

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

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)

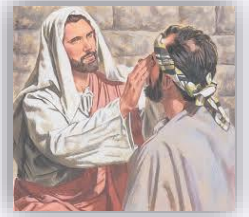
Forthcoming Trips / Visits:

Mon 23rd March
Y3 to Colchester Castle

Wed 17th June
Y6 Theatre Trip

Dear Parents, Carers and friends

We began our week gathered together in prayer, led by Mrs Gill, who invited the children to reflect on the story of Jesus healing the blind man. She encouraged them to think about how we 'see' others - not just physically but spiritually too. The children were reminded to never ignore anyone they encounter that might need their help and to continue to try walking alongside Jesus this Lent.



Thank you to all families who attended Parents' Evenings this week. It was wonderful to see such strong engagement and partnership between home and school. Your support makes a significant difference to the children's progress and wellbeing.

There has been a real buzz of creativity across the school as Year 4 have been busy rehearsing their upcoming production of 'A Bee Musical', supported so enthusiastically by Year 3. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to their performances next week.

I was also delighted to hear back from our local MP, Pam Cox, who personally delivered Year 4's letters to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street. What a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to have their voices heard at the very heart of government. I do wonder... will they receive a response? We will watch this space with interest!

On Monday, our iRock pupils treated us to a truly wonderful concert—full of energy, confidence and musical talent. It was a fantastic way to begin the week and a reminder of the many gifts our pupils share.

We have also celebrated sporting success, with football and netball matches taking place to round off the week. Well done to all pupils who took part—you represented the school with great teamwork and spirit.

Today, we welcomed our governors into school as they carried out monitoring of the playground environment. Their visit supports our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe, happy and well-managed space for all children during playtimes.

As we look ahead, next week brings us to our final week of term. This is always a poignant time in our school calendar, as we journey together through the special and sacred events of Holy Week. A reminder that families are warmly invited to join us for the acts of worship listed further on in this newsletter.

Please note:

- ❖ There will be no school-led clubs next week (last week of term)
- ❖ Year 3 will visit Colchester Castle on Monday.
- ❖ The Year 3 and 4 production of A Bee Musical will take place on Wednesday at 2:00pm and 5:30pm.
- ❖ Bring a £1 CAFOD donation as all pupils take part in our Big Lent Walk on Wednesday.
- ❖ Year 5 will enjoy their stargazing evening on Thursday.
- ❖ On Friday, there will be no wraparound care, and school will finish following our whole-school Stations of the Cross at the church at 2:30pm.

As always, thank you for the continued support that makes our school community so very special.

God Bless
Mrs B Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week %	This week %
Reception	98.93	88.57
Year 1	89.33	98
Year 2	88.67	82
Year 3	99.69	93.75
Year 4	94.38	95.63
Year 5	97.5	94.69
Year 6	96.18	95.63
Whole School total:	94.97	92.73



Well done to Year 1 for highest attendance this week!

As we approach the end of term, our usual termly attendance update letters will be shared with families. We do recognise that, for some, recent cases of chicken pox may have impacted attendance and led to a dip from previously strong levels. However, it remains our duty to keep parents informed, and this includes writing to families where attendance falls below 90%, in line with the government's threshold for persistent absenteeism.



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is **Week 2**

Wraparound Menu

Next week is **Week 2**

Nursery Snack Menu

Next week 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.

Please note that the price will increase by 10p per session from 13th April 2026.

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

Please note that prices will increase by £1 per session from 13th April 2026.



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.

Holy Week

As we journey through this special season of Lent, we warmly invite you to join us for our Holy Week celebrations. Holy Week is the most important week in the Church's year, when we remember the final days of Jesus' life, His death, and His Resurrection at Easter.

Your presence helps our children see that faith is something we share not only in school, but as families and as a community. We look forward to welcoming you.



Monday 23rd March @ 9.10am led by Nursery and Reception

Palm Sunday celebration



Wednesday 25th March @ 9.10am led by Year 1 and Year 2

Maundy Thursday – Last Supper and Washing of Feet



Thursday 26th March @ 9.10am led by Year 3 and 4

Jesus in the Garden Gethsemane and Peter denying Jesus- the Our Father



Friday 27th March @ 1.30pm led by Year 5 and 6 in Church

Stations of the Cross

Free School Meals Eligibility

As a school we are registered with the London Grid for Learning (LGfL). They provide a service called the LGfL FSM Checker, which allows any parent or school in England to use the system completely free of charge to check if their child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). Eligible children receive a free school meal, and schools get the funding they need. This funding helps provide additional resources and support to improve education for all pupils.

Parents, or schools acting on their behalf, simply enter a few basic details online. The system securely checks with the Department for Education (DfE) and gives an instant “eligible” or “not eligible” response. There are no paper forms, and you only need to apply once.

Schools can recheck eligibility and manage applications at any time using a secure portal. The LGfL FSM Checker has helped schools identify millions in funding. It could help your school too, completely free!

Please use the following link to check eligibility for your child <https://fsm.lgfl.net/>

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

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

Saturday 6th June 2026 First Holy Communion service -11am and 2pm

Going Forth Mass - June 14th @ 9.00am



Class / Year 6 Leavers' Photographs - Advance Notice

Please be aware that the photographer will be visiting school on Monday 27th April to take the class group photographs. Please can you ensure that your child has their cardigan / jumper with them on that day.

He will also be taking the special Year 6 Leavers' photograph on the same day. Children in Year 6 are invited to bring in an item that represents their hobby / interests for the photo. Thank you.

Our next SEND tea/coffee session will be on April 22nd

April 22nd 1:30 – 3pm

Visiting guest from SPACE.


They will deliver 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.

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

**** There will be a focus on 'transition' during this session.****

LONDON MARATHON FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF OUR PLAYGROUND PROJECT



LONDON MARATHON!

We are HUGELY grateful and in awe of Stevie who is running this year's London Marathon in support of FOST and our outdoor play equipment fundraising. Keep her in your prayers and, if you can, please donate on her GoFundMe page here:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/im-running-the-london-marathon-for-our-school-playground/cl/s?utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_content=amp20_t1&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=copy_link&lang=en_GB

Stevie's Message:

This April, I'll be taking on the incredible challenge of running 26.2 miles in the London Marathon — all in support of something amazing: transforming the playground at St Teresa's.

As a mum to a child in Year 6, I see every day just how important school is — not just the learning that happens in the classroom, but the friendships, confidence and life skills that grow outside it too. Children spend a huge part of their school day outdoors, and play is vital for their physical health, emotional wellbeing, creativity, resilience and social development.

Our school community, alongside the Friends of St Teresa's (FOST), is working towards a major playground improvement project. The goal is to create a safe, inclusive, modern and inspiring outdoor space where every child can thrive. This isn't simply about new equipment — it's about investing in our children's happiness, confidence and long-term development.

Running a marathon is no small feat. There will be early mornings, long training runs, tired legs and moments of doubt — but knowing that I'm doing this for our children will keep me going every step of the way.

If you're able to donate, no matter how small the amount, I would be incredibly grateful. If you can't donate, sharing my page or offering words of encouragement would mean just as much.

Together, we can help build a playground — and a school environment - where our children can truly flourish.

Thank you so much for your support 🙏

FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S



F O S T
EASTER
HAMPER RAFFLE

£1 PER ENTRY

**4 AMAZING
HAMPERS TO BE WON!**



**ENTER ON PARENTPAY BETWEEN 2ND AND 23RD MARCH.
RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN AND WINNERS ANNOUNCED ON WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH.**

(THIS WILL ALL BE DONE ONLINE, THERE WILL BE NO PHYSICAL TICKETS SENT OUT)



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040

FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S

Quiz Night

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL

7:00 PM

£30
PER TEAM
(MAX 8)

Get your team together and book now to support the Friends of St Teresa's, Colchester!

Pay on ParentPay or email fost@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

QUIZ . GAMES . RAFFLE

WIN

Prizes for the Best Team Name & Best Table Decoration - get creative!

NO TEAM?

Come along anyway and join others, or help us out with the event!



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040



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



March 2026 Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Improving Family Communication	2 Mar 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	2 Mar 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Mar 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	3 Mar 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Mar 10am
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	10 Mar 10am
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Mar 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Mar 7pm
Introduction to OCD	17 Mar 10am
What is ACT	17 Mar 7pm
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Mar 10am
Decreasing Depression	23 Mar 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Mar 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	24 Mar 7pm
FREE Anxiety Based School Avoidance	26 Mar 7-8pm



April 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	6 April 10am
School Anxiety	6 April 7pm
Facing Defiance	7 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Explained	13 April 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	13 April 7pm
Introduction to OCD	14 April 10am
What is ACT?	14 April 7pm
Decreasing Depression	20 April 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	20 April 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	21 April 7pm
FREE Decreasing Depression	23 April 7-8pm
Improving Family Communication	27 April 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	27 April 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	28 April 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 April 7pm

EASTER Holiday Camps



Children's Activity, Education, and Childcare provider

Football and Activity day camps taking place during EVERY school holiday. Whether you need a reliable childcare solution, want to enjoy a hot drink in peace, or want to give your child a memorable school holiday experience - we've got you covered!

Activities include:



📍 Venues:

- Philip Morant
- Friars Grove
- Earls Colne
- Stanway Fiveways
- Perryfields
- St Georges
- Whitehall
- Tending

The Details:

- 🍷 Suitable for Children in School Years R to 6
- 🇬🇧 Childcare Vouchers & Tax Free Childcare accepted
- 💷 Prices from £22.50 per day
- 🕒 Flexible Timings:
 - Half Day: 08:30-12:30
 - Full Day: 08:30-15:00
 - Extended Day: 08:30-16:30



Click above to learn more



Learn more here

Not Been Before?
Your first time is on us!





KNIGHTS OF
ST COLUMBA
COUNCIL 270
COLCHESTER

Family Funday & Easter Egg Hunt



**Monday, April 6th
10 AM – 2 PM**

£4 per child

**Monday, April 6th | 10 AM
– 2 PM | St Teresa of
Liseux, Lexden**



ECTA

2026

Essex Community Talent Awards

A celebration of talent across Essex

Auditions open 1st April 2026!

**All
Ages**

**Any
Talent**

**Essex
Residents**

SCAN TO APPLY!



Grand Final - Autumn 2026

www.EssexCTA.co.uk

info@essexcta.co.uk

The holidays are fast-approaching

Are you *looking* for something for your child to do during this time?

Why not sign them up to one of our Bikeability Courses.

- Chelmsford
- Harlow
- Witham
- Colchester
- Uttlesford



Please see below the link to book Easter holiday courses:
<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>