



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 16th 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:

20th and 22nd October- Parents' Evenings

6th November - Non-Uniform Day for Church Bazaar

4th December Whole school trip to the Panto

Yr 1 & 2 Nativity - 15th Dec @ 6pm
Yr 1 & 2 Nativity - 16th Dec @ 2pm
EYFS & Nursery Nativity - 14th & 15th Dec @ 2pm

Dear parents, carers and friends,

We began the week thinking about invitations. Jesus told his friends a story about a rich man who held a party. His wealthy friends all found excuses not to come, so the invitation went out to EVERYONE including the poor, the sick and the tax collectors. They accepted the invitation and it became the best party ever!

Jesus was reminding us to show love to everyone and to be open to His invitations - invitations to help people in need, feed the hungry, tell the truth, make peace and include everyone.

You may have spotted the decorated shopping trolley in the front playground. Our Chaplaincy Team have worked hard and are keen to beat last year's food bank collection of 75kg. If you can, please help us fill the trolley. Thank you for supporting our Harvest appeal.

It won't be long after Harvest before we start turning our attention to... Christmas! All pupils in KS2 have been invited to take part in the annual BCCS joint schools Christmas concert. It's always an amazing event, with singing, dancing and an extraordinary show, raising funds for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Tickets will be available nearer the time, but I'd encourage you to sign your child up. It really is a highlight of the Advent season!

We look forward to welcoming you to parents' evening next week. We'll be handing out data checking sheets and annual permissions letters, please bring a pen, your phone and, if you're anything like me, your glasses! For parents new to parents' evening at St Teresa's our appointments are scheduled for ten-minute slots and we aim to keep to these times so that everyone can be seen without delay. When the buzzer sounds, please leave the space promptly so the next family can begin their appointment. If you arrive late please be understanding that we cannot extend your slot. This isn't intended to limit your conversation; it helps the evening run smoothly and fairly for everyone.

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden as part of their study of biomes, including Borneo and the rainforest. I loved looking at the photos on Seesaw.

School photographs took place on Thursday. What a wonderful record of our pupils as they grow and what lovely smiles! As you can imagine it's quite the feat to get through matching all the siblings and various school groups, thank you to the staff who supported this.

It was lovely to see so many parents at the end-of-branch RE celebrations this week. These will continue next week. One of the special things about our Catholic school is sharing worship with our families.

I was very proud to show prospective families for Reception 2027 around St Teresa's at our open day on Saturday. My thanks to Miss Hilton, Miss East and Mrs Herron for helping to welcome everyone. Further tours can be booked through the school office, so please do tell your friends about our special school.

I spotted this week that the King George Field playground is having a renovation - how exciting! This is inevitably having an impact on parking; we would encourage you to make use of the surrounding roads and walk the last little bit if you can, a reminder that it's never ok to park over a neighbour's driveway, blocking a pavement or over the yellow zig-zags, even for 'just a minute'.

Please do look at my separate and important communication about Parent Pay and Arbor.

Have a wonderful weekend.
God bless, Mrs Maguire

An Arbor Update

Dear parents and carers,

As you will be aware from my correspondence in the newsletter, we are in the process of swapping from Parent Pay to a new system called Arbor.

Yesterday, you would have received an email with your log in details for Arbor.

Please click below for instructions for how to download and log into Arbor's Parent App.

https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/360020147458-Logging-In-to-the-Parent-Portal-Parent-App#h_01HG8E8G6D2KKRKT5M6C1X1675

Arbor will eventually be used for booking and paying for school extras: meals, breakfast club, wraparound and trips. We will however need to complete the transfer in stages. We are starting with school meals and clubs, but existing school trips for the time being will stay on ParentPay.

What you can do to help us with a smooth transition:

Yesterday, KS2 parents were notified not to top up the ParentPay dinner accounts any longer. As you are aware, school dinners taken haven't been able to be recorded onto ParentPay since the 3rd September. We have transferred your dinner money balances from ParentPay to Arbor as credits to your child's new dinner money account. Please do check your dinner balances on Arbor as soon as possible.

The quicker we get everyone using Arbor the easier the transition will be for the Office. After half term the only payment option which should still be used on ParentPay is for trips that are already loaded on there. From half term onwards, we ask that Arbor is used for all other payments - breakfast club, wraparound, t-shirts etc.

We are already aware of a few queries when we launched the app for Reception, for example the children's PE team colour and teacher might not appear correctly. We've also been made aware that if you use Arbor for another sibling/setting you will need to sign in and out of the app to switch between children. We will work to resolve issues where they arise.

For all parents using Universal Free Breakfast Club you will now need to book a space via Arbor.

Please be patient with us as we manage this transition.

Kind regards,

Mrs Maguire
Headteacher

Reminders

The school have been made aware that some visitors to the school have been parking on the pavement. Child safety is of utmost importance to all at St Teresa's and we implore our parents and visitors to park in a way the promotes child safety to the whole school community.



Sports News

14/10/26

On Wednesday the 14th of October 12 girls from Y6/5 participated in a football tournament against multiple teams at Shrub End Sports Centre. They showed great resilience and sportsmanship throughout the match which resulted in us coming third place!!



Reported By Kasinma & Michaiah - Year 6

YEAR 1 MINI-MARKET

Join us for a fun mini-market
to raise money and support
a family in our Year 1
community.



SCAN TO
DONATE



SCAN ME



CASH ONLY
EVENT



Monday 2nd November



From 3.15pm



In the church hall



ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE GOING TO
SIYAM'S GoFund me page



Thank you for your support



One of our school families is facing a heart-breaking time, Dad is terminally ill but still battling pancreatic cancer. With the family's permission, we are sharing their GoFundMe page for anyone who would like to offer support.



In solidarity on Monday 2nd November, the first day back after the half term break, we are inviting all children to come to school in non-uniform or if they can, wearing purple, in return for a suggested £1 donation for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

Year 1 parents are also organising a 'purple' raffle and mini-children's-market after school on the same day. Do consider visiting after school (venue TBC). The proceeds of their event will go towards the family's GoFundMe. Thank you to the parents arranging this and to all those who choose to support either cause.

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	93.7	95
Year 1	98.6	95.7
Year 2	100	99.3
Year 3	100	96.1
Year 4	96.1	96.7
Year 5	96.3	98
Year 6	93.4	92.5
Whole School total:	96.9	96.2



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.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>



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA COUNCIL 270 COLCHESTER

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." Isaiah 9:6

YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2026/2027

A photograph of a Crib or Nativity Scene with an appropriate Bible verse that best represents the scene in your Photo. Crib at your Parish Church, a Church near you or at your local Cathedral. Crib at your School, in your Town or Town Centre, or even a Crib in your home.

AGE CATEGORIES

1 Years 4, 5 & 6 (6 to 11 years of age)	2 Years 7, 8 & 9 (11 to 14 years of age)	3 Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 (14 to 18 years of age)
--	---	--

HOW TO ENTER

- Please try to be original and different and try and capture the best image possible of your subject, so that we can appreciate it.
- Take it during the day OR at night.
- Use your own or Parents' or Siblings' phone, OR a camera, but ensure you get a good image.
- Please submit your entry as a PNG or JPEG.
- You must also include: your name and age group, the location of the Crib, date the photograph was taken, and camera or phone name. Most importantly the appropriate Bible verse that best represents the scene in your photograph.

PRIZES

- Winner £30.00**
Winners own Trophy and Certificate signed by the Supreme Knight.
- Runners up £20.00**
Certificate signed by the Supreme Knight.

ENTRY DETAILS

Friday 18th December 2026

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO
grand-knight-council270@ksc.org.uk

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA COUNCIL 270 COLCHESTER

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." Isaiah 9:6

NATIVITY SCENE PAINTING COMPETITION

Create a Nativity Scene painting with an appropriate Bible verse that best represents the scene in your painting.

AGE CATEGORIES

1 Reception, Year 1 & 2 (4 to 7 years of age)	2 Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 (7 to 11 years of age)	3 Years 7, 8 & 9 (11 to 14 years of age)	4 Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 (14 to 18 years of age)
--	---	---	--

HOW TO ENTER

- Freehand painting only**
The use of tracings is not allowed.
- Size & medium**
A4 or A3 size, using watercolour paint.
- Include a Bible verse**
An appropriate Bible verse that best represents the scene in your painting. This can be on the front of the painting or the reverse.
- Label the back of your painting with:**
Your name, age, year group, and the name and address of your School or other group (Parish or youth group).

PRIZES

- 1st Place £30.00**
Winners own Trophy and Certificate signed by the Supreme Knight.
- 2nd Place £20.00**
Certificate signed by the Supreme Knight.
- 3rd Place £15.00**
Certificate signed by the Supreme Knight.
- A cash award of £100.00**
will be presented to the school or group of which the winner is a pupil or member.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Friday 18th December 2026

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO
grand-knight-council270@ksc.org.uk

SCS Sports Coaching Specialists Ltd
Inspiring children in sport

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
------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------

★ 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 Sports Coaching Specialists Ltd
Inspiring children in sport

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
------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------	-----------------------

★ 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