



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to wish you all a very happy new year! Your children have returned to school and settled back in quickly. Speaking to children it seems that very merry Christmases were had all round!

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome some new members to our teaching team!

Mrs Garwood is teaching Y2 now as Miss O'Hart has gone on maternity leave. Miss Johnson has joined the team as a TA to years 5 and 4. Also Miss Cross, who has worked at St Teresa's for many years as a midday assistant, has joined EYFS as a TA alongside Mrs Pitt who after volunteering at the school for many years and previously working as a TA for us has rejoined us! Mrs Clunn (Previously known as Parker) has also rejoined our team and will be working with various classes across the school every Friday. It is lovely to welcome new faces and returning friends back to our teaching team!

Please have a look at the upcoming diary dates both here and the website. You will see when class assemblies, school trips and fundraisers are coming up.

I wish you all the best in 2024 and look forward to continue working with you.

God Bless,

Mr J Bottjer (head)

PARKING SITUATION—BLOCKING OF DRIVES

The road opposite the school has many houses with drive ways. **Reminder: Please do not block drive ways with your car.** This can cause people to be blocked into their house unable to leave or can prevent people from parking at their house.

Last term we had multiple incidents of this occurring. Even stopping there for a moment is not acceptable. It is not fair on the families that we share our road and community with.

Not only this, but we have seen cars pulling up over drives and letting children run out into the road to get to the school gates.

As head teacher, I believe that punctuality is of course important. However, I would much prefer that children were slightly late to school than hurt in a traffic incident. **Please, do not do this.**

We have a soft start at St Teresa's where the main gates open at 8.40 but registers are not opened until 8.55. This should allow families to park a bit further away and walk their children if required. Perhaps parking somewhere on Luncies road or down by the church and walking down as opposed to parking right next to the school may be an option for you. Perhaps you live in walking distance and a car ride is not necessary?

Please consider what you can do to help the parking situation and relationship with our neighbors.

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Elsenham Crescent
Basildon
Essex
SS14 1UE

Phone: 01268 553502.

E-mail: office@st-teresasrc.essex.sch.uk



Our Lady
& All Saints



Upcoming Dates:

26th January: Year 3 class assembly.

6th February: Year 4 school trip

14th February: Spring term film night fundraiser.

8th March: Mid-year reports out to parents.

22nd March: Y5 Class Assembly

28th March: Year 3/4 Present the stations of the cross at St Basil's Church (am)

29th March: Easter Holidays begin

15th April: First day back after Easter holidays.

10th May: Year 1 Class Assembly

24th May: The May Procession

25th May: Summer half term begins.

3rd June: Inset (non-pupil) day

4th June: Children back in school

21st June: EYFS Class Assembly

12th July: End of year reports out.

19th July: Children's last day of school. Summer holidays begin.

3rd September : Children back in. Start of the new school year.



Primary Admissions for September 2024 (Reception)

If you have a child that is due to start reception in September 2024, please ensure that you apply online for your child's school place. All applications are made online through Essex County Council's website.

Please ensure that your online application is submitted by 15 January 2024. Remember to re-submit after making any changes before the deadline.

All applications received after 15 January will be treated as late and will only be processed after all on-time applications.

Please be aware that you are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply later.

Also, if your child is a Baptised Catholic, then there is an additional form called a **"Certificate of Catholic Practice"** for Fr Sabu to sign. **This form is not available from the school, or in advance.** To complete it, please see Fr Sabu at one of the designated times below. Please note it is essential that this form is completed by 15th January. It is essential that this form is completed before 15th January.

Tuesday 9th January at Holy Trinity Church 3pm-5pm

Or

Thursday 11th January at St Basil's Presbytery 3pm-5pm

Please bring your child's Baptism certificate with you.



Outdoor PE Kits

Christmas may be over but the weather is still very cold! Regardless, our PE curriculum continues as normal. (It takes more than a bit of wind and cold to put us off of an outdoor PE lesson!)

Please bear in mind that outdoor PE will continue in most types of weather. (Naturally, torrential rain or slippery ice would prevent this.)

Therefore we ask that you make sure that your child's PE kit has joggers and a jumper/hoody included to make sure that they can enjoy their outdoor PE lessons in comfort.

Year 6: Cooking Day

The children in year six have been cooking in DT this week! They created pineapple cheesecake and stuffed peppers. What a great learning experience (and a chance to eat some of what they created!)



Charitable works from a St Teresa's student

In the spirit of celebrating the Catholic Ethos of our school, I am delighted to share a heartwarming story about Jake, one of our students, whose compassion and generosity shone brightly during the Christmas season. Recently, I had the privilege of hearing from a proud parent about Jake's remarkable contributions to charity every Christmas. Learning about families struggling during the festive season deeply touched Jake, motivating him to take action. Jake empathised with children who might not receive presents due to financial constraints and decided to make a difference.

Over the past few years, Jake has selflessly donated his belongings to various charities and families in need. Jake's charity extended to supporting the Craig Tyler Trust, where he generously contributed Batman and Joker-themed toys along with other essentials for their stalls aimed at helping people with food, clothing, and gifts.

This year, Jake continued his charitable efforts by collecting Xbox games, poppets, and fidget toys for parents facing financial challenges. His compassion and understanding led him to provide sensory toys, poppets, and sensory lights to a mother for her son with additional needs, showcasing his thoughtfulness in selecting items that catered to the boy's specific needs. Jake's motivation, empathy, and selfless actions are a testament to St Teresa's "little way" and the ethos we promote at our school. As a school community, we are incredibly proud!



**DO YOU HAVE A STORY ABOUT A CHILD IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY WHO HAS SHOWCASED OUR SCHOOL VALUES?
IF SO, PLEASE EMAIL OFFICE@ST-TERESASRC.ESSEX.SCH.UK**



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

As our children grow they will inevitably begin exploring online content on phones, computers and tablets. It's essential to ensure their safety while navigating platforms like YouTube. Monitoring their YouTube usage can greatly contribute to their online security. We highly recommend the YouTube Kids app, tailored specifically for young audiences, offering a safer and controlled environment.

Setting parental controls, supervising their viewing sessions, and discussing appropriate content guidelines are crucial steps to safeguarding their online experience. We have recently had reports of multiple children watching a channel called "Stoke Twins". The material looks innocuous at first glance but is not suitable for children of a primary age.

Please support the school by monitoring how your child uses Youtube and try your best to engage with the material they view online so that you can assess its suitability. Let's work together to empower our children with the knowledge and tools needed for a online safety!

Mr Bottjer

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