

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 Autumn Term 2026 – Friday 11th September 2026



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

WRAP-AROUND

Please note that after-school wrap-around care will **not** be available on the last day of term: 18th December, 25th March or 21st July. In addition, wrap-around is not available after the Panto trip 4th Dec.

Forthcoming Events:

16th September Meet the Teacher
Y1-6

18th September 10:45 - Start of
Term Mass- all families welcome

20th and 22nd October- Parents'
Evenings

4th December Whole school trip to
the Panto

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week by continuing to think about St Teresa and our 'Little Way Secret Mission'. We explored more about her life and heard how she promised that, when she entered heaven, she would send a shower of roses to earth. The children reflected on how our own small acts of love and kindness can bring joy to others and make a very real difference.

What a wonderful first full week of the new school year it has been! The school has quickly settled into its familiar rhythm, with classrooms full of fresh learning and children delighted to be back with their friends.

We welcomed our Reception class children for their half day sessions this week. It has been wonderful seeing them settle into new routines and begin to make new friends. We look forward to welcoming them full time next week.

This week has been particularly special for our Little Flowers nursery children, some of whom have returned and others who have started Nursery for the very first time. Little Flowers is now beginning its second year, and we are delighted to be completely full, with a waiting list- a wonderful position to be in! A very warm welcome to all the new children and families joining our school community.

In our weekly Global Assembly, we explored the Catholic Social Teaching principle of solidarity and learned about the devastation affecting communities in Nepal. We prayed for our brothers and sisters there and considered how solidarity calls us not only to care, but also to act.

On Friday 25th September, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform, wearing red, white and blue- the colours of Nepal- in return for a small donation the Red Cross, as a sign of our solidarity.

This date was already in our school diary for our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, which will be organised and led by Year 5. Both events will give us an important opportunity to put our faith into action. Further details on this will follow soon.

Voting for our pupil leadership groups has been moved to next Friday, 18th September. Thank you to Mr Smith for organising our polling booths, which will help to make the voting feel like a proper democratic occasion.

Pupil leadership is extremely important to us at St Teresa's. We want our children to know that their voices matter and that they can play an active part in shaping their school.

Yesterday, Mrs Herron led an OPAL assembly to formally introduce our wonderful new sandpit. We are now looking for 'Bring a Thing' donations of clean, safe and sturdy items that could be used in our sandpit, water wall or mud and digging area. These might include buckets, spades and other digging toys, scoops, funnels and watering cans. We would also be very grateful for more tyres, particularly large tractor tyres. Smaller donations can be brought to the school office.

Today, I have been attending a school partnership planning day with leaders from other local schools, looking ahead to some exciting shared events and opportunities for children across our schools. This has meant that I have missed our first Merit Assembly of the year, but I am certain it was a bumper week!

Next week we hope to share the details of our school clubs.

On Wednesday 16th September, parents and carers are warmly welcome to attend a Meet the Teacher session in your child's classroom. The class teacher will share information and it will give you an opportunity to see your child's classroom and ask any questions you may have. Please see the timings of these sessions below:

Year 1 - 4.00pm Year 2 - 4.00pm

Year 3 - 4.30pm Year 4 - 4.30pm

Year 5 - 5.00pm Year 6 - 5.00pm

Have a wonderful weekend. God bless, Mrs Maguire

First School Mass of the Year

You are warmly invited to attend our Start of Year Feast Day Mass on Friday 18th September at 10.45am in the church. Parents of children in Reception class - please note that the children will be attending at the end of mass only for a blessing.

Meet the Teacher Evening - Wednesday 16th September

You are warmly welcomed to attend a Meet the Teacher session in your child's classroom next Wednesday. The class teacher will share information and it will give you an opportunity to see your child's classroom and ask any questions you may have. Please see the timings of these sessions below:

Year 1 - 4pm

Year 2 - 4pm

Year 3 - 4.30pm

Year 4 - 4.30pm

Year 5 - 5.00pm

Year 6 - 5.00pm

Updates

Parent Pay

During this term, in line with the other schools in our Trust, we will begin moving from ParentPay to Arbor Pay. All parents will receive a letter about this in due course. The process will begin with our Reception families, with the rest of the school following later in the term. Until you are contacted with further instructions, please continue to use our existing payment systems as usual. This is a significant transition, so we are grateful for your patience and understanding while we navigate the change.

Communicating with us

To help us respond efficiently and ensure that messages are not missed, please send general email communication to the main school office address. Across the school, we receive hundreds of emails each day, and the office mailbox is monitored between 8am and 4pm on school days.

If your message is urgent or requires a more immediate response, please telephone the school office rather than relying on email.

Parking- Zig-Zags

Please continue to park safely and considerately around the school, showing respect for our neighbours and helping us to keep our children safe. Vehicles must never stop on the yellow zig-zag lines, even briefly.

End of day timing

A reminder that the school day finishes at 3.15pm. Any child who remains uncollected after dismissal will be taken to Wraparound Care, and parents may be charged in line with our policy.

Wraparound closes at 6pm

Wraparound Care closes at 6pm, and all children must be collected by this time. Please arrive with sufficient time to collect your child and leave by 6pm, as our staff finish work then.

OPAL NEWS

We completed two very exciting projects over the summer holidays as part of our Opal play journey. One of them was the fantastic sandpit complete with builders merchant, fort and market. The children have been enjoying exploring this wonderful new play zone. The smiles on their faces say it all!



A big thank you to Vaughan and Blythe who dug the hole for us over the summer.



The second exciting project is our water wall which we are looking forward to introducing over the coming weeks. During our Opal assembly yesterday, the children shared the types of items they would like to play with in this zone. These included rubber ducks, sieves, different sized cups and bowls, large pipettes, buckets and general water play toys. If you have any spare items such as these that you would like to donate, we would love to receive them. Please send them in to Mrs Herron or Mr Smith.



We would also like to thank Tony at Tony Bellinger Woodwork for working with us and for creating such wonderful bespoke equipment.



Helping parents to understand the changes to fines for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools **after 19th August 2024**.

Who may be fined?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Increasing to £160 if paid between days 22-28.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 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, including the U code (late after registers have closed).

For example: a 5 day holiday would meet the national threshold.

The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The Second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence the amount will be:

£160 per parent (who allowed the holiday), 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 local authorities will need to consider other available measures to address the absence concerns. This may mean that cases are presented before a Magistrate's Court.

Prosecution can result in criminal records and fines of up to £2,500.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week year %	This week %
Reception	n/a	97.4
Year 1	98.3	90.7
Year 2	96.5	98.7
Year 3	96.7	97.4
Year 4	95.4	97.8
Year 5	98.8	98
Year 6	97.6	94.1
Whole School total:	97.2	93.6

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**



Menus

Lunch Menu

Next week is **Week 3**

Wraparound Menu

Next week is **Week 3**

Nursery Snack Menu

Next week is **Week 3**

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

£18.00 per nursery child per full session and £9.00 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.

Free School Meal Entitlement

If you have received a letter from us about Free School Meals, please don't be alarmed!

We are proactively contacting families who may benefit following the recent changes to eligibility. The letter is entirely confidential and is simply intended to ensure that no family misses out on support to which they may be entitled.

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, you can apply via this link:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>



JOIN AN iROCK BAND THIS SEPTEMBER

**New spaces now open!
Choose your instrument today.**

DISCOVER MORE **ENROL NOW**

Enrol Online
www.irockschool.com/enrol

We're here to help
0330 174 2555
info@irockschool.com

iRock

As our iRocker school leavers move on to their next adventure, new places are opening for children to start band lessons from September.

About iRock Lessons

- 30-minute band-based music lessons taught by a professional Band Coach
- Lessons take place during school hours
- Easy subscription: cancel at any time, with a first lesson money-back guarantee.
- Open to children aged 4 to 11, regardless of ability or experience
- Children learn popular music while building confidence, teamwork and listening skills
- Pupils can work towards an exam-free RSL Awards music qualification as part of their iRock journey.



Great Bromley Village Hall, CO7 7JA

AUTUMN
Fayre
SUNDAY 25TH
OCTOBER

11AM - 3.00PM / FREE ENTRY

FESTIVE FOOD
CRAFTS
KIDS' ACTIVITIES
COMPETITIONS
LOCAL STALLS

NEW FOR THIS YEAR
DEDICATED STALLS
SHOWCASING
TALENTED LOCAL
CHILDREN.

SHOP LOCAL • SUPPORT YOUNG
CREATORS • ENJOY A FUN FAMILY DAY
OUT

CONTACT: IVORYEVENTS90@GMAIL.COM



Father Saurin Hall
St Teresa of Lisieux Church
Clairmont Rd, Colchester CO3 9BE

Social committee

QUIZ
night

Saturday 10th October
7.30pm

Bring your own
snacks and drinks

Teams of up
to 8 people

£5 per person on the door