

### **TERM DATES 2025 – 2026**



#### **SPRING TERM 2026**

Return on: **Tues 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January is an additional INSET Day**

#### **February Half Term 2026:**

Break up: Fri 13<sup>th</sup> February

Return on: Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### **Easter Holidays 2026:**

Break up: Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

**No wraparound care on this day**

Return on: Mon 13<sup>th</sup> April

*Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May is a non-pupil day*

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May is a Bank Holiday*

#### **May Half Term 2026:**

Break up: Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May

*Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May is a non-pupil day*

Return on: Mon 1<sup>st</sup> June

#### **Summer Holidays 2026:**

Break up: Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30 pm

**No wraparound care on this day**

*Mon 20<sup>th</sup> July is a non-pupil day*

### **TERM DATES 2026 – 2027**

#### **September 2026:**

Return on: Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept

*Tues 1<sup>st</sup> is a non-pupil day*

*Weds 2<sup>nd</sup> is a non-pupil day*

#### **October Half Term 2026:**

Break up: Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Return on: Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> November

#### **Christmas Holidays 2026-27**

Break up: Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm

Return on: Tues 5<sup>th</sup> January

*Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan is a non-pupil day*

#### **February Half Term 2027:**

Break up: Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February

Return on: Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### **Easter Holidays 2027:**

Break up: Thu 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

Return on: Mon 12<sup>th</sup> April

*Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April is a non-pupil day*

*Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May is a Bank Holiday*

#### **May Half Term 2027:**

Break up: Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May

Return on: Mon 7<sup>th</sup> June

*Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May is a non-pupil day*

#### **Summer Holidays 2027:**

Break up: Weds 21<sup>st</sup> July at 2.30 pm

Please note that after-school wrap-around care will not be available on the following dates:

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

(last day of term - early finish)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

(last day of term - early finish)

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends



We began the week reflecting on Advent joy – and what a joyful week it has been. I was delighted to watch both our Early Years pupils (Nursery and Reception) and our KS1 children (Years 1 and Year 2) perform their Nativity plays during the week. Thank you to everyone who joined us in the audience. The performances were full of enthusiasm, confidence and heart – exactly as a primary school Nativity should be. The children clearly loved dressing up, singing loudly (sometimes in their own unique order!) and sharing such a special and meaningful message.

On Wednesday, Year 3 also took to the stage in their own way, hosting an Orangutan Exhibition for parents. This was a wonderful culmination and celebration of some truly exceptional learning; the children spoke with confidence and pride about their work.

Our festive celebrations continued throughout the week. On Thursday we all enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, with over 200 portions served. This feels like the perfect moment to offer a heartfelt thank you to our amazing kitchen team for their hard work – not just this week, but every week – in caring so well for our school community. Thank you to FOST too for the Christmas crackers!

We finished the term this afternoon with our Christingle service. Very well done for the wonderful array of Christingles brought into school, and thank you to everyone who joined us for the celebration and to those who were able to make a donation to The Children's Society.

As this is my final newsletter of the term, I would also like to say a sincere thank you to our staff team. It has been a long and demanding term, and they finish it understandably exhausted – but, as always, having given everything for the children. I hope the Christmas break brings rest, time with loved ones and a chance to recharge.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout the term and indeed 2025! To our Reception parents particularly – can you believe a whole term of 'big school' has already flown by?

On behalf of the Governors and all the staff, I would like to wish all our families a joyful and peaceful Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we hold onto the promise that "the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:2)

God Bless  
Mrs Maguire

## Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	97	97.8
Year 1	96	94
Year 2	92	87
Year 3	97.5	97.5
Year 4	90.3	90.6
Year 5	96.8	96.5
Year 6	94.7	95
<b>Whole School total:</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>94</b>

EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS

Well done to Reception for highest attendance this week!



### Menus

#### Lunch Menu

First week back after Christmas is  
Week 2

#### Wraparound Menu

First week back after Christmas is  
Week 2

#### Nursery Snack Menu

First week back after Christmas 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.*

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION - SEPTEMBER 2026**

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 **10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**, applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**Attendance**

An attendance record and letter for the term have been sent home via the pupils. Our current whole-school attendance (up till Oct half-term) stood at 97.2%, which is above the national average and places us strongly when compared with similar schools. Our strong position reflects the commitment of families, pupils and staff. Our minimum target, set by the DfE for this academic year is 96.7%, we are pleased to be currently meeting this target.

The information shared reminds us that small amounts of absence quickly add up and can have a real impact on learning and wellbeing. As a school, we continue to focus on full weeks of attendance. Mondays and Fridays are particularly important days not to miss, as they are the days when absence most commonly occurs and when key learning, routines and transitions often take place.

From the New Year, our attendance thresholds will increase, with 96% being recognised as good attendance (previously 95%). This reflects our high expectations for all pupils and our commitment to ensuring every child benefits fully from school life.

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping children to be in school, on time, every day they are able – this shared commitment makes a real difference.



### KS1 Book Bags

Please do use the break to clear out book bags of letters and work- although we send most of our communications via Seesaw, we do sometimes have paper letters for individuals. Do check to see if you've missed any.



### Wellies



We very much hope to continue utilising the whole school field in January at lunchtime play. To avoid caking the school and your child's uniform in mud we are asking all pupils to bring a pair of named wellies to school. Lots of children are already doing this but we'd like to encourage all pupils to have wellies in the new year. These can live in the school cloakrooms and stay at school throughout the term.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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)

#### Reconciliation

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 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

6.00pm -Group 1      7.00pm-Group 2

June 7<sup>th</sup> 2026 First Holy Communion service -9am and 11am (in normal mass)

Going Forth Mass - June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 9.00am

