



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 9th October 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:

Thursday 15th October -
Photographer's Visit

20th and 22nd October- Parents'
Evenings

6th November - Non-Uniform Day
for Church Bazaar

4th December Whole school trip to
the Panto

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

I was delighted to begin the week by sharing my pilgrimage to Malta with the children. We explored the story of St Paul and his shipwreck on the island. We learnt about Paul's unwavering faith in God, even in the face of many setbacks.

Our assembly was also a sea of green as pupils dressed to mark the feast day of St Francis. Well done everyone- St Francis and St Paul pray for us!

Whenever I spend time away from school, I miss the children, so I've relished visiting classes this week and seeing some wonderful learning. A highlight for me included Year 5 scientists investigating which vessel would keep a flame burning for the longest time, reception's PE lesson (the energy) and year 2's amazing art lesson (Pointillism Castles)!

I've also enjoyed visiting breakfast club, after-school clubs and wraparound care. Although these aren't lessons, they're an important part of school life, giving children time to enjoy activities, build friendships and feel part of our community. I've spent time outside at lunchtime and was especially pleased to see how much our playtime provision has grown. There really is something for everyone!

Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the school at both a football tournament and an archery tournament. Well done to everyone who took part and represented the school with pride.

I met with our Chaplaincy Team and we got busy planning a Harvest Festival celebration. The children would love parents to join us, so we have pencilled in a special liturgy in school on **Tuesday 20th October at 9.00am**. They also suggested that we invite everyone to stay afterwards for tea, coffee and cake, so we're delighted to add that too.

The team is also keen to collect even more food for our local food bank than last year, when we donated 75kg. We'll place a shopping trolley on the front playground for donations. We hope you might be able to find something in your cupboards to contribute.

I also squeezed in a meeting with Mrs Skinner, Chair of FOST, to talk about fundraising 26-27. Please save the date for the FOST AGM on **Tuesday 15th October at 7pm**.

A huge thank you to our Reception families, who are the first to move onto the Arbor Pay app as we make the change in line with our Trust. Arbor Pay will eventually replace ParentPay for all families, we're very grateful for your support and patience - especially if you have children in different year groups and are, as a result, using two systems.

Parents' evenings are coming up soon. We've asked you to save the dates but you can use the link below to request your sessions:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/QPLc86bw0d>

This Saturday between 10am and 1pm, we're hosting an open day for families interested in joining St Teresa's for Reception in September 2027. Please spread the word. It's a drop-in event, so there's no need to book.

We're currently advertising a vacancy as we look to grow our Learning Support Assistant team. Please click the link below for more information.

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=121844>

God bless, have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Maguire



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



Parish Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 28th November from 11am - 2pm

The parish bazaar is fast approaching!

As in previous years the school will be running a Toiletries / Stationery tombola. Please can we ask for your support by sending in donations for this stall? Traditionally we ask EYFS and KS1 families to donate toiletries and KS2 families to donate stationery items. These can be large or small items and suitable for both children and adults.

Donations can be placed in the marked box in the entrance of the school

Thank you in advance for helping the school to support the parish in this way.

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Last week year %	This week %
Reception	97	93.7
Year 1	98.9	98.6
Year 2	99.7	100
Year 3	96.1	100
Year 4	96.4	96.1
Year 5	99.3	96.3
Year 6	94.4	93.4
Whole School total:	97.4	96.9



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.



PE Uniform

For PE, children must wear a plain round neck T-Shirt in their "house" colour (Yellow, red, blue or green – available for purchase via ParentPay for just £2.50)



St Francis

St Bernadette

St Anthony

St Helena

In addition to this, they must wear plain navy shorts in the summer and a plain navy tracksuit in the winter

Navy shorts for summer



Plain navy tracksuit for winter



On their feet, children should wear black or white sports trainers or plimsolls for indoor PE. Please note that fashion trainers do not give enough support for exercise and therefore are not allowed to be worn on PE days.



Sporting News

This week, children have proudly represented the school in Football and Archery. As always, we are incredibly proud of our children's sporting achievements and are grateful for all the help we have to transport the children to the events.



SCHOOL GAMES
PIC•COLLAGE



Tomorrow, Saturday 10th October, marks World Mental Health Day.

This year's theme, chosen by the World Federation for Mental Health is:

Lived Experiences heard: real voices, real change



Looking after our **mental health** is just as important as taking care of our **physical health**. Finding **time** to relax and do something that we **enjoy** can be difficult when life is busy but it can be a **powerful** tool in maintaining our **mental wellbeing** - whether it's meeting up with friends, reading a book or simply taking ten minutes for a quiet cup of tea.



And remember that nobody has to face mental health problems alone.



SCS OCTOBER HALF TERM COLCHESTER FOOTBALL CAMP

The Stanway School, Winstree Road, Colchester, CO3 0QA

2 DAY CAMP
Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th October

	10am - 1pm Age 4-5 years	£20 per day		10am - 3pm Age 6-12 years	£25 per day
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★ Inspiring Children in Sport ★

JOIN OUR COLCHESTER SCS WHATSAPP GROUP

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCS EVENTS IN COLCHESTER

PLEASE EMAIL: colchesterscs@gmail.com or CONTACT LUKE ON 07593 557556 to book your child's place.

Boys and girls welcome.

Packed lunch and drinks bottle required.

Payments can be made by cash or card on the day of camp.

www.scssports.co.uk

SCS OCTOBER HALF TERM HIGHWOODS FOOTBALL CAMP

Highwoods Primary School, CO4 9SN

1 DAY CAMP
Friday 30th October

	10am - 1pm Age 4-5 years	£20 per day		10am - 3pm Age 6-12 years	£25 per day
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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>

