



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 18th September 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week by thinking about forgiveness and wondering: how many times should we forgive? Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, asked the same question. Through the parable of the unforgiving servant, Jesus taught us that forgiveness is not about keeping count; he asks us to forgive willingly and to choose peace, even when saying sorry or forgiving someone feels difficult. We thought about how every small act of forgiveness helps peace to grow in our school, our homes and our friendships.

It has been another full and happy week and it has been wonderful to welcome parents and carers into school on several occasions.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions on Wednesday. I hope you found them informative, helpful and reassuring. On Thursday, Reception and Year 1 parents joined us for our phonics information evening. Secure phonics knowledge helps children to decode unfamiliar words and with regular practice, this develops into accurate, fluent reading and with partnership, positivity and encouragement, we hope a lifelong love of reading. Working together and using the same approaches at home and at school makes such a difference.

Finally, we ended the week by gathering together for our start-of-the-school-year Mass. Thank you to Father Matthias for leading our celebration and to everyone who joined us as we prayed for God's blessing upon our school community and the year ahead.

In curriculum news, we were delighted to welcome Ignition Arts back to school this week. They will be working with Year 6 throughout the term using drama as a powerful tool for developing confidence, communication, creativity and collaboration; we look forward to seeing where the children's work takes them.

Year 4 also began their brass orchestra lessons. The first lesson is always challenging as the children learn how to hold their instruments and begin producing their first notes! However, it is wonderful to see the remarkable progress they make as the year unfolds and to hear them gradually grow into an orchestra.

Our peripatetic music teachers from Essex Music Service also returned this week, and Rosie, our therapy dog, was back in school too.

Pupils across the school also took part in elections for our school groups and pupil leadership roles today. This is British values in action: learning about democracy, making informed choices and ensuring that children have a voice in the life of their school. I look forward to announcing the results and seeing our new groups begin their work and leadership plans.

Our Governing Body met for the first time this academic year. Governors play a vital strategic role in the life of our school helping to set its direction, offering constructive challenge and supporting its continued development. They give their time and expertise voluntarily, and we are extremely grateful for their service. We are delighted to welcome two new Foundation Governors to the team and to introduce Mrs Gemma Humphries as our new Chair of Governors.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find details of our School Fund. This provides families with an opportunity to support the school through a regular, entirely voluntary contribution of £2 per month.

Money raised this year will help to support essential premises refurbishment and improvement. Many families will be aware of the burst pipes we experienced last academic year. Temporary repairs were completed at a cost of approximately £6,000, but we must now plan for a full replacement project to provide a reliable, long-term solution and reduce the risk of future disruption or school closure.

The likely cost of this work is approximately £40,000. We intend to bid for a Condition Improvement Fund grant however, even if our application is successful, the school will need to fund at least 10% of the project. If a contribution of £2 per month is possible for your family, it would make a meaningful difference. All contributions are, of course, entirely voluntary and gratefully received.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are moving from ParentPay to Arbor Pay this term. We are now in the final stages of testing the system and preparing clear instructions for parents. Reception will be the first year group to move across; we thank Reception families for their patience while payment access has not yet been available.

Details of our extracurricular clubs were published today and we look forward to clubs beginning next week. All school-based clubs finish promptly at 4.00pm (with the exception of Singing Club which finishes at 4.15pm) and we ask that children are collected on time. Please note that school-based clubs will not run during the week beginning 19 October because of parents' evenings, or during the final week of term beginning 14 December.

God bless,

Mrs Maguire



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:

25th September - Red, white and blue non-uniform day for Nepal

20th and 22nd October- Parents' Evenings

4th December Whole school trip to the Panto

Macmillan coffee morning – Friday 25th September



Please come and support the Macmillan coffee morning (day!) As in previous years, we are inviting each class to come and join in the fun too!

Parents and other family members are warmly invited to the session which their children are attending in order to enjoy the experience together.

We are suggesting a minimum £1 donation for your child to come and enjoy a cake and a drink. There will also be other activities such as "name the teddy," a show stopper cake raffle and more. If you are also planning to attend, please "dig deep" and donate as much as you can to this amazing charity.

The timings are as follows:

9.00-9.30	Year 5 preparing the venue
9.30 – 10.00	Reception
10.05 – 10.35	Year 1
10.40 – 11.10	Year 2
	Lunch
1.30 – 2.00	Year 3
2.05 – 2.35	Year 4
2.40 – 3.10	Year 5 and Year 6 (Nursery in class)

Thank you in advance for your support, the Year 5 team ☺



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



Dear Parents, Carers and Parishioners

Voluntary School Fund Appeal - Supporting Our School Together

At St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, we are blessed with a strong, faith-filled community committed to nurturing every child to grow in wisdom, love and service. We are so grateful for the generosity regularly shown by families and parishioners.

Annually we will write to ask if you might consider supporting our Voluntary School Fund. With national funding not keeping pace with rising costs – including staff salaries, essential services, maintaining the building - schools like ours are under considerable pressure.

We remain determined to maintain the excellent education and Catholic ethos that define St. Teresa's. We want to retain the high-quality teachers and support staff our children deserve and keep classrooms rich with opportunity and care.

By contributing to the voluntary school fund, you could make a real difference which will go a long way to ensuring the school continues to flourish and the children in our care get the very best we can offer. If you would be happy to contribute £2 a month (£24 annually) we would be extremely grateful for your support. If you are in a position to help, please consider setting up a standing order to:

Account Name: St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Sort Code: 30-92-16

Account Number: 55726068

Reference: School Fund

This request is entirely voluntary. We are very aware of the generosity already shown throughout the year - through FOST- Friends of St. Teresa's events, parish collections, and other charitable initiatives and understand that not everyone will be in a position to be able to give.

However, if you can support, please know it will be deeply appreciated and directly benefit the children in our school.

Thank you once again for your continued support and prayers.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B. Maguire (MA, NPQH)
Headteacher



St Teresa's School is part of The Rovers 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

Please let us know if your child has an allergy that requires an IHP and Mrs Burrows has **not** yet contacted you.

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week year %	This week %
Reception	97.4	96.7
Year 1	90.7	91.8
Year 2	98.7	98.3
Year 3	97.4	97.4
Year 4	97.8	96.1
Year 5	98	97.7
Year 6	94.1	95.9
Whole School total:	93.6	93.6



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.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.



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

"Let us do little things well today"

RECEPTION OPEN DAY

Saturday 10th October 2026

10.00am – 1.00pm

No need to book

Come along and explore our beautiful school

We welcome children of all faiths and beliefs

 www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

 office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

 01206 508445



St Benedict's Catholic College – Year 7 Admission for September 2027

If your child is currently in Year 6 and you are considering St Benedict's Catholic College as one of your choices on your secondary school application for September 2027, please be aware that you will also need to complete the college's Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

The completed form must be returned to the college by 31 October 2026, together with a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate or other appropriate evidence of Catholicity or Christianity.

The Supplementary Information Forms are available on our website via the following link:- <https://www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk/welcome/admissions/supplementary-information-forms/>



You Are Not Alone Drop-in

Every 1st Tuesday of the month - 7.00pm - 8.30pm

A free monthly online drop-in for parents & carers

The **You Are Not Alone** community is a friendly and safe space run by Erik & Sally Wagter where you can come and learn about autism & PDA, ask questions, connect with like-minded people or simply listen and learn from other people's conversations.



In this community we talk about all sorts of things such as:

- helping your child regulate their emotions & feelings (meltdowns etc)
- understanding autism and PDA
- navigating school and EHCPs
- Supporting your child with friendships
- understanding and managing challenging behaviour
- managing sensory needs
- developing a positive relationship with your child (family dynamics)
- exploring EOTAS or home education
- looking after your wellbeing
- and so much more



Here's what parents have said:

*'My husband Jamie was saying that in the last few sessions, he has learned **so much more about autism and PDA** than he has over the past year' - Jo (parent)*

*'Thank you so much for the group this evening. I can't tell you how grateful I feel and I **really do feel less alone** and more validated. My hope is back' - Louise (parent)*

You can request the **Zoom link** on our website

<https://youarenotalone.community> or you can send an email to

team@youarenotalone.community



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.rockschool.com/enrol

We're here to help

☎ 0230 174 8555

✉ info@rockschool.com



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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please come and join us for the Parish Bazaar

Saturday 28th November

11am - 2pm

Father Saurin Hall & School Hall
St Teresa's Church
Clairmont Road, Lexden





MUSIC MARK of

recognition

FOR SCHOOLS 2016 - 2027



for Dedication & Improvement
in music education

By accepting the Music Mark of Recognition, this school pledges to:

- Advocate for the importance of music education in the curriculum and creative life of our school
- Provide an equitable, diverse and inclusive music education for every young person
- Welcome opportunities to broaden our musical horizons by working with providers in our community and beyond

Supported by





Jennifer McKie
CEO, Music Mark



Find out more about what Music Mark offers to schools

www.musicmark.org.uk
 Music Mark - The UK Association for Music Education