



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 24th 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 gathered together in prayer and reflection, exploring the story of the *Road to Emmaus*. It was a lovely opportunity to think about how we recognise Jesus in our daily lives and the importance of walking alongside one another in faith.



Our Year 5/6 pupils represented the school on Tuesday in a local netball tournament and on Thursday in a girls' football match. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported the event. The teams demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, resilience and a consistently positive attitude—qualities I know Mrs Lewis and Mrs Herron are very proud of.

Thank you to those who attended our SEND parents' coffee morning. We hope these opportunities help all families feel welcomed and supported within our community.

This week we were delighted to host an EYFS 'speed dating' event- this is an opportunity for local Reception teachers to meet local Nursery colleagues and support a smooth transition into 'big' school for our youngest pupils. We are thrilled to already have a full cohort of 30 children joining Reception in September and are very much looking forward to welcoming them into the St Teresa's family.

Alongside Mrs Gill, I reviewed English books across the school. Writing remains a key focus for us, and it was a pleasure to see the strength of our 'writing journey' in action. Pupils are engaging with high-quality texts, building a strong understanding of different genres, and developing their skills through practice, editing, improving and publishing their work.

On the subject of writing, I was particularly proud to hear from Mr Rees that Year 4 have received a letter from Keir Starmer in response to their letters sent to 10 Downing Street last term, what a fantastic achievement for our pupils!

Today's whole school FOST Fun Run, in support of 'Stevie' (also known to many of you as Freddie's mum), has been truly inspiring. We have been blown away by the generosity and encouragement shown by our community. We wish her the very best of luck as she runs the London Marathon this weekend. All funds raised will support the continued development of our playground—helping to bring our vision to life for all pupils.

Work has also now begun on our science garden redevelopment. This will include a new pond habitat, which we hope to open in the autumn term. A huge thank you to Mrs Heath for her hard work and dedication in driving this project forward.

Looking ahead to next week, our pop-up swimming pool arrives! Thank you to families who have returned all necessary forms. Swimming is a vital life skill, and at St Teresa's we are proud to take a holistic approach to education, ensuring pupils develop both academically and physically.

A reminder that Friday 1st May is a non-pupil day.

I'm praying for another sunny weekend, God bless

Mrs Maguire

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before Easter %	This week %
Reception	96.43	96.8
Year 1	95	98.7
Year 2	91.67	92.3
Year 3	97.5	98.4
Year 4	96.25	98.4
Year 5	95.63	98.1
Year 6	98.13	96.9
Whole School total:	95.83	97.1



Well done to Year 1 for highest attendance this week!



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.

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.

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

Communion

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



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.

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

FOSTFest 2026

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>

 ACL

Community & Family Learning Courses



COURSE TITLE	VENUE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME
FL GROWING INDEPENDENCE	ONLINE LIVE	01/05/2026 (1 WEEK)	09:30	11:30
FL UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY IN CHILDREN	ONLINE LIVE	05/05/2026 (3 WEEKS)	19:00	21:00
FL GETTING AN ADHD/ASD DIAGNOSIS AS ADULT	ONLINE LIVE	06/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	18:00	20:00
FL MANAGING ANGER IN CHILDREN	ONLINE LIVE	06/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	10:00	12:00
FL UNDERSTAND ANXIETY FOR YOUR SEND CHILD	ONLINE LIVE	07/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	19:00	21:00
FL MANAGING ANGER IN CHILDREN	ONLINE LIVE	07/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	19:00	21:00

If you would like to enrol on to a FREE course please Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://www.aclessex.com) and type the course title in the 'Find a course...' box

aclessex.com
0345 603 7635



ACL**Community & Family Learning Courses**

COURSE TITLE	VENUE	START DATE	START TIME	END TIME
FL MANAGING ANGER IN YOUNG PEOPLE	ONLINE LIVE	08/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	13:00	15:00
FL RAISING GIRLS	ONLINE LIVE	11/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	09:30	11:30
FL UNDERSTANDING AUTISM AND ADHD	ONLINE LIVE	14/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	09:45	11:45
FL UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY	ONLINE LIVE	14/05/2026 (2 WEEKS)	09:00	11:00
FL MANAGING ANGER IN YOUNG PEOPLE	ONLINE LIVE	21/05/2026 (1 WEEK)	19:00	21:00
FL FUSSY EATERS	ONLINE LIVE	21/05/2026 (1 WEEK)	13:00	15:00
FL ZONES OF REGULATION	ONLINE LIVE	21/05/2026 (1 WEEK)	09:30	11:30

If you would like to enrol on to a FREE course please Visit our website acessex.com and type the course title in the 'Find a course...' box

acessex.com**0345 603 7635**

Essex County Council

ALL ABOUT KIDS - COLCHESTER

COLCHESTER FAMILY FEST

2026

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE



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

SCAN ME!



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BY



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to see what is available locally
for you & your family!

