



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.

1st Half Summer Term 2026 - Friday 17th April 2026

TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

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:

(last day of term - early finish)

Friday 17th July 2026

(last day of term - early finish)

Forthcoming Trips / Visits:

Thursday 11th June
Y6 Siege of Colchester Trip

Friday 12th June
Y6 Crucial Crew Event

Wednesday 17th June
Y6 Theatre Trip

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week celebrating the joy of Easter - a season of hope, renewal and new life. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back after the break; they have returned refreshed, full of enthusiasm, and looking so smart in their summer uniform. Together, we reflected on the meaning of the Resurrection and spent time looking at the Paschal candle, a powerful symbol of Jesus as the Light of the World.



It has been an active week in school. We enjoyed both home and away football fixtures, alongside netball matches. A huge thank you to the staff who give their time so generously to organise these opportunities, and to our pupils who, as always, represent the school with pride, teamwork and excellent sportsmanship.

Thank you also to FOST for organising our non-uniform day yesterday to remind us of the feast day of St Bernadette.

We held a special assembly this week focused on 'play'. Mrs Heron introduced the children to OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning), an approach that supports high-quality, creative and inclusive playtimes. Through OPAL, children are encouraged to be imaginative, take appropriate risks, and develop social skills through play. The pupils explored our safe play rules and began thinking about how to celebrate, negotiate and innovate when using our growing range of play equipment. Do look out for our OPAL requests in the newsletter each week...

We were delighted to welcome Ignition Arts this week, who will be working with Year 4 and Year 2 throughout the term. The children are taking part in Shakespeare-inspired drama workshops, and it certainly sounded like a fantastic and engaging start as the noise travelled down to my office!

Letters regarding swimming have now been sent to the relevant year groups as we prepare to once again welcome our pop-up pool to school - an exciting opportunity for all involved. Clubs will also begin next week, and we look forward to seeing the children enjoying these additional activities.

Breakfast and Wraparound clubs - Please do take the time to read the important reminders regarding wraparound provision overleaf. Thank you.

Coming up next week: We look forward to celebrating St George's Day. Pupils who attend Cubs, Scouts, Brownies or similar organisations are warmly invited to wear their associated club uniform to school on this day. On Friday, we will also be holding a FOST Fun Run as a community to support Miss Martin, who is running the London Marathon to raise money for our school - thank you in advance for your generous donations- we wish her the very best of luck and thank her for her incredible efforts!

Finally, today we said a temporary goodbye to Mrs Lewis as she begins her maternity leave. Mrs Lewis is a much-valued member of our school community, showing great care, dedication and warmth in all that she does. We wish her every happiness in this special new chapter and look forward to welcoming her back in the future.

God bless,
Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before Easter %	This week %
Reception	85.4	96.43
Year 1	94.0	95
Year 2	84.7	91.67
Year 3	98.7	97.5
Year 4	94.4	96.25
Year 5	95.3	95.63
Year 6	95.2	98.13
Whole School total:	92.91	95.83



Well done to Year 6 for highest attendance this week!

Please see overleaf for information from Essex County Council to help parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for school attendance.



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is Week 1

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 £10 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.



Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by ALL schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years

Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days**
- If **not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22nd and 28th day

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrate's Court**

- **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500**
- Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**

Breakfast Club & Wraparound Reminders

We know how much our families value both our Breakfast Club and wraparound provision, including our universal free breakfast offer. In order to ensure these can continue to run sustainably for all, we ask for your support in following our procedures and expectations. These small actions make a significant difference in allowing us to continue offering high-quality, well-staffed provision for all pupils.

A gentle reminder that pupils attending Breakfast Club are expected to demonstrate positive behaviour at all times. This includes showing good manners to staff and to one another, listening carefully to instructions, and following our school behaviour expectations. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these standards with your child.

The school car park may be used for parents using the Early Bird breakfast provision from 7:15am until 8:00am, and after 4:30pm for wraparound parents. At other times, we kindly ask that the overspill parking spaces by the church are used to allow staff to park and exit appropriately.

We would also like to remind families that collection from wraparound care is by 6:00pm, not after 6:00pm. Our staff finish work at this time, and late collection has a direct impact on them. A late collection fee of £10 per pupil will be charged where this occurs, in line with our Late Collectors Policy. Where this becomes a repeated issue, further action may be taken. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring all children are collected promptly.

To enable us to staff provision effectively and ensure appropriate food is prepared, bookings for both Breakfast Club and wraparound should be made in advance. We kindly ask that bookings are made at least 24 hours ahead wherever possible. While we do allow bookings up until 3:00pm on the day in emergency situations, this should not be the norm.

We have noticed an increase in pupils attending Breakfast Club without a prior booking or payment being made. While we will always ensure children are cared for, this places additional pressure on staffing and catering arrangements. We ask that all sessions are booked and paid for in advance unless there are exceptional circumstances.

For families using Tax-Free Childcare, a reminder that payments should be made in advance by at least one month, rather than in arrears. This ensures accounts do not fall into debt and supports the smooth running of the provision. We appreciate the support of those families who are already following this process and ask others to ensure payments are kept up to date.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us to run safe, efficient and high-quality provision for all children.



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

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 one item that represents their hobby / interests for the photo. Please do not bring extra items as the photographer can only accommodate the children holding 1 item - thank you. If the item that your child is bringing is precious, please ensure that it is in a labelled bag so that it can be stored safely on the day until collection. Examples of items that children have brought in, in the past, have been football tops, art sets, favourite book series, medals, basketballs, ballet shoes, karate belts, musical instruments etc. Thank you for your co-operation.

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.****

Football round up



We have had a number of football matches this week and before the holidays. In our home match against Prettygate, we sadly lost 3-1.



Our girls played Kelvedon on Tuesday and won 7-0, demonstrating "Lioness like" skill.

And yesterday, our team played away against Myland. Although we lost 5-0, I couldn't be prouder of their sportsmanship. The opposing coach even commented on how they supported each other and kept positive even though the score was against us. As always, thank you to everyone who supports our teams. You are all wonderful!



LONDON MARATHON FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF OUR PLAYGROUND PROJECT



LONDON MARATHON!

We are HUGELY grateful and in awe of Stevie who is running this years' 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



FUN

RUN

AT ST TERESA'S SCHOOL!

FRIDAY 24TH APRIL



Stevie is running this year's London Marathon in support of FOST and our outdoor play equipment fundraising, so we want to show our support by getting all pupils (maybe teachers too!) involved in a fun run at school throughout the day!

We invite all children (including those in Little Flowers Nursery!) to come to school on Friday 24th April in PE kits, ready to have some fun, and are asking for a small donation of £2 as a participation fee, which can be paid on ParentPay, or using the [payment link](#).

If you are able, please do also show your support for Stevie by sponsoring her on her GoFundMe Page by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code:



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA S, COLCHESTER Charity Number: 1206040



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA S, COLCHESTER

Spring Disco

FRIDAY 15TH MAY

ST TERESA'S CHURCH HALL

EYFS/KS1
5PM - 6PM



KS2
6:15PM - 7:30PM

£4 PER CHILD

Payment can be made on ParentPay until Weds 12th May.
AFTER THIS DATE THERE WILL BE NO MORE TICKET SALES!

Drinks, sweets, snacks and disco accessories sold on the night. Suggested spending money no more than £5, in change where possible.

For those in Little Flowers Nursery, an adult will need to stay for the duration of the disco.

Numbers will be limited to allow us to remain within a safe child:adult ratio as per all risk assessments.



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

FOSTFest²⁰²⁶

JUNE 12
3pm - 7pm

We'd love your support in helping make FOSTFest a huge success! We need families to display a FOSTFest advertising board outside their home for a few weeks during May and June.

Thanks to the generosity of Keystones Property, every board displayed will raise £7 for the school - a simple and effective way to boost funds for our children!

There's nothing to organise - installation and removal are all taken care of. Just complete the quick form below, and if you can, spread the word to friends, family, and neighbours who might also like to get involved.

Thank you so much for your support—it really does make a difference!



CLICK HERE!



Please use this link to request your advertising board:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=-HyphrKNc0u5IV43OvP-KTB0pih5PEpKgle2UR8So9pUOFcxSk9CNkpGOU4zQzgyTUIzQIA4STIHSy4u&route=shorturl>

Check Before You Chuck!

Donate to our OPAL Play!

Could these items have a second life at our school?

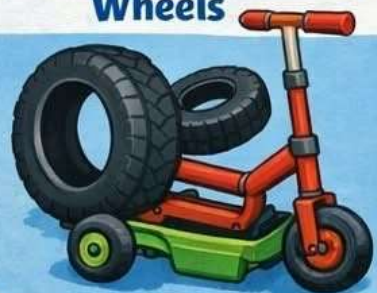
Pots & Pans



Digging Tools



Wheels



Crates & Boxes



Planks of Wood



Tubes & Pipes



Give it, don't bin it!

All donations welcome...



Clean & Safe



Good Condition



Fun for Play!



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



Speech and Language Pre-school Drop-in Clinic

Worried about your child's speech and language development?

Drop in for a quick play-based check with a Speech and Language Therapist.

- For pre-school age children registered with a North Essex GP
- No referral needed - just turn up
- First come, first served
- If busy, you may be asked to return another day or call our telephone drop in line

Note, this is for children **not** currently under Speech and Language Therapy

Every Tuesday

9.00am-12.00pm

Berechurch Family Hub, Monkwick, Colchester CO2 8NN

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

12:30pm -3.00pm

Greenstead Family Hub Delivery Site, Greenstead Community Centre, Colchester CO4 3QE

2nd & 4th Thursday of the month

9.00am -12.00pm

Sydney House Family Hub, Clacton on Sea CO16 7PA

1st Friday of the month

10.00am – 1.00pm

Harwich Family Hub Delivery Site, Harwich House, Mayflower Primary School, Harwich, CO12 4AJ



t: 01206 742 960

www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Services commissioned by:



Speech and Language Pre-school Drop-in Clinic

Please note, the drop-in clinic in Harwich is returning to the following location from 1st May:

Harwich Family Hub Delivery Site, Harwich House, Mayflower Primary School, Harwich, CO12 4AJ

There is no Harwich drop-in clinic in April due to the bank holiday.

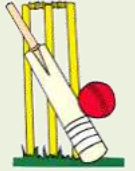
The Harwich drop-in runs from 10am-1pm and is first come, first served.

t: 01206 742 960

www.essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk

Services commissioned by:

Free Cricket Sessions



We have been asked to share the following information with our school community:

After last years success, I'd be very grateful if you could share these details with your parents / pupils. We had over 50 primary school age children playing week in week out last summer and would love to grow this further.

We will be running 2 **free** cricket sessions for school years on Friday 1st May 2026 and Friday 8th May 2025 at **Great Bromley Cricket Club, CO7 7JA**. Please email myself at adamcuthbert1@live.co.uk to sign up.

If they enjoy them, the official All Stars and Dynamos programmes start on Friday 15th May 2026, where they can sign up using the links below.

All Stars Sign Up Link (5-8 Years Old)

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/greatbromleydistrict/Course/931bcdc1-4565-41e0-80d4-c30bc826ab10>

Dynamos Sign Up Link (8-11 Years Old)

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/greatbromleydistrict/Course/844696bd-af7b-4938-91e7-d6eee858cf23>

New Hall School have asked us to share the following information with our Year 5 families:

We are delighted to invite your current Year 5 pupils to our upcoming Educational Day: Mysteries, Codes and Curious Minds, with special guest Rachel Riley. Suitable for those interested in joining New Hall for Year 7 entry in September 2027, the event will take place on Saturday 16 May 2026, from 8.45am - 12.15pm.

Join us at New Hall for an exciting morning of puzzles, patterns, and problem-solving. Pupils will explore a world of hidden messages, number challenges, and logical thinking, where curiosity unlocks new discoveries.

Throughout the morning, pupils will work alongside Rachel Riley, whose enthusiasm for Mathematics and role as a National Numeracy Ambassador inspires young people across the country to think creatively and confidently.

During this interactive morning, pupils will:

*Crack secret messages using code-breaking techniques
Explore how computers communicate by decoding binary patterns and revealing hidden images
Work collaboratively to tackle number puzzles and challenges*

With hands-on activities, fast-paced problem-solving, and teamwork, this event will spark curiosity, build confidence, and offer a glimpse of life in New Hall's Senior Divisions.

*Places are limited, so we encourage early registration. Register to attend [here](#)
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Department.*

New Hall School
The Best Start in Life

**YEAR 5
EDUCATIONAL DAY
MYSTERIES, CODES &
CURIOUS MINDS**

With special guest **Rachel Riley**

**Saturday 16
May 2026
8.45am - 12.15pm**

**CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE AND
SOLVE THE MYSTERY?**

We are delighted to invite Year 5 pupils to an exciting morning of puzzles, patterns and problem-solving. Step into a world of hidden messages, number challenges and logical thinking, where curiosity leads the way and every challenge unlocks something new.

Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2026



Sunday 26th Of April

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



Book Now 



Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

ALL ABOUT KIDS - COLCHESTER

COLCHESTER FAMILY FEST

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE

2026

11.30 - 16.00



Firstsite, Colchester



SEN / QUIET HOUR

10.30 - 11.30

Reduced noise & capacity

*Limited tickets available

FAMILY TICKET - £23.50

CHILD - £9 / ADULT - £3.50

UNDER 1'S - GO FREE



Character Meet & Greets



Live Entertainment



Inflatables & interactive activities

AFFORDABLE FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

INCLUDED WITH YOUR TICKET

- ✓ Inflatables
- ✓ Under 3's play area's
- ✓ Live Wrestling shows (all day)
- ✓ Animal & reptile encounters
- ✓ Meet & Greets
FROZEN PRINCESSES, MISS RACHEL TRIBUTE, SYNERGY COSPLAY
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Magician & Storytelling
- ✓ Interactive activities & more
- ✓ DJ & live entertainment
- ✓ Emergency services roleplay
- ✓ Fire Engine visit *SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
- £ Local market stalls
- £ Food & Drink
- £ Additional activities

PROUDLY SPONSORED

BY



Jesters

COLCHESTER
MUSEUM AND ARTS CENTRE



follow us on social media
to see what is available locally
for you & your family!



SCAN ME!

