

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

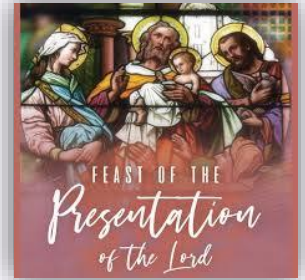
(last day of term - early finish)

Friday 17th July 2026

(last day of term - early finish)

Dear parents, carers and friends

We began the week celebrating the beautiful feast of Candlemas, 40 days after the birth of Jesus. This special day remembers when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple, where Simeon and Anna recognised Him as the Saviour. Their words remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World for all people. Thank you to Year 1 pupils who reverently acted out this Gospel story, and to our Chaplaincy Team who read so confidently and prayerfully.



Our teachers joined colleagues from other schools this week for a cross-school writing moderation. This collaboration helps ensure high standards, accurate assessment and provides a great opportunity to share ideas and celebrate the fantastic progress our pupils are making as writers and authors.

We also welcomed our School Effectiveness Partner from the Local Authority to quality assure our Early Years provision, with a particular focus on Little Flowers Nursery. I was delighted by her feedback about the calm, engaging learning environments, the confidence of the children and the positive relationships between staff and pupils. Very well done to our Early Years team and, of course, to our youngest pupils for being such wonderful ambassadors for St Teresa's.

On Thursday, a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils proudly represented our school at a Sportshall Athletics competition, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. We are very proud of them for 3rd place overall.

Next Thursday we will be marking Chinese New Year with a special themed school dinner. We would love as many children as possible to take part, so do consider booking a school meal for that day.

Next Friday will be a non-school uniform day in support of FOST. Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for donations towards the FOST Easter raffle (see Seesaw for donation ideas). Thank you, as always, for supporting our Friends of St Teresa's.

A reminder that we offer a range of wraparound provision to support families: Early Bird Breakfast Club (from 7:30am); Universal Free Breakfast Club (from 8:15am); After School Wraparound Care (till 6pm). These clubs provide a safe and welcoming start and end to the school day, offer great value- did you know we also accept Tax-Free Childcare. Please contact the school office if you would like more information.

I am excited to share that Mrs Health has secured a grant to further develop outdoor learning at St Teresa's. As part of this, we will be creating a pond habitat on the school grounds – a wonderful opportunity for children to learn more about nature and caring for God's creation.

A little joyful moment from my week – I completely ran out of golden Headteacher Award stickers! More have now been urgently ordered. One of the very best parts of my day is hearing that little knock on my door and seeing a beaming smile as a child proudly shares their amazing work.

Looking ahead to next week, we are holding our Year 6 SATs Meeting on Monday at 6pm. We strongly encourage all Year 6 parents and carers to attend.

Calling on Parent Expertise...If you work in PR, marketing, communications, or have a legal background, and would be willing to offer advice or support to the school from time to time, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school office to get in touch.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.
God bless, Mrs B Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	94.1	94.1
Year 1	97.7	95.3
Year 2	94.0	93.0
Year 3	92.8	93.8
Year 4	77.5	92.9
Year 5	92.6	96.8
Year 6	96.9	95.0
Whole School total:	92.1	94.4



Well done to Year 5 for highest attendance this week!



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week we're having a special one-off menu - please see Seesaw to view

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.

The Mayor of Colchester's Chess Tournament

The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Mike Lilley, invites pupils of St Teresa's Catholic Primary School to take part in a free schools' event as part of The Mayor of Colchester's Chess Tournament at the Moot Hall, Colchester Town Hall on Saturday 21 February.

The national charity, Chess in Schools and Communities will host the schools' event; their volunteers drawing on experience of providing state schools with chess lessons, clubs, equipment and training as well as hosting ChessFest, attended by over 20,000 people in London's Trafalgar Square each year.

From 12 noon to 3.15 pm Chess in Schools and Communities will host a tournament involving five (or six) games of chess for each child. This will be both a school team and individual event. There will be prizes for the top performing schools and individuals.

This tournament is ideal for children who are at the beginning of their competitive chess journey: they know how to play but have never experienced a tournament before.

There will be opportunities for chess coaching from the CSC staff and volunteers present on the day, either before or after the tournament.

The day of chess at the Moot Hall also includes an MP vs Mayor chess match, a Championship chess tournament and social chess. Funds raised will support the Mayor's Charities. Details at:

<https://colchester.org.uk/chess/>

The tournament is limited to 60 participants.

There are relatively few places remaining for pupils not part of a school team. Please complete [an online registration form](#) to book a place in the tournament for your child.



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

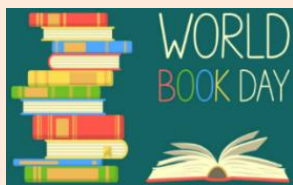
6.00pm -Group 1 7.00pm-Group 2

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

Going Forth Mass - June 14th @ 9.00am



World Book Day



Advance Notice that World Book Day this year is on Thursday 5th March however, we will be dressing up on **Friday 6th March**. The half term break may be a good opportunity to get your thinking caps on and your sewing machines out ready for costume designing!

BOOK DAY DRESS-UP FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

COME AS YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER



What an AMAZING morning we had yesterday at the Sportshall Athletics. We came third over the morning with our fantastic track and field prowess!

The children made me so incredibly proud! Thank you to all the parents who gave up their morning to transport and support the children.



NETBALL NEWS



Last Friday, the year six netball team played against Montgomery Juniors. They played with fantastic skill and teamwork, winning the match 7-5.

Thank you to Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Dyball for their amazing netball coaching and to all the parents who came to support the children.

Thank you



Thank you too to Mr Bailey for our super new kit. I'm sure you'll agree. They looked very smart during its first showing.

PIC•COLLAGE



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

Primary | February 2026

Children's Mental Health Week

This year's **Children's Mental Health Week** is 9-15th February, the theme is '**This Is My Place**'.

For young children, feeling that they belong is not just about happiness - it is about feeling safe, protected and valued. When children know they have trusted adults, predictable routines and spaces where they feel listened to, it supports their mental health and helps keep them safe. A strong sense of belonging helps children feel confident to speak up, ask for help and share worries before they become overwhelming. Children who feel secure in their relationships at home and school are better able to manage emotions, build healthy friendships and cope with challenges. Feeling included and accepted also reduces vulnerability, as children are more likely to seek support if something does not feel right.

Support for children and families

If you ever have concerns about your child's emotional wellbeing or need advice or support, the following organisations offer trusted guidance for parents and children:

Place2Be

- Provides mental health support in schools and practical advice for parents on children's emotional wellbeing.

YoungMinds

- Offers a dedicated Parents' Helpline, resources on children's mental health and guidance on supporting children through worries, anxiety and big emotions.

NSPCC

- Provides advice and support around safeguarding, keeping children safe and what to do if you're worried about a child.

Anna Freud Centre

- Shares evidence-based resources to help parents understand and support children's mental and emotional development.

Childline

- A free, confidential service for children and young people who need someone to talk to. It can be reassuring for children to know support is available beyond home and school.

In this issue:

- Children's Mental Health Week
- Safer Internet Day

HOW PARENTS/CARERS CAN SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S

sense of belonging

01

MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

Regularly check in with your child and listen without judgement. Let them know their feelings matter and that they can talk to you about anything, big or small.

02

TALK ABOUT TRUSTED ADULTS

Help your child identify the adults they can go to if they are worried - at home, at school, and in the wider community.

03

CREATE PREDICTABLE ROUTINES

Consistent routines help children feel secure and understand what to expect, especially during busy or stressful times.

04

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Talk about kindness, respect, and what safe friendships look like. Support your child if they are finding friendships tricky.

05

NOTICE CHANGES

Changes in behaviour, mood, sleep or school attitudes can be signs a child is struggling. Trust your instincts and seek support early.



If you are worried about your child, it's always best to seek support early. You can also speak directly to school staff if you have concerns - working together helps ensure children feel safe, supported and secure.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Safer Internet Day: Smart Tech, Safe Choices

This year's Safer Internet Day is 10th February and the theme is 'Smart Tech, Safe Choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' As technology becomes an everyday part of children's lives, it is important that we help them use it safely, responsibly and with confidence.

Many primary-age children already interact with technology that uses artificial intelligence (AI), such as voice assistants, games, learning apps and online content recommendations. These tools can support learning, creativity and curiosity when used appropriately and with adult guidance.

However, while AI can be helpful and engaging, it also presents risks that young children may not recognise. AI tools can sometimes provide inaccurate information, expose children to unsuitable content, or encourage them to trust what they see and hear too easily. Some platforms collect personal data, blur the line between what is real and computer-generated or present content in ways that feel friendly but are not designed with children's safety in mind. Without clear guidance, children may struggle to judge what is safe, making adult supervision and open conversations essential.

From a safeguarding perspective, supporting children to make safe choices online is just as important as keeping them safe offline. When children feel informed, supervised, and able to talk openly about their online experiences, they are more likely to speak up if something worries them. Helping children understand boundaries, protect personal information and know where to seek help builds confidence and reduces vulnerability.

The infographic features a central orange box with the title "How parents/carers can support safe and responsible technology use" and an AI atom icon. Surrounding it are six white boxes with red borders, each containing a key point. The background is a vibrant red with abstract patterns and icons like a Wi-Fi symbol, a laptop, and a robot.

- Talk openly about technology and AI**
Use age-appropriate language to explain that some online tools are run by computers, not people and they can sometimes make mistakes.
- Encourage questions and curiosity**
Reassure your child that they can ask if something online feels confusing, upsetting or unclear.
- Reinforce safety messages**
Remind children never to share personal information, passwords or photos and to tell a trusted adult if something online worries them.
- Stay involved and supervise**
Know what your child is watching, playing or using. Sharing activities online helps guide safe choices.
- Set clear boundaries**
Agree screen-time limits, appropriate apps or games and where devices can be used. Consistent routines help children feel secure.

If you have any concerns about your child's online experiences, please speak to a member of school staff. Working together helps ensure children feel safe, supported and confident to make smart choices online.



Essex
Teaching
Awards 2026

**Do you know
an outstanding
staff member?**

**Nominate them for an
Essex Teaching Award!**

Show your appreciation by completing
a short form before **27 March 2026**.



www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/essex-teaching-awards

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.



Free Autism & ADHD advice at your pace.

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.



Online FREE talk by Jane Keyworth

Anxiety Based School Avoidance

March 26th 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

go to PARENTS - Live Talks page

All 16 parent talks **FREE** with our School Membership





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.change futures.co.uk

Unit 12, Grange way Business park, Colchester,
CO28HF

essex
outdoors



AMAZING ADVENTURES ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Exhilarating school holiday
activity days for kids age 8+

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

DANBURY • HARLOW • MERSEA

HALF PRICE
FOR FEBRUARY
£20
PER DAY

 Essex County Council

essexoutdoors.com/school-holiday-activities

February Holiday Camps

ePC
ESSEX PROFESSIONAL
COACHING

Ofsted
Registered

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
Tax Free
accepted

Family
discount
automatically
applied at
checkout

Flexible
booking and
payment
options

Football



Lego
Challenges



Dodgeball



Basketball

Activities



Inflatible Dart Board



NERF Guns



Archery

Find Your Nearest
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

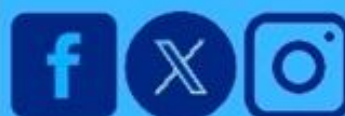


FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT OUR SCS
SESSIONS IN
COLCHESTER

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



www.scssports.co.uk



Free Family Fun Day!

Blow away those winter blues!

Join us in the Kingsland building and car park with a whole day of community fun!

- ★ Live Music
 - ★ Games
 - ★ Bouncy Castle
 - ★ Face Painting
 - ★ Arts & Crafts
 - ★ Dance Performance
- and much, much more!*

Saturday 21st February
11am - 4pm



KINGSLAND CHURCH, 86 LONDON ROAD, CO3 9DW