on Thursday 18th December

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.

Christmas Dinner



Please see the menu below for the delicious Christmas Dinner that the kitchen will be serving on Thursday 18th December. All special dietary requirements can be catered for - if you have any queries please contact the School Office.

There is no need to pre-book Christmas dinner - children will just inform their teacher of their meal choices when the register is taken on that morning.

The cost will be £3.70 for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 (there is no cost for Rec, Y1 and Y2 as children are entitled to a Free School Dinner). There is no requirement to pay if your child is entitled to FSM (Free School Meals). This amount will be added to your child's dinner money account on ParentPay once they have had Christmas Dinner.

CHRISTMAS DINNER MENU

THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER 2025

*Traditional Christmas Dinner
served with
Yorkshire Pudding
and Gravy*



*or
Quorn Fillet
Served with
Yorkshire Pudding
and Gravy (V)*



Roast Potatoes

Sliced Carrots / Brussel Sprouts / Peas



Pigs in Blankets

Sage & Onion stuffing balls



Festive Chocolate Muffins

(Festive Cookies will be available for children with allergies)



*Fruit Juice Carton
Christmas Cracker*





We will be joining together for our Christingle Service on Friday 19th December at 1.30pm.

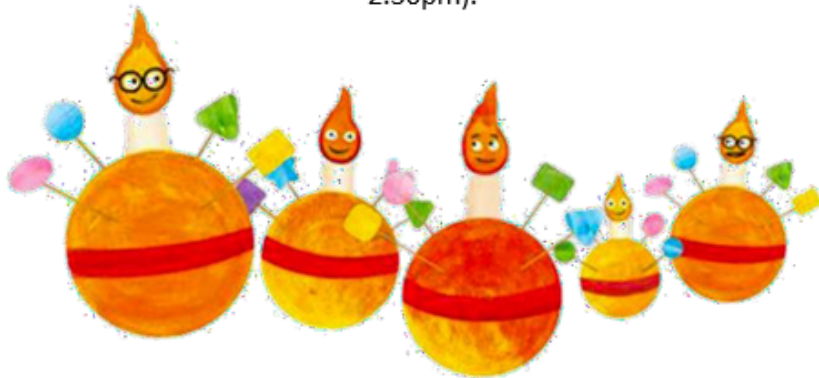
We are asking each child **to create their Christingle at home and bring it with them** into school on **Friday 19th December**.

They will be sent home with an orange, candle and 4 cocktail sticks next week. We ask you get creative with the red section of the Christingle and put sweets on the sticks.

Thank you for your support with this. It is going to be a beautiful service and we hope you will be able to join us as we get ever closer to the birth of Jesus. Please feel free to bring your own Christingle if you would like to.

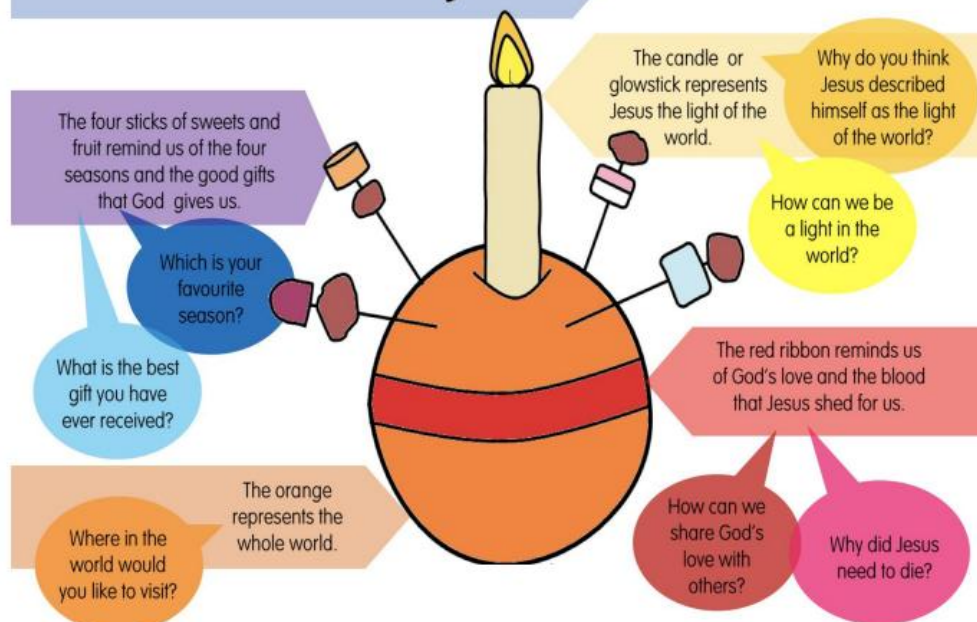
There will be a donation basket at the back of the church and we ask for donations for The Children's Society.

At the end of the service, school ends for Christmas (approx. 2.30pm).



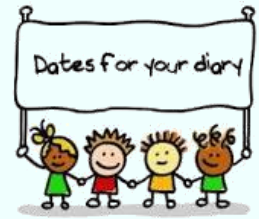
All about Christingles

We make Christingles at Christmas time as a reminder of who Jesus is and his love for the whole world.



AUTUMN TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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 This will also be Christmas Jumper day - children are invited to wear something Christmassy instead of their uniform or decorate their uniform with some Christmas items if they would like to. 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.



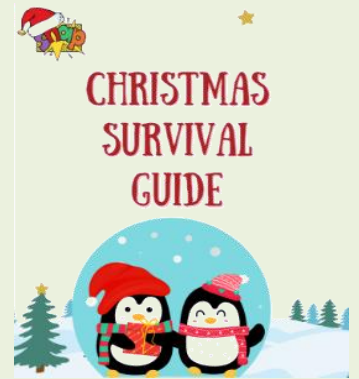
SNAP's Christmas Survival Guide for pupils with SEND

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.



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



SEND tea/coffee session

You are invited to come and join a SEND tea/coffee session.



This is an opportunity for parents who have children with SEND to meet one another and share experiences.

This session will also be an opportunity for you to share your views about SEND provision at St.Teresa's.

Date of session: Thursday 15th January 2026 2 pm – 3:10 pm

There will be a short presentation and focus on 'Self-esteem' at 2:30pm delivered by Mrs Burrows.

You are invited to join all or part of the session. Feel free to drop in when you can.

Come and have fun at **BEAVERS** or **cubs**

Try new things. Make new friends.
Joining is just the beginning
of your big adventure.

We meet at -
Wimpole Road, Methodist Church
on Mondays

**We have
spaces starting
January
2026**

Beavers

Ages 6-8

Meeting time: 5-6pm

Cubs

Ages 8-10 1/2

Meeting time: 6.30-8pm

What do we do?

- Master new skills and try new things
- Have fun and go on adventures
- Are curious about the world around them
- Help others and make a difference, on their own and beyond.
- Do our best, be kind and helpful

Every week we gather and take part in lots of different games activities, with the young people achieving anything they set their mind to, and having lots of fun along the way.

Interested in Joining? Contact -
L.szmyr@colchesterestuariescouts.org.uk
07840950114

Scouts 
9th Colchester Scout
Group

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



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



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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

