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 23rd October 2026



TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

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:

2nd November - Purple non uniform day in Support of Pancreatic Cancer

6th November - Non-Uniform Day for Church Bazaar

30th November - Start of Advent

4th December Whole school trip to the Panto (Jack & The Beanstalk)

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 celebrating Harvest, giving thanks to God for the food we enjoy and for all those who help bring it to our tables. Harvest also reminds us of Jesus' teaching to share what we have and care for people in need. The Chaplaincy Team led a Celebration of the Word alongside our food bank collection and invited parents and carers to join us for tea, coffee and cake. Thank you to everyone who came to worship and supported the collection.

We were delighted that very almost all our families attended parents' evening. I hope you found the meeting informative and supportive.

At today's Merit Assembly, we presented our first Governor's Awards. The local governing body has introduced these awards to recognise pupils for a range of reasons, such as effort, friendship or behaviour and living the values of St Teresa's. Congratulations to Alice in Year 2 and Grace in Year 4, who received the Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 awards.

Our first day back after half term, Monday 2 November, will be a non-uniform day. We are inviting the children to wear purple in solidarity with families affected by pancreatic cancer, particularly one of our Year 1 families, in return for a suggested £1 donation to Pancreatic Cancer UK. Year 1 parents are also organising a mini-market and raffle after school, in the church hall, to support the family's GoFundMe. Come along and support a great cause.

From Tuesday 3 November, children should come to school in winter uniform. It's time to pack away the summer dresses and shorts! Children from Year 1 upwards should wear shirts and ties. Please also send every child in with a waterproof, hooded coat and a pair of wellies to keep at school. This will help us make the most of the field and Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) in all weathers.

The Second World War has captured Year 5's imagination this week and their recent visit to Duxford brought their history learning to life. They had a fascinating day exploring the museum and its aircraft.

As mentioned last week, families from Reception to Year 6 should begin using Arbor for all transactions except existing school trips. Thank you for your patience and support as we make this transition. We will continue reconciling ParentPay accounts over half term and ask that Arbor is used moving forwards.

After half term we will be asking that wraparound bookings are made at least 48 hours in advance, this is due to rising ad-hoc bookings, often just a few hours before. An earlier booking cut-off window will give us the time we need to arrange sufficient staffing and food. Another tweak in the transition to Arbor is that we require all Universal Free Breakfast Club children to be booked in advance through Arbor. As we claim money back from the DfE for Universal we have to currently upload bookings to a portal, however, Arbor can do this for us if we utilise bookings, your help with this change would be greatly appreciated. There is still no charge, but booking in advance is now required. Early Bird Breakfast Club and Wraparound care must be paid for in advance - this is regardless of how you pay. Arbor will not allow bookings if there are insufficient funds in your account.

KS2 - Have you returned a letter about joining the BCCS concert? It is a fantastic opportunity and we would love more pupils to join. Please return forms as soon as possible so rehearsals can begin after the break.

A huge thank you to our teachers, teaching assistants and support staff for their dedication throughout this eight-week half term. We are so grateful for all they do for the children and for the extra mile they go each day. Families and staff, I think we all deserve a well-earned chance to rest and recharge. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful, restful half-term break, with hopefully some autumn sunshine! We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 2nd November.

God bless, Mrs Maguire

Vacancies

LSA - Please click here for more information.

Wrap-Around Club Staff- we are looking for staff on Mondays 3:15-6:00pm. Supervise a children's club.

Cleaner with keys - Daily cleaner, term time, 4-7pm, locking-up responsibilities.

Contact the school office if interested on personnel@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Year 5 Visit to IWM Duxford



From Alice M, Year 5

Attendance Data

94% and below 94 - 97% 97% and above



	Last week year %	This week %
Reception	95	95
Year 1	95.7	92.5
Year 2	99.3	96.7
Year 3	96.1	98.4
Year 4	96.7	97.3
Year 5	98	98.3
Year 6	92.5	91.3
Whole School total:	96.2	95.6





Menus

Lunch Menu
Next week is **Week 3**

Wrapround 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



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

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

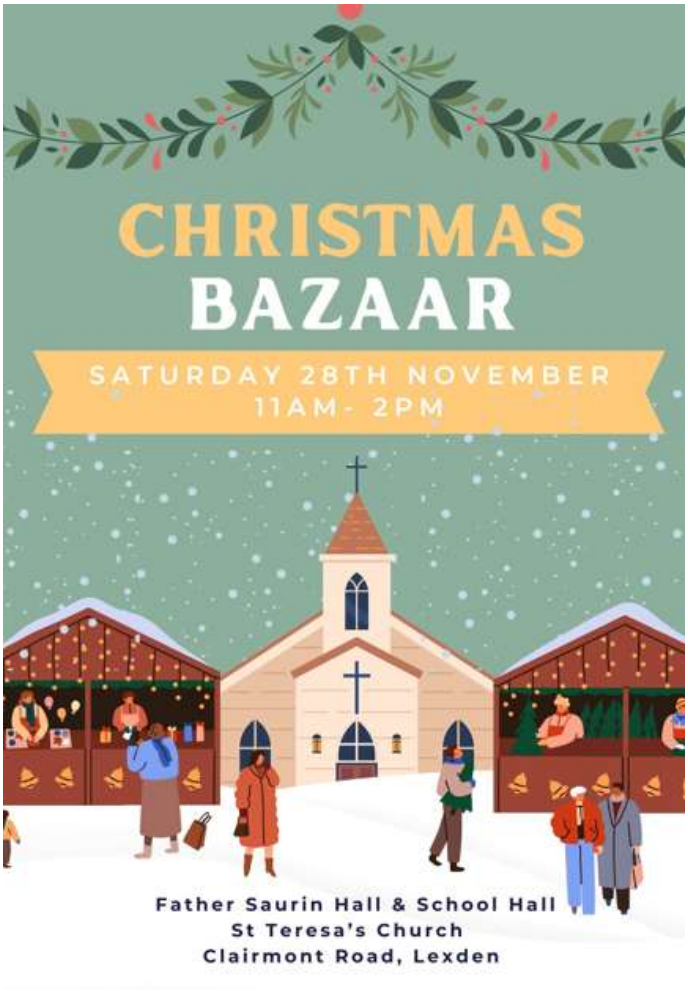
The parish bazaar is fast approaching!

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.





WELLY-WEARING WEATHER!

After half term, please bring your child's wellies and a waterproof coat to school.



The wellies will stay at school, ready for outdoor play in all weathers!

Please label both with your child's name.

Ready for every kind of weather!


CONKER COMPETITION!
Make your conker over half term!
Our lunchtime tournament starts on 2 November
The competition will be supervised by school staff.
Get ready to play!

St Teresa's

Christmas Bazaar

Please start donating

BOTTLES

for the Bottle Stall
at our Church Christmas Bazaar.

Saturday 28th November 2026

Any bottles!

Please leave bottles at the
back of the church.

Thank you!







Flatford Nature Day

Tuesday 27th October 2026

Join us at Flatford for our autumn Nature Day!

Lots of free, nature-themed activities to get stuck into including:

- Pond dipping
- Hedgehog trails
- Fun nature quizzes
- Hands-on arts & crafts
- Leafy and riverside strolls

Free

...and much more!

Drop in activities 11am – 3pm



Enjoy the great outdoors around Flatford this October half-term

There will be something for all the family!

There is a charge of £6.00 for use of the National Trust car park for non-members.
Call Field Studies Council Flatford Mill on 01206 297110 for more details.

Field Studies Council

River Stour Trust

Dedham Vale National Landscape

RSPB

National Trust

Val Turner, an L.T.A. Level 3 qualified coach, is offering tennis lessons on Mondays after school, 3.15-4.15h from 2nd of November until 14th of December.

School P.E. kit should be worn.

Places are limited to Year 3 and Year 4 pupils and are charged at £45 per child, for a seven week course. Fee must be paid in advance.

Please contact Val directly before transferring funds to make sure there is a space available for your child.

Once space confirmed please transfer the funds to below business bank account:

Mrs V Turner

Bank Name: HSBC Bank

Account Number: 80202452

Sort Code: 40-18-00

Reference: Child's Name and school

Contact details for Val:

Phone number 07783 404 387 or email valdonevis@yahoo.com

Wednesday After School Club

Val Turner, an L.T.A. Level 3 qualified coach, is offering tennis lessons on Wednesdays after school, 3.15-4.15h from 9th of September until 21st of October. The classes will be held outdoors in the school's playground. In the event of poor weather the lessons will be run indoors.

School P.E. kit should be worn.

Places are limited to Year 1 and Year 2 pupils and are charged at £45 per child, for a seven week course. Fees must be paid in advance for the half-term.

Below are business bank account details for the transfer:

Mrs V Turner

Bank Name: HSBC Bank

Account Number: 80202452

Sort Code: 40-18-00

Reference: Child's Name and school

Contact details for Val:

Phone number 07783 404 387 or email valdonevis@yahoo.com





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

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** (8 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