



## Bon Voyage, Mr Beattie!

Dear parents and carers,

Mr Beattie has recently completed a set of qualifications which will allow him to move on to the next stage of his teaching career. Following this achievement, he has taken the decision to take a well-deserved break to go travelling with his partner before settling down and continuing his career upon his return. This does, unfortunately mean that he will be leaving St Teresa's at half term.

Mr Beattie has been a great addition to the St Teresa's team in the time that he has been here. He has made a positive impact on the lives of all of the students that he has served and has been a model of professionalism, dedication and an embodiment of our school values of "Love, Acceptance and Respect."

I would like to congratulate Mr Beattie on passing these qualifications, wish him the best time travelling around the world and wish him the best of luck in his future career.  
 Thank you for everything you have done for St Teresa's, Mr Beattie. Safe travels, and good luck.

Mr J Bottjer (Headteacher)

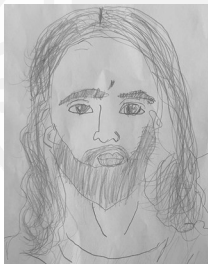
## Amanda and Miranda's amazing religious art:

Two of our talented artists have been hard at work creating inspirational religious artwork at home. We have three images of Jesus, which I am sure you will all agree are extremely mature and technically very well created pieces of artwork.

Accompanying the picture, Amanda wrote "Jesus looked around them and said "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" Mark 10:27 and then wrote "God has given ALL of us great purpose!"

I could not agree more! God has given all of our children such great purpose.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with us!



### Upcoming Dates:

- 28th October: Half Term
- 4th November: **NON PUPIL DAY**
- 6th November: Year 6 PGL
- 13th Nov: EYFS Open morning
- 14th November: EYFS Open Afternoon
- 29th November: Y4 Class Collective Worship 9am (Parents invited)
- 23rd December: Christmas Break
- 24th January Y3: Collective Worship 9am (Parents invited)
- 4th February: Y4 School Trip
- 17th February: Half Term
- 7th March: Mid year reports out to all parents

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**Our Lady  
 & All Saints**





## Multi Cultural Celebration Day

What a vibrant and colourful day we've had at our school! Our Multi-Cultural Day was a resounding success, bringing together the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our wonderful school family.

The sight of our pupils donning free dress representing their family heritage was truly spectacular. From the intricate patterns of Indian saris to the bold colours of Nigerian attire, from the emerald greens of Irish garb to the elegant designs of Pakistani dress, and the stylish flair of Italian fashion – our school was a living, breathing celebration of global diversity.



Citizens of the world! Children representing their cultures from across the globe!

Some classes delved deeper into Black History Month, engaging in special lessons that broadened our understanding and appreciation of this important topic. And what better way to round off our cultural exploration than through our taste buds? Our school dinner menu took us on a culinary journey, featuring delectable African and West-Indian dishes that had everyone asking for seconds!

Days like these remind us of the beautiful diversity within our school community. It's not just about the colourful clothes or the tasty food – it's about understanding, respecting, and celebrating our differences. These experiences enrich our lives and help us grow as individuals and as a school.



The boys look dapper, modelling traditional African outfits.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this day truly special.



The girls wearing traditional dresses from Moldova and Romania.



Children enjoying the "Black History Month" menu



Traditional Indian clothing in Year 3.

## Invitation to International Parish Christmas Concert

The parish Christmas concert is Saturday 14th December 7pm until 8pm at Holy Trinity church. This concert is a celebration of not only Christmas but our vibrant and culturally diverse community in the Parish of Our Lady and All Saints.

There will be singing provided by our African, Indian, Filipino and British choirs over the course of the event.

The Parish is interested in additional choirs joining up. If you are a member of a choir or part of a singing group, they would love to hear from you. It would be especially powerful to have other nations represented - it doesn't have to be a large choir - just a few of you to sing maybe 2 traditional carols or songs and maybe say a few words about what Christmas traditions you have. We are aware that many other communities in our parish are not yet represented at the moment and it would be lovely to hear from you all!

If you would like to take part please email [parishcouncil@basildoncatholics.org](mailto:parishcouncil@basildoncatholics.org)

And even if you do not want to lend your voice, only your ears, all are welcome to attend this event and enjoy the multi-cultural music and Christmas celebrations.

**- Our Lady and All Saint Parish Council**

## Official Visit From Richard Holden—MP

This week, we had the privilege of welcoming MP Richard Holden to our school. Mr Holden, who represents Basildon and Billericay, took time out of his busy schedule to meet with our head and one of our governors. Our discussions centred around several crucial issues that affect our school and community. We delved into the complexities of school funding, exploring ways to ensure our pupils receive the best possible education despite financial challenges. We also talked about how we can better support our parents, recognising the vital role they play in our pupils' success. Another topic of conversation was our ongoing parking situation. As many of you know, this has been a concern for some time, and we're committed to finding solutions that work for everyone.

The visit wasn't all serious talk, though. Mr Holden had the opportunity to tour our school, meeting with pupils and staff along the way. It was heartening to see the enthusiasm with which our pupils engaged with their local representative, asking thoughtful questions and sharing their experiences.

One of the highlights of the day was Mr Holden's participation in our assembly. He took the time to explain the role of an MP to our pupils, offering them valuable insights into the workings of our democracy. It's moments like these that bring our civics lessons to life and inspire our young learners to engage with the world around them.

To cap off the visit, Mr Holden presented our dodgeball team with their well-deserved medals (see overleaf). This recognition of our pupils' sporting achievements was a wonderful way to conclude the day.



## Reminder: Calling in when your child is sick.

We understand that life can be hectic, but I must stress the importance of contacting the school office when your child is unwell and unable to attend. This simple act not only keeps us informed but also saves our staff valuable time that would otherwise be spent chasing up absences.

As you may know, we have a safeguarding duty to ensure the well-being of all our pupils. When a child is absent without explanation, we're obliged to conduct home visits. While these are necessary, they can be easily avoided with a quick phone call.

I'd like to gently remind everyone that any absence without notification will be marked as unauthorised. This isn't about being punitive; it's about maintaining clear communication and ensuring the safety of our pupils.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. By working together, we can streamline our processes and focus more of our energy on what truly matters – providing the best possible education for your children.

## Institute of Science Visit

St Teresa's had the privilege of welcoming Alex, a special scientist from the Royal Institution to deliver a series of captivating science lessons to our Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils.

These weren't just ordinary lessons; they were filled with live experiments that truly brought learning to life. Our pupils were treated to exciting explosions and even had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities themselves. The enthusiasm and wonder on their faces were truly a sight to behold!

Beyond the thrill of the experiments, this visit served a deeper purpose. It opened our pupils' eyes to the fascinating world of science and the potential for future careers in this field. By experiencing science in such an engaging and interactive way, our young learners were able to see how classroom knowledge translates into real-world applications.



## DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT—ST TERESA'S CROWNED CHAMPIONS!

I'm thrilled to share some exciting news that highlights the incredible talent and determination of our pupils. Our school's dodgeball team has brought home gold medals from the recent inter-school competition, showcasing their skills against other local primaries.

The team's performance was nothing short of spectacular. They demonstrated unwavering focus and teamwork, securing victory in every single game. The final showdown against a formidable group from Greensted was a nail-biting affair, but our young athletes rose to the challenge magnificently.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to TJ, Isiah, Temi, Lincoln, Alex, Lillie, Enzo, Freddie, Max, Lexi and Scarlett for their outstanding efforts on the court. Your dedication and sportsmanship have made us all immensely proud.

We must also recognise the invaluable contribution of Rhys, whose coaching expertise undoubtedly played a crucial role in the team's success. Your guidance and support have helped nurture these young talents and instil in them the spirit of healthy competition.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work and passion that our pupils bring to every endeavour. It's moments like these that remind us of the incredible potential within our school community.



## Year 5 Prepare the School For Remembrance

This week, our Year 5 pupils in St Martin's class led a truly moving collective worship, bringing together parents and pupils in a poignant reflection on remembrance. Their thoughtful preparation shone through as they guided us on a journey through the significance of World War I and the symbolism of the poppy.

Their beautiful singing filled the air, touching the hearts of all present. The poetry recitations were delivered with sensitivity and understanding, demonstrating the pupils' deep engagement with this important topic.

I'm immensely proud of our Year 5 pupils for their maturity and the respect they showed in handling such a weighty subject. Their collective worship not only prepared us for the upcoming period of remembrance but also showcased the wonderful learning and personal growth happening within our school.



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