

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

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*

Year 6 SATS Week:

Mon 11th – Thurs 14th May 2026

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 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 our week together in assembly thinking about bold decisions and what it means to be brave enough to follow the right path, even when it feels a little scary. We reflected on the disciples dropping their nets to follow Jesus and considered what we might need to be bold in our own lives – in our learning, our friendships and our faith.



The weather was certainly rather grey, wet and windy early this week! It was lovely to spend time supervising and visiting classes during wet play and seeing pupils enjoying games indoors while continuing to show such good behaviour and positive attitudes. When we've been outdoors the children have been enjoying some more new play features- scooters and trikes for KS1 and tyres for the main playground. You wouldn't believe the fun the children are having with old car tyres- these are certainly sparking curiosity, imagination and creativity!

If some of the miserable weather this week has made you long for summer the FOST have announced the date for the FOST FEST 2026 – make sure you save the date: Friday 12th June. We know it will be another fantastic community event for all our families.

On Thursday, we welcomed some very special visitors to school – a group, or one of my favourite collective nouns, a 'parliament' of owls, organised by Mrs Heath. It was an incredible experience watching them swoop silently across the school hall right above our heads. The children had a fantastic time learning about these amazing animals, their habitats, talents and abilities as well as getting up really close for a truly memorable experience. A huge thank you to Erika and Olivia from the Night Owls for providing us with this amazing opportunity. Afterwards, photos were taken and an order form will be sent home in the near future for families who wish to purchase a copy.

You will be aware from our Seesaw communications this week that Year 4 have had a considerable number of pupils absent with chickenpox. We've begun seeing cases in other year groups. I have taken advice from public health and been reassured that chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch. I've popped additional information further down if you would like to read. Please do keep an eye out for symptoms and follow Public Health guidance regarding time off school to help prevent further spread. Your diligence helps keep the whole community safe.

As we move into February next week, there are lots of lovely things to look forward to, including our Candlemas celebration on Monday, a Year 5/6 Sportshall event for invited pupils, and Number Day on Friday.

I wish you all a restful weekend.

God bless,
Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	99.3	94.1
Year 1	97	97.7
Year 2	97.3	94.0
Year 3	96.3	92.8
Year 4	96.9	77.5
Year 5	98.4	92.6
Year 6	95.6	96.9
Whole School total:	97.1	92.1



Well done to Year 1 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.

Chicken Pox / Shingles

Please see the advice below which was shared with us by the East of England **Senior Health Protection Practitioner**

*Please see link below re infection control/public health for schools & childcare settings.
[Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK](#)*

The guidance advises:

Chickenpox (varicella) and shingles

Chickenpox is a mild and common childhood illness that most children catch. Chickenpox is most common in children under the age of 10. Nine out of 10 adults are immune because they had chickenpox during childhood. People usually catch chickenpox in winter and spring, particularly between March and May. Chickenpox has a sudden onset with fever, runny nose, cough and a generalised rash. The spotty rash starts with fluid filled blisters which then scab over and eventually drop off. Some people have only a few spots, but other people can have spots that cover their entire body. In most people, the blisters crust up and fall off naturally within one to 2 weeks.

Chickenpox in children is considered a mild illness. There is no specific treatment but there are pharmacy remedies that may alleviate symptoms. These include paracetamol to relieve fever, and calamine lotion and cooling gels to ease itching.

Chickenpox tends to be more severe in adults and they tend to have a higher risk of developing complications.

Some children and adults are at higher risk of serious problems if they catch chickenpox, including:

- pregnant women
- newborn babies
- people with a weakened immune system

These people should seek medical advice as soon as they are exposed to chickenpox or if they develop chickenpox symptoms. They may need a blood test to check if they are protected from (immune) chickenpox.

Shingles is caused by the chickenpox virus. When people get chickenpox, the virus remains in the body. It can be reactivated later and cause shingles if someone's immune system is lowered.

Shingles presents as a blistering rash in the area supplied by the affected nerve, usually only one side of the body. It can be very painful. Most people recover fully. There is often altered sensation before the rash appears, accompanied by 'flu like' symptoms.

Chickenpox is highly infectious and spreads by respiratory secretions or by direct contact with fluid from blisters.

Direct contact with fluid from the blisters of a person that has shingles can cause chickenpox in someone who has never had it before.

People with chickenpox are generally infectious from 2 days before the rash appears and until all blisters have crusted over (usually 5 to 6 days after the start of the rash).

Note that symptoms may present differently dependent on the skin tone. This guidance is not intended to act as a diagnostic tool. If concerned, refer to a clinician and follow appropriate and proportionate measures in the meantime.

Exclusion is recommended.

School actions:

Advise individuals, parents or carers to:

- seek immediate medical advice if the individual is seriously ill or if they develop any abnormal symptoms such as:
 - the blisters becoming infected
 - a pain in their chest or difficulty breathing
- avoid contact with other people for at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over (if chickenpox) or can be covered (shingles)

Do not allow the individual to return to the setting until all the blisters have dried and crusted over.

Further information about chickenpox and shingles

[Chickenpox - NHS.UK](#)

Parking

A reminder regarding parking, particularly at universal breakfast club drop-off time.

Unfortunately, every day this week two or three cars have been seen stopping on the yellow zigzag lines, parking across our closest neighbours' driveways or even across the schools' driveway. The house directly on the end of the drive has a full drop-down curb, it is impolite and unsuitable to park outside. Blocking the school driveway means staff cannot enter and in-turn block the road whilst they wait.

We haven't seen enforcement officers for a little while, but they do visit, and fines can and have been issued to parents even if a vehicle is stopped for only a few moments of the zig-zags.



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)

Communion

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



Future SEND tea/coffee session dates for your diary

Wednesday 11th March 9 – 10:30am

Visiting guest from Autism Anglia.


They offer free autism and ADHD support for families in the Colchester area.



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

April 22nd 1:30 – 3pm

Visiting guest from SPACE.

They will do a brief introduction about their services followed by an informal Q&A with and parents. They welcome any questions related to all aspects of SEND.

Thursday 2nd July 1:30 – 3pm

Visiting guest from Autism Anglia.

Essex Youth Service

Mrs Luff (Essex Music Services Teacher) has asked us to share the following:

Dear parents, guardians, and students,

Please see below an email from Kirsty in the Youth Service team detailing the opportunities coming up this term in Manningtree, Colchester, Basildon, and Southend.

Kind regards,
Mrs Luff

Hey!

I'm Kirsty, and I work for the Essex Youth Service as the Youth Participation Lead. My job is all about making sure young people have a voice in the things that matter to them.

Right now, I'm working with Essex Music Service to run some local Youth Voice sessions, and we'd love for you to get involved!

These sessions are a chance for you to share your views and ideas about music opportunities in your area. Your feedback will help shape what happens in the future.

Taking part in this session could also lead to the chance to join a county-wide Youth Voice group with Essex Music Service, where you can influence future music service delivery and help shape decision-making at a wider, strategic level.

*This isn't just for people already involved with Essex Music Service, it's for **anyone who's interested in music**, whatever your experience.*

At the session, you'll be able to:

- *Share your thoughts on music activities and opportunities*
- *Tell us what you'd like to see more (or less) of*
- *Give ideas on how young people's voices should be heard moving forward*
- *Connect with other young people in your area*

Choose a session that best suits you and let us know you are coming:

Area	Meeting details	Get involved!
Tendring	When: Saturday 31 January 11.00am - 12.00pm Where: Manningtree High School, CO11 2BW	<u>Complete this form</u>
Basildon	When: Friday 6 March 5.00pm - 6.00pm Where: Southernhay Youth Centre, SS14 1FN	<u>Complete this form</u>
Colchester	When: Saturday 28 February 11.00am - 12.00pm Where: Colchester Townhouse CO1 1SS	<u>Complete this form</u>
Southend	When: Monday 2 March 4.45pm - 5.45pm Where: Southend High School for Boys, SSO ORG	<u>Complete this form</u>

Got questions? Just [send me an email](#) and ask 😊

Thanks,

Kirsty (Youth Participation Lead)

Essex Music Service,
the lead organisation in the Greater Essex Music Hub
E2, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH

T: 0333 013 8953 (General Office)

E: musichub@essex.gov.uk

W: www.essexmusicservice.org.uk

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You are the expert of your child

You Are Not Alone - Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Next one: 3rd February

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents have said:

*'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the past year - Jo (parent)*

*'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' - Louise (parent)*

'Thank you so much for your support. I nearly chicken out in speaking but I'm glad I did. These sessions have been really helpful and I don't feel so alone'

Emma (parent)

If you would like to join the **next drop-in on Tuesday 3rd February**, please send an email to sallywagter@gmail.com and we will send you the **Zoom** link.

Essex Fire Museum Open Day

2026



17th and 22nd Of February

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now 
Free Entry



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk



THE YARD PROJECTS'

YOUTH HOLIDAY CLUB



FEB HALF TERM

**CALLING ALL 10-16 YEAR OLDS COME AND TAKE ON THE 2-DAY CHALLENGE AT THE YARD PROJECT – DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, AND CREATE LIKE A PRO
TWO DAYS. REAL TOOLS. REAL SKILLS. REAL FUN.**

ACTIVITY:

Join us to create a custom bird box or feeder. You'll have the chance to design, build, and finish your project – then mount it on a stand or attach it to a tree to help attract birds to your area.

DATE:

Tuesday & Wednesday -17th & 18th of FEB 2026

Time:

9:00AM-3:00PM

DRESS CODE:

Old clothes and trainers. (Steel Toecaps not required but can be worn)

LOCATION:

Futures Changing LTD,
Unit 12, Grange Way Business Park, CO28HF

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

CERTIFICATES ON COMPLETION!

SCAN ME



- Please arrive by 9:00am.
- Free breakfast options will be available for students before 9:30am.
- Breaks will be scheduled during the day, and students may go off-site for lunch if they have permission. A permission slip must be returned to TYP prior to attending.
- Any allergies must be disclosed before attending.
- Please ensure prompt pick-up at 3:00pm.
- All activities must be booked and paid for in advance. Students are required to commit to two days in order to complete their projects.

CONTACT US



Info@changefuture.co.uk

01206 416977

www.changeutures.co.uk

Unit 12, Grange way Business park, Colchester,
CO28HF

essex
outdoors



AMAZING ADVENTURES ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Exhilarating school holiday
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Water sports, high ropes, zip wire, archery,
bushcraft and more at four centres.

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£20
PER DAY

 Essex County Council

essexoutdoors.com/school-holiday-activities

February Holiday Camps

ePC
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Children's Activity, Education, and Childcare provider

Active holiday camp fun that suits every child. Whether your child loves football/sports, or a mix of games, crafts, and challenges the EPC Football and Activity Camps invite all children to come along and enjoy being active!

Choose times to suit your family

Half Day: 08:30-12:30 | Full Day: 08:30-15:00 | Extended Day: 08:30-16:30

Suitable for
children in
school year
R - 6

Prices start
from £22.50
per day

Childcare
Vouchers and
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Football



Lego
Challenges



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Activities



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Camp ↓





SCS FEBRUARY HALF TERM COLCHESTER FOOTBALL CAMP

The Stanway School, Winstree Road, Colchester, CO3 0QA

2 Day Camp

Monday 16th February | Tuesday 17th February

- 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



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 FEBRUARY HALF TERM

COLCHESTER MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

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

1 Day Camp

Friday 20th February

- 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 SCS
COLCHESTER WHATSAPP
GROUP

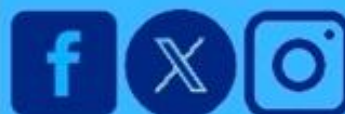


FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR SCS
SESSIONS IN
COLCHESTER

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