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 13th 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:

19th November – KS2 Cinema Trip

W/C 23rd November – Travelling Book Fair

27th November – Joint School Concert @ St Benedict's College

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,

We began the week with collective worship, and throughout the week our prayers and reflections have centred on the theme of **Remembrance**.

During Monday's worship, we explored the symbols of remembrance displayed on our prayer focus and listened to the Bible story of *The Good Samaritan*. We reflected on what it means to be a peacemaker and how we can follow the example of the Good Samaritan through our own words and actions, showing kindness, compassion and care for others in our school community.

Our reflections continued in our whole-school community service on Wednesday. It was wonderful to welcome so many mums, dads, grandparents and friends to join the children as we marked this poignant occasion together. And although I couldn't be there, Miss Hilton told me it was a very moving service and the children were such credits to you all.

What a wonderful sight it has been today to see the children arriving at school in their pyjamas! Our School Council did a fantastic job organising today's fundraising event in support of **BBC Children in Need**. What better excuse to come to school in your comfiest pyjamas, all whilst raising money for such a worthwhile cause!

Our preparations for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) Christmas Concert are gathering pace! This week, Mrs Herron has been busy teaching the children their dances and drama scenes. The children are working incredibly hard, and we are very much looking forward to what promises to be a wonderful concert. Tickets are available via ParentPay and will be distributed via your child's classroom, a week prior to the concert. We would love to see as many parents, carers, family members and friends as possible coming along to support this fantastic cause. There will also be a bar in the evening and a fantastic raffle, with some wonderful prizes to be won.

On Tuesday, the whole school participated in our termly fire drill, an important part of our health and safety procedures. I am delighted to share that the children were absolutely brilliant! They followed instructions carefully, moved sensibly and calmly, and we successfully evacuated our entire school site in **under two minutes**! I think that might just be a new school record!

It was encouraging to receive so many responses to our recent Catholic School Survey. I met with our governors this week to share your initial feedback, which is invaluable in helping us reflect on our strengths and identify opportunities to develop our school community further. **It's not too late to have your say!** If you haven't yet completed the Catholic School Survey, we would still very much welcome your response. Every contribution helps us build a fuller picture of our school community. Once Microsoft has been restored, please click here to access the survey.

You will also have received a consultation letter from our Trust this week regarding the proposal for a **two-week October half-term holiday**. This consultation is being conducted through a paper-based questionnaire, and all responses will be shared with the Trust in due course.

On Thursday, a group of our Year 5 and 6 pupils represented St Teresa's at a basketball tournament. As always, the children were wonderful ambassadors for our school, demonstrating teamwork, determination and excellent sportsmanship.

Last week, it was a pleasure to meet with our Friends of St Teresa's (FOST) committee as part of their Annual General Meeting. It was particularly lovely to see FOST mentioned so positively in responses to our recent parent survey, with families recognising the important contribution they make to enriching school life. This week also saw a fantastic collection for **Bags2School**, with families generously donating unwanted clothing and textiles. The bags were collected promptly, and all money raised will go directly towards supporting our school. Another wonderful example of our community working together!

At St Teresa's, it's not just the week that is busy but this weekend I'd love to draw the parents' attention to two amazing family events. Firstly, come along to watch and support the Christmas Light Parade where Year 5 are taking part. The parade starts at 5pm from the Mercury Theatre and will travel up the High Street. And if you are a football fan, Year 1 have organised a Family Football Tournament. Spectators are welcome to come along to the Power League at St Helena's School (CO3 3LE), on Sunday 15th November at 12.30pm. For further information, please see the poster on page 5.

As another busy week draws to a close, I am reminded once again of the wonderful community we have here at St Teresa's. I wish you all a very pleasant and fun-filled weekend.

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.

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

Children In Need Update

Today, we supported Children in Need by wearing pyjamas to school for a donation.

So far, we've managed to raise £137.48 for this wonderful cause.

Thank you to those able to donate.



Support

Trainee psychotherapist sessions



I'm Hannah, I am a qualified doctor, currently undertaking additional training in psychodynamic psychotherapy at Essex University. This type of therapy looks at the mind's unconscious processes and how these, along with past experiences, can impact current feelings and behaviours. I have current availability for 50-minute free counselling sessions for 1-2 clients age 18 and over. These can be staff members or parents/carers of current pupils. Please contact Sarah Dyball via the school office on office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk, if interested.

Attendance Data

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



	Last week year %	This week %
Reception	98.3	98.3
Year 1	98.9	95
Year 2	99.3	97.3
Year 3	96.5	97.7
Year 4	94.2	92.4
Year 5	98.3	95.7
Year 6	92.8	85.6
Whole School total:	96.9	94.6





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.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.





CHARITY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Join us for a charity 5 a side football tournament to raise money and support a family in our Year 1 community.

SCAN TO DONATE

SCAN ME

Power League
St Helena School,
Sheepen Rd, CO3 3LE

Sunday 15th November
at 12.30pm

5 A SIDE TOURNAMENT

ENTRY FEE:
£60 PER TEAM
(MAX 6 PLAYERS)

£1 PER SPECTATOR

CAKES WILL BE ON SALE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
PLEASE CONTACT
JAMES 07809230594

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE GOING TO
Siyam's GoFund me page

Thank you for your support.

ACL

Family Learning

Managing Big Emotions



- Understand what sits behind **challenging behaviour**
- Help your child to **manage feelings** with confidence
- **Build resilience**, calm and emotional wellbeing

Details:

Wednesday 25th November 2026

(in the Church hall)

Thursday 3rd December 2026

(in school)

9am to 11am

Two Weeks

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Enrol Today!

aclessex.com

0345 603 7635

ACL | Essex County Council

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!





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