



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.

2nd Half Summer Term 2026 – Friday 5th June 2026

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026



SUMMER TERM 2026

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 last day of term

Friday 17th July 2026

(last day of term - 2.30pm 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

Thursday 2nd July
Y6 Deanery Day at St. Teresa's

Friday 3rd July
Sports Day

Monday 6th July
Y4 to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

Friday 10th July
Rec to Highwoods

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

We began the week reflecting on two important feasts celebrated during the half-term break: Pentecost and The Most Holy Trinity.



In assembly, we explored the story of Pentecost and the symbols associated with it. Together, we wondered about the events of that first Pentecost and reflected on the roles of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The children recalled that Jesus promised His disciples that God would send them a helper. God the Father sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, filling them with courage and guiding them as they began to share the Good News with others. I reminded the children that these three parts - Father, Son, Holy Spirit make up our one God.

Despite the rather wet weather this week, the children have coped remarkably well with playtimes and lunchtimes. We have certainly seen a great deal of resilience, positivity and awe at the wonder of nature!

Selected pupils from Year 4 took part in a poetry competition at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School this week. We were incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, confidence and creativity they demonstrated. Also in Year 4, I had the pleasure of sitting in on a part of their music lesson this week. Hearing our whole-class brass orchestra perform was truly impressive, and it was wonderful to see the progress the children have made.

Ignition Arts have been working with Year 6 this week as they begin to think about their transition to secondary school, and it has been wonderful to see the children engaging so thoughtfully with these sessions.

Next week brings two further statutory assessments in the form of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Our teachers have worked hard to prepare the children, the children have worked hard and I'm sure parents you have worked hard too - I certainly know all pupils will do their very best.

Thank you to the parents and family members who joined us for our Year 1 and Year 2 service earlier in the week and our Year 3 Mass this afternoon. Your support and participation help make these occasions very special indeed.

We are also looking ahead to next week and one of the biggest events in our school calendar - FOST FEST, organised by our wonderful Friends of St Teresa's. It promises to be a fantastic occasion for our whole school community. Tickets are now on sale, raffle tickets are available, and there is time to take part in our popular 'Ice the Teacher' vote - all accessible through Parent Pay. We would encourage everyone to come along and support your school in what is always a fun-filled and memorable event.

This weekend, we will be keeping our First Holy Communion children in Year 3 especially in our thoughts and prayers as they celebrate this important sacrament on Saturday. First Holy Communion is a truly significant milestone in the faith journey of our children, marking the first time they receive Jesus in the Eucharist.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend - God bless.



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex. CO3 9BE

Tel: 01206 508445

Email: office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Maguire M.A. NPQH



June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm writing to share the planned staffing arrangements for the next academic year.

Nursery- Miss L East

Reception- Miss G Hilton

Year 1- Ms. R Congdon

Year 2- Mrs MacLennan

Year 3- Ms Egan (Early Career Teacher)

Year 4- Mrs S Heath

Year 5- Mrs J Herron

Year 6- Mrs G Wilson (until Christmas) and Mrs L Lewis (from January)

Each year I carefully review our staffing structure to ensure colleagues are placed where their skills and experience can have the greatest impact on pupils' learning and wellbeing. I'm delighted to share that Ms Egan will be joining our team as an Early Career Teacher, having successfully completed her teacher training with us this year. We are proud of our track record in supporting Early Career Teachers. High-quality teaching is about far more than years of service alone, and great importance is placed on recruiting talented individuals who share our Catholic values, commitment and ambition for every child. Mrs MacLennan, an experienced teacher who has worked with us this year, is taking on a substantive teaching role. Ms J Garton will be returning from maternity leave and will support Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) provision. In addition, Mrs M Forsyth, who may be a familiar name to some families, will be joining us part-time to support PPA provision in Years 4 and 5.

You will notice we are saying goodbye to three valued members of staff. Miss Gooneratne is leaving to pursue a career in pharmacy, Mr Rees has accepted a position at a Catholic primary school much closer to his home, and Mrs Gill has decided to take a break from teaching for a period of time. We thank them all for their contribution and service to St Teresa's and wish them every success and happiness for the future.

Whilst there are some staffing changes, the vast majority of our team remains unchanged, and we are fortunate to have a strong and experienced staff who know our children and our school well.

Our dedicated support staff will continue to be deployed where they make the greatest impact. Their flexibility and commitment are a real strength and help ensure that every class receives excellent support.

I hope this early insight helps you feel confident about the year ahead. All pupils will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher later this term, as part of a carefully planned and supportive transition process.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and encouragement as we continue to grow and thrive together.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Maguire
Headteacher



St Teresa's School is part of The Rosary Trust a Catholic Multi Academy - Registered Number: 08068528

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before half term %	This week %
Reception	91.96	95.6
Year 1	91.67	96.4
Year 2	89.58	94
Year 3	92.19	97.1
Year 4	97.27	96
Year 5	95.31	95
Year 6	95.31	96
Whole School total:	93.4	95.74



Well done to Year 3 for highest attendance this week!



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.

Girls' football success

Our girls' team finished the season strong with a win against Kelvedon as well as a nail-biting draw against Heathlands. I am so proud of the amazing ambassadors they are for girls' football and hope our wonderful year 6s continue to play next year and beyond!



Glorious Golf

Today a group of year 5 and 6 children had a super morning playing golf. They were amazing and represented the school perfectly. Thank you to Mrs Osman-St Luce who gave up her morning to help us throughout the event.



SCHOOL GAMES

PIC COLLAGE

POETRY COMPETITION AT OUR LADY IMMACULATE SCHOOL



St Teresa's Church
First Holy Communion Services Saturday 6th June at 11.00am or 2.00pm

Please do keep all of the children who will be making their First Holy Communion this weekend in your prayers.

The Going Forth Mass will be celebrated on Sunday 14th June at 9.00am



Sun Safety at St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Our school is committed to protecting children and staff from the harmful effects of the sun's UV rays. Excessive sun exposure and sunburn during childhood can cause skin damage and increase the risk of developing skin cancer later in life. By encouraging sun-safe practices, including the use of sunscreen, wearing hats, and seeking shade when appropriate, we can help protect children while they enjoy outdoor learning and play. We also believe that teaching children about sun safety from an early age helps them develop healthy habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

We ask parents and carers to support our sun safety policy by ensuring that children come to school with sunscreen applied and suitable sun protection during warmer weather.

The school would like your help and support in this matter. We will be encouraging children to avoid sunburn and overexposure to the sun by:

- **seeking the shade, particularly during the middle of the day**
- **wearing suitable hats**
- **wearing clothing that protects the skin, particularly for outdoor activities and school trips**
- **using a high factor sunscreen (SPF 50)**

Staff will be encouraged to set an example. Teachers and support staff on outdoor duties will remind children to cover up in the sun.



Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services

We have been asked to share the information below and posters overleaf with our families.

Dear colleagues

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has a statutory and independent role to promote and protect the rights of children, and to make sure that their voices are heard by those who make decisions about their lives.

To help her do this, Dame Rachel is launching her biggest survey yet. **The Big Future** survey will ask as many children as possible about childhood today - about the things that worry them, the things they love, the ways they have fun, and the changes they want for a better future. At a time when there is a mood of doubt across Westminster and the nation at large about how we raise our children today - from screen time to schooling, from future jobs to AI - we will be granting many of those same children the right to vote for the first time.

Please could you promote and share this survey with the children, young people, parents and carers across your setting, for them to complete before the deadline Friday 23rd October.

Have your say in The Big Future survey - [About this survey: The Big Future survey - have your say!](#)



Dear Parents and Carers,

At the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service, we offer a range of support options to help you and your family. You can access our Community Drop-in sessions, where you can speak to a member of our team if you have any concerns about your child's health or wellbeing. No issue is too big or too small - we are here to help.

In addition, you can contact our team through our Family Hub number: 0300 247 0015, where our staff will be happy to offer advice and guidance.

We are committed to supporting families and ensuring that you have access to the help you need when you need it.

If you would like more information about our services or upcoming drop-in sessions, please do not hesitate to get in touch using the number above.

Kind regards

Deb Cook

Healthy Schools Engagement Worker (North)

Healthy Schools Team

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services (ECFWS)

Service provided by: HCRG Care Group in partnership with Barnardo's

Parish Christmas Bazaar

The parish have asked us to share the following message with our school community.

Hello everyone

I am writing this message on 28th May so that's 6 months until the Parish Christmas Bazaar! Yes, sorry to mention that it will 28th November in 6 months but it's time to start getting organised for this annual event which raises so much money for our Parish.

With that in mind I am sending this message out to ask you all to help with either setting up from Thursday 26th November, running a stall 28th November, helping with the date Bazaar sale on 29th November or taking unsold items to charity shops.

We need as many people as possible to make this work as the Social Committee cannot undertake this mammoth task without the help of our Parishioners and parents from St Teresa's.

*Please may I kindly ask you to put the dates
Thursday 26th, Friday 27th, Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th*

in your diaries now if you can and I will be in touch to ask for volunteers.

Blessings to you all

Catherine (Parish Social Committee)



Nip in the Bud – Free live online event

The Healthy Schools Team have asked us to share the following information with our parents / carers:

As the end of the school year approaches, many families will be thinking about the transition to secondary school. While this can be an exciting step, it can also bring uncertainty and anxiety for some children and their parents.

To support families during this important period, Nip in the Bud is hosting a free live online event for parents and carers on:

Wednesday 25th June, 7.00pm-8.00pm

Parents will hear from:

- **Dr Bettina Hohnen** – Clinical Psychologist specialising in neurodiversity, parents and families
- **Alis Rocca** – Former Headteacher and Education Consultant, with a particular focus on building meaningful, supportive partnerships between schools and families

• **Samantha Wrightson** – Parent of two and Executive Producer at Nip in the Bud

Together, they will share practical advice and insights to help parents support children through the move to secondary school, including managing worries about change, friendships, routines, independence and the additional considerations for neurodivergent children.

Families who attend will receive:

- Practical, evidence-informed advice they can apply at home
- Strategies to help children feel more confident and prepared for the move to secondary school
- The opportunity to ask questions during a live Q&A session
- A downloadable handout summarising key tips and resources from the event

We would be grateful if you could share this opportunity with parents and carers in your school community. Parents can register their interest using the link below and will receive Zoom joining details closer to the event.

[Register Here](#)

Deb Cook

Healthy Schools Engagement Worker (North)

Healthy Schools Team

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services (ECFWS)





Essex Child and Family
Wellbeing Service



Community Drop-in for parents/carers of children aged 5-19 yrs (25yrs with SEND)

The School Age team at Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Services provide weekly drop-ins within our Family Hubs across Colchester and Tendring. These drop-ins are an opportunity to seek advice and support regarding your child, whether they attend school, are home educated or unable to access education. **No need to book.**

No subject too big or small and may include:

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutrition support
- Physical and sexual health
- Health needs assessment
- Personal hygiene
- Managing health conditions
- Signposting, advice and support.

Berechurch Family Hub, School Road, CO2 8NN

Every Monday 1.30-3.30 drop-in for parents/carers.

Sydney House Family Hub, Maldon Way, CO16 7PA

Every Monday 10.00-11.00 drop-in for parents/carers.

Tel: 0300 247 0015 (Mon-Friday 9am-5pm)

Services commissioned by:



ECFWS School Age Offer

Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service offer support services for primary school aged children.

The team consists of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses, Band 5 Nurses, Children and Young Person's Practitioners (CYPP) and Healthy Family Support Practitioners (HFSP).

Support offered

- Emotional health and wellbeing
- Improving sleep
- Nutritional support
- Physical health complaints
- Health needs assessment
- Managing health conditions
- Personal hygiene
- Signposting, advice, & support.



**Contact the school age team on
Tel:0300 247 0015
(Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)**

Services commissioned by:

2026 FOSTFest

JUNE 12
3pm - 7pm

**FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!**

**FREE
ENTRY!**



FOOD TRUCKS



BAR



ICE CREAM



LIVE MUSIC



PERFORMANCES



ACTIVITIES



RAFFLE



KIDS RAFFLE



RETURN OF THE POPULAR
"ICE THE TEACHER!"

**UNLIMITED
INFLATABLES**



WRISTBAND PRICES

— EARLYBIRD PRICES AVAILABLE —
UNTIL 31ST MAY

SCHOOL AGE

£6

PER WRISTBAND

PRE-SCHOOL AGE

£4

PER WRISTBAND

After 31st May, prices will be £8 (school age)
and £5 (pre-school age).

**BUY EARLY
& SAVE!**

**WRISTBANDS ON
SALE NOW ON
PARENT PAY**
(Separate link for
nursery children)

Grab your family and friends for an afternoon
of fun, food and festival vibes!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

SPONSORED BY

 **KEYSTONES**
PROPERTY

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



Link for Nursery families to purchase pre-school wristbands: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q45XDN9Q>

2026 FOSTFest

WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?



VOLUNTEER ON THE DAY

Help us to set up, run stalls and clear up. (Many hands make light work so the more we have, the less there will be to do!)



DONATE A RAFFLE PRIZE

Do you have a business who could donate a voucher or experience? Let's make our grand raffle one to remember!



RUN A STALL

Do you have a business, game or idea you would like to run on your own? Even if it is only for an hour we'd love to see a variety of things going on throughout the afternoon. (You could do this and raise money as part of your 2026 challenge!)



CALLING ALL FOODTRUCKS!

Do you (or do you know someone) who runs a catering business or food truck?

WE'D LOVE YOU TO COME AND RUN AT FOSTFEST!

Great opportunity to showcase your business and be part of a fun, well-loved community event.



Complete the attached volunteer form, speak to one of FOST, message our WhatsApp group or email fost@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Grab your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, food and festival vibes!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

SPONSORED BY
KEYSTONES
PROPERTY



THE RETURN OF...

ICE THE TEACHER!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

THE STAFF MEMBER WITH THE
MOST DONATIONS WILL BE

ICED

AT THE END OF FOSTFEST!

WHO WILL IT BE THIS YEAR?



NAMES TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON



NAMES TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON



NAMES TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON

ONE
LUCKY
STAFF
MEMBER...

ONE
FREEZING
SURPRISE!

LET THE
COUNTDOWN
TO ICE BEGIN!

DONATE, GET INVOLVED AND HELP US MAKE THIS
OUR BIGGEST ICE THE TEACHER YET!



2026 FOSTFest

RAFFLE PRIZES

BAYLHAM HOUSE FARM
Family Admission

POPLAR NURSERIES
£20 Voucher

FIRST SITE
2 Cinema Tickets

JIMMY'S FARM
Family Day Pass

TENPIN BOWLING
Game Voucher (2 to win!)

AQUA SPRINGS
2 for 1 voucher

GO BANANAS
1 child / 1 adult admission

COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE
Comedy Night tickets

LAYER MARNEY TOWER
Family Entry

BARLEYLANDS
Family Entry (2 to win!)

IROCK
1 Month Free

BETH CHATTO GARDENS
Annual Garden Entry for 2

WINE AND CHOCOLATE
HAMPER

**£2
PER
TICKET**

**AND
MORE!**



**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN AMAZING PRIZES!**

**Raffle tickets will come home
in bags and be on sale
during FOSTFest.**



**RETURN TICKETS AND CASH
TO SCHOOL OFFICE
BEFORE 10TH JUNE
OR TO THE RAFFLE TABLE AT
FOSTFEST ON THE DAY**

**THANK YOU TO
OUR GENEROUS
DONORS!**



Helping an ADHD Child with Homework



FREE one hour online session for parents
Thursday 25th June 7pm - 8pm

Join us online to get some advice on how to help your
ADHD child start and complete their homework.

Book on the PARENTS - Live Talks page
facefamilyadvice.co.uk

HOLIDAY COURSES

**Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2, Level 3,
Learn to ride courses and a new course
Child Bike Workshop & Learn**

To book, please visit link
essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee

**SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER**




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 & Greet



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 & Greet
- ✓ 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

FROZEN PRINCESSES, MISS RACHEL TRIBUTE, SYNERGY COSPLAY

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



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



SCAN ME!



Dance

Act

Sing

IMPRESARIO

THEATRE SCHOOL

EST. 2011

**ENROLLING
NOW!**

Saturday

Theatre School Classes

Ages 3 - 18 years

COLCHESTER

LITTLEGARTH SCHOOL

**FREE
TRIAL
CLASS**

CONTACT AMY

 07793140504

 impresariotheatreschool@gmail.com

Classes also available in
Witham & Manningtree

 [impresariotheatreschool](https://www.facebook.com/impresariotheatreschool)

 [Impresario Theatre School](https://www.instagram.com/ImpresarioTheatreSchool)

 impresariotheatreschool.co.uk

