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.

2nd Half Autumn Term 2026 – Friday 6th November 2026



TERM DATES 2026 – 2027

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:

7th November – Joint School Concert @ St Benedict's College

19th November – KS2 Cinema Trip

W/C 23rd November – Travelling Book Fair

30th November – Start of Advent

4th December (Reception to Y6) trip to the Panto (Jack & The Beanstalk)

17th December – Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

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,

Welcome back! The half term break sped by but I hope you all enjoyed some family fun nonetheless. We began our week reflecting on All Saints' Day, thinking about the people we admire and look up to. Through the Beatitudes, Jesus reminds us that true greatness is found not in fame or fortune, but in kindness, humility, compassion and love for others.

On Monday, our school was awash with purple as we came together to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer and show our love and solidarity with all those affected by this devastating disease. It was wonderful to see our school community united in support of such an important cause.

Returning to school after October half term marks the move into our winter uniform, so please ensure children are wearing their shirts and ties. A big uniform plea from us – please send your child into school with a pair of wellies that can be left at school and a waterproof coat with a hood. We are committed to making the most of our outdoor spaces throughout the year, whatever the weather. Wellies and waterproof coats allow us to keep the field open for play and your children dry, even when the ground is muddy and the weather is wet.

Our Local Governing Body is inviting parents to complete an online Catholic School Survey, providing an opportunity to share your views on the Catholic life and mission of our school Catholic School Parent Questionnaire 2026 – Fill out form. Please do take a few minutes to complete the survey.

At Parents' Evening, families were given annual permission forms and asked to check their child's emergency contact information. If you have not yet returned these, please do so as soon as possible. Having accurate and up-to-date information is essential for keeping your child safe; returning these forms promptly is a tremendous help to our busy office team. Moving forwards, we will be using email for an increasing number of our school communications, so it is particularly important that we hold a current and regularly checked email address for every family.

We are delighted that a record number of pupils have signed up to take part in the forthcoming BCCS concert – what a fantastic response! Rehearsals began with gusto on Wednesday; we are already looking forward to seeing the children perform. Thank you to everyone who has committed to taking part and representing our school in support of such a worthwhile charity. Tickets are available on ParentPay.

On Wednesday evening, we had the absolute pleasure of welcoming back our former Year 6 pupils for a pizza evening. What a joy it was to see them all again! It is quite remarkable how much they have grown up in just a few months. They arrived with lots of energy, looking taller, more confident and full of stories about their new secondary schools. It was wonderful to hear about their experiences, friendships and adventures. We miss them enormously, it was a lovely reminder that, although they may have moved on to the next chapter of their education, they will always be part of our St Teresa's family.

As we approach Remembrance Day, our prefects have begun visiting classrooms selling poppies and trinkets in support of the Royal British Legion. The Chaplaincy Team also invite all families to join us for a Remembrance Service next week, Wednesday 11th at 9am in the school hall. The service will be followed by tea and coffee.

Unfortunately, I have once again received reports of cars travelling too quickly near the school, vehicles parked on pavements and cars obstructing our neighbours' driveways and dropping on the yellow lines. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that everyone drives and parks safely and considerately. These behaviours put children and families at risk, cause unnecessary frustration for our neighbours and, frankly, do not reflect well on our school community. I sometimes wonder whether those who most need to read these reminders are the very people who skip this section of the newsletter!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for the many ways you all contribute to our wonderful school community. 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



Attendance Data

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



	Last week year %	This week %
Reception	95	98.3
Year 1	92.5	98.9
Year 2	96.7	99.3
Year 3	98.4	96.5
Year 4	97.3	94.2
Year 5	98.3	98.3
Year 6	91.3	92.8
Whole School total:	95.6	96.9





Menus

Lunch Menu
Next week is **Week 1**

Wrapround 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.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

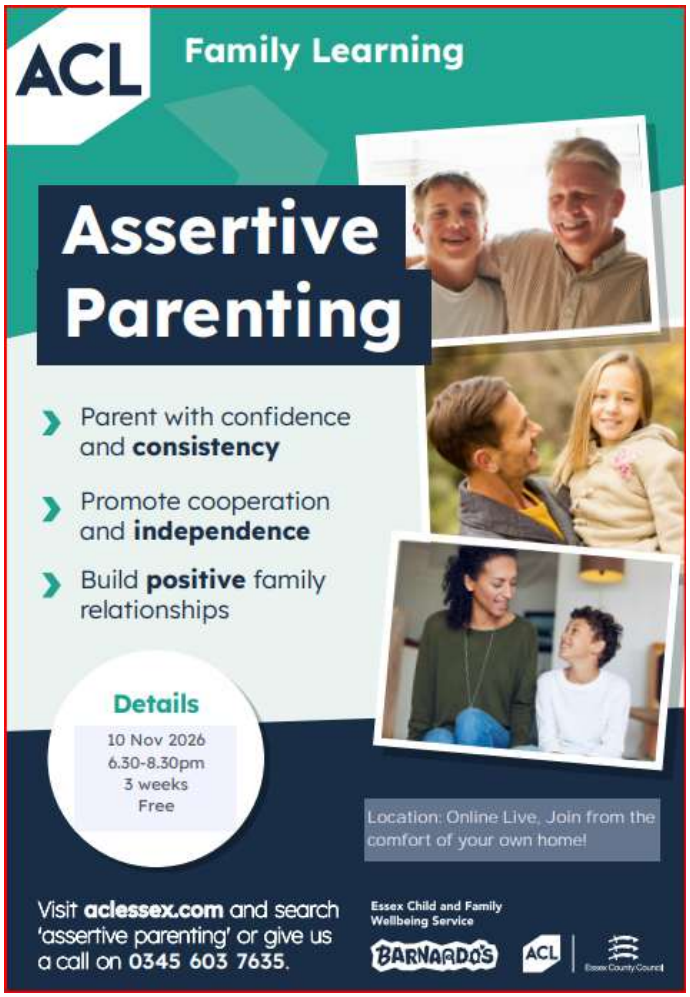
Parish Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 28th November from 11am - 2pm

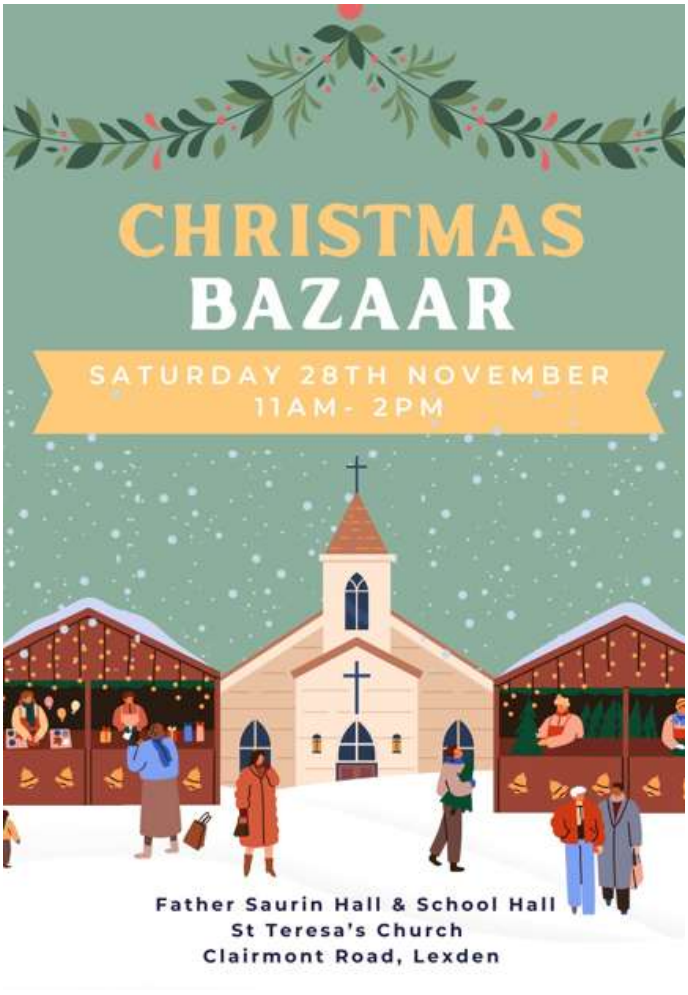
The parish bazaar is fast approaching!

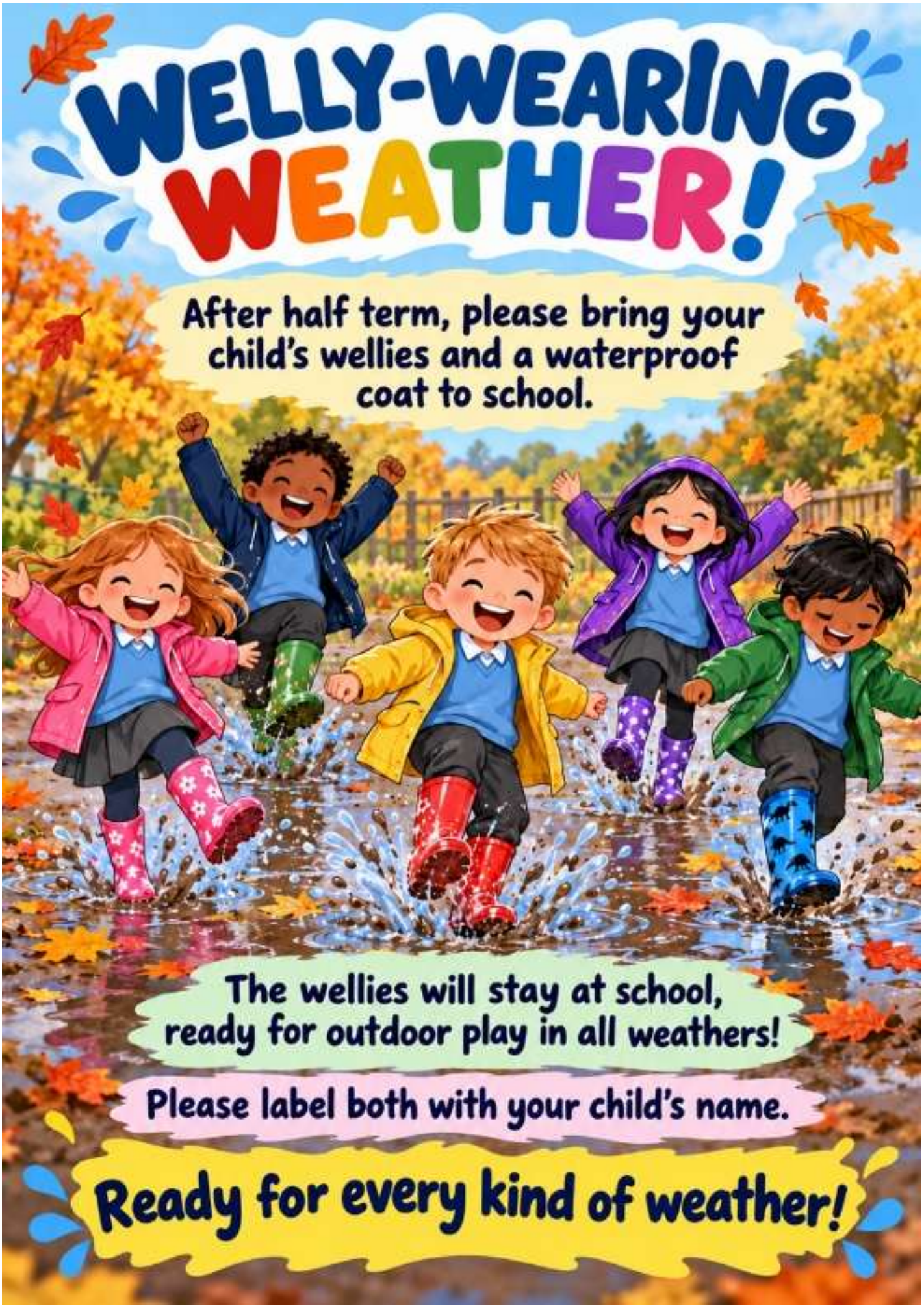
As in previous years the school will be running a Toiletries / Stationery tombola. Please can we ask for your support by sending in donations for this stall? Traditionally we ask EYFS and KS1 families to donate toiletries and KS2 families to donate stationery items. These can be large or small items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





SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

November 2026 | Primary | What parents and carers need to know about: Anti-bullying week | Roblox

Helping our children find their voice, speak up and support others

Bullying can have a lasting impact on a child's confidence, friendships and wellbeing. Yet many children stay silent, fearing they won't be believed, that things will get worse or simply not recognising that they are being bullied.

This November, Anti-Bullying Week's theme, **Break the Silence,** reminds us of the importance of helping children recognise bullying, speak up when something isn't right and support others who may be struggling.

Understanding bullying: When is it more than falling out?

Disagreements and friendship difficulties are part of growing up, but bullying is different. It usually involves repeated, deliberately hurtful behaviour and an imbalance of power. This might include name-calling, exclusion, spreading rumours or physical aggression. Bullying can also happen online, through gaming platforms, group chats and messaging apps.

An important message for children: You don't have to decide whether something counts as bullying before asking for help. If someone's behaviour is upsetting you, you deserve to be listened to.

Why might children stay silent?

Telling an adult about bullying isn't always easy. Children may worry that:

- The bullying will get worse if they tell someone.
- They will be called a 'snitch' or 'tell-tale'.
- Adults will take away their phone or stop them playing online.
- Their friends will turn against them.
- Nobody will believe them or take them seriously.

Younger children may also struggle to explain what is happening or find the words to describe how they feel. This is why we need to regularly remind children that asking for help is not telling tales. It is a way of keeping themselves and others safe.

What if your child tells you they are being bullied?

Start by listening and reassuring them that they have done the right thing by speaking up. Avoid suggesting they simply ignore it or retaliate.

Make a note of what has happened, including any repeated incidents, and contact the school to discuss your concerns. Work together on a plan to help your child feel safe and agree how the situation will be followed up.

Keep checking in with your child. Even when the bullying stops, they may need time and reassurance to rebuild their confidence.



The message to remember

Breaking the silence doesn't always mean speaking loudly. Sometimes it means finding the courage to tell one trusted person that something isn't right.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Roblox: What parents and carers need to know

Roblox is hugely popular with primary-aged children, but it's more than a gaming platform. Children can chat and interact with others, including people they don't know. During 2026, Roblox has introduced new chat safety measures. However, concerns remain about dangerous online networks using platforms like Roblox to target and exploit children.

What's changed with Roblox chat?

Roblox now requires age checks to access chat, generally restricting communication to similar age groups. Younger users have additional restrictions, with some features requiring parental permission.

Parents and carers should understand the different ways children can communicate:

- Game chat: Messages between eligible players within a game, including strangers.
- Direct chat: Private messages between players within games, where permitted.
- Friends and group chat: Individual or group conversations with Roblox friends, where permitted.
- Voice chat: Available to eligible older users following age checks.

Remember: Age checks do not verify someone's identity or guarantee safe interactions.

The Com: A dangerous online network parents and carers should know about

'The Com' (short for 'community') is a dangerous online network that targets and exploits children and vulnerable young people through gaming platforms, social media and messaging apps.

Members may build trust with children before manipulating or blackmailing them into sharing intimate images, harming themselves or carrying out dangerous acts.

How is Roblox involved?

Roblox has been used by people associated with this network, with concerns including:

- Avatar clothing referencing self-harm and harmful online groups.
- Games and chat spaces containing disturbing or inappropriate content.
- Content on other platforms directing children towards Roblox spaces linked to these communities.

The concern isn't just what children might see on Roblox, but who they might meet and where those interactions could lead.



How can children be drawn into harmful online communities?

Online grooming can begin with something as simple as a friendly gaming conversation or someone offering attention and friendship. Over time, children may be encouraged to move conversations to apps such as Discord and WhatsApp, share personal information or keep secrets from their parents and carers.

extra

Your Sensory Child

Scan to book your free place

Join us for a relaxed, informative workshop to explore how children experience the world through their senses, how this can affect their emotions and behaviour — and why it matters. Learn practical strategies to support your child's unique needs.



Karen - Parent Service Manager



Angela- Associate Facilitator

Monkwick Infant School, Colchester, CO28NN

Monday 9th November 2026
9.30am - 11.30am



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891

Funded by...

extra

Mindfulness

Scan to register

This free 5-week course is designed for parents and carers of young children and teenagers. It explores how mindfulness can support you in your parenting role, helping to reduce stress, build confidence, and bring more calm, kindness, and enjoyment into everyday family life.
Each week you will learn simple mindfulness practices for yourself, along with fun activities you can share with your child at home.
The course includes:

- **Parent Journal**
- **A booklet of mindfulness practices for children**
- **6 guided mindfulness recordings**

These practices are designed to support your wellbeing while creating meaningful and enjoyable moments with your child.

Starts Wednesday 11th November 2026
9.30am - 12pm
Online



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891

Funded by...

extra

Coping with Behaviour that Challenges Workshop

Scan to book your free place

This workshop will help parents/carers to understand and navigate their child's behaviour by exploring how children think, feel and experience the world.

We will explore possible triggers for behaviour and learn practical strategies to support connection and improve relationships within the home.



Karen - Parent Service Manager



Rebecca - Associate Facilitator

Alton Park Junior School, CO15 1DL

Wednesday 2nd December 2026
9.30am - 11.30am



admin@extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk
01255475001
www.extrasupportforfamilies.co.uk/
Registered in England No: 1158891

Funded by...

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