



Pilgrims of Hope at St Teresa's



Dear St Teresa's community,

As we come to the end of another half term, I'm delighted to share with you the vibrant happenings and achievements that have been blossoming in our school. The past two weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, filled with learning, growth, and celebration.

First and foremost, I'm thrilled to announce that since we've launched the Jubilee year at St Teresa's, many activities and initiatives are being planned and some are already underway. This special time calls us to be "pilgrims of hope," as beautifully expressed by Pope Francis. Our faith council, ever-creative and dedicated, has taken this message to heart. They've reached out to CAFOD and organised a special sign for the front of our school to be delivered, spreading the word about our mission to the wider community. It's a visual reminder of our commitment to faith and hope, standing as a beacon for all who pass by.

But that's not all! Our wellbeing team has embarked on an inspiring project that perfectly captures the spirit of the Jubilee. They've introduced "jubilee pledges," written by our pupils on special keys. These aren't just any pledges – they're heartfelt promises to spread love, joy, and hope throughout the year. It's truly heartwarming to see our children embracing this challenge, thinking deeply about how they can make a positive impact in their daily lives. These will all contribute towards a display in the school.



School council create "Class Mascot" bears!

Speaking of positive impacts, our School Council has been hard at work too. They've introduced class "mascot" bears, an idea originally suggested by Toni. These cuddly companions serve a vital purpose in our PSHE lessons, helping children share their thoughts and feelings while others practice active listening. It's a wonderful way to create a safe, supportive environment for open discussion. In a touching nod to our school's heritage, the council voted to name the bears after our class saints. So, please join me in welcoming Joseph, Basil, Francis, Nicholas, Martin, and Jean to our St Teresa's family!



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Elsenham Crescent
 Basildon
 Essex
 SS14 1UE

Phone: 01268 553502.
 E-mail: office@st-teresarsc.essex.sch.uk



Upcoming Dates:

- 17th February: Half Term
- 7th March: Mid-Year reports to all parents
- 19th March: Year 5/6 Athletics event
- 28th March: Year 5 School Trip
- 1st April: Hot Cross Bun Run (Catholic school event. Selected pupils only)
- 3rd April: Y1 School Trip
- 4th April: Last day of term.
- 22nd April: Children back for summer term.
- 1st May: May procession
- 5th May: Bank Holiday (No School)
- 9th May: Y1 Class Collective Worship
- 12th May: Y6 SATS Week
- 23rd May: Last day of half term.
- 2nd June: Non-Pupil Day.
- 3rd June: Children return from half term.

Football Update

On the sporting front, our football teams have been kicking up a storm. Our girls' team, while yet to secure their first win, have shown remarkable progress. Under the guidance of coach Rhys, they're growing stronger with each match, learning the invaluable skills of teamwork and perseverance. As for our boys' team, they've had some exciting results, including a resounding 7-1 victory and a nail-biting 2-2 draw against the formidable Lee Chapel team. That draw, in particular, was a testament to how far our team has come, facing their biggest challenge yet with skill and determination.



Year 4 Making Pizzas!



But life at St Teresa's isn't all about sports. Our Year 4 pupils recently enjoyed a delicious adventure at Pizza Express. This wasn't just about indulging in tasty treats (although that was certainly a highlight!). The children received a crash course in pizza-making, learning crucial skills in kitchen safety, hygiene, and cooking. It was a joy to see them create their culinary masterpieces – and even more of a joy to see them savour the fruits of their labour!

Internet Safety Day

In our ever-connected world, ensuring our children's safety online remains a top priority. We recently marked Internet Safety Day with focused computing and PSHE lessons across the school. Our nursery children, in particular, impressed us with their creativity, filling pictures of iPads with fun and safe online activities.

However, our conversations with pupils continue to reveal that **many are accessing apps, games, and websites at home that aren't suitable for primary-age children**. I urge all parents and carers to visit our school website for guidance on this crucial issue. Together, we can keep our children safe in the digital world.



E-safety information can be found by following this link: [E-Safety at St Teresa's](#)

Well Being Team: St Valentine's day hot chocolate sale.

On a lighter note, the Well Being Team's Valentine's Day sale was a roaring success. Hot chocolates and cakes were the order of the day, bringing smiles to faces and raising much-needed funds for our school. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed – your support makes a real difference.



School Kitchen Awarded 5 Stars from Basildon Council

I'm also delighted to share some exciting news from our school kitchen, affectionately known as The Little Flower Cafe. Following an unannounced inspection from Basildon Council, our kitchen was awarded 5 stars – the highest possible rating! Even more impressively, the inspectors found absolutely nothing to improve upon. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Miss Ellis, Mrs Heard, and our entire midday and cleaning team. They consistently maintain the highest standards for our pupils, and we're incredibly proud of their achievement.



New Athletics Kit Arrives!



Lastly, I have some thrilling news for our budding athletes. Following our children's victory in a recent district athletics competition, we've decided to invest in new kits as we advance to the county-wide stage next term. A big thank you to Rhys and our finance team for organising this. The new St Teresa's blue kits look incredibly professional, and it's wonderful to see the pride on our pupils' faces as they wear them. We're all looking forward to cheering them on at the next stage of the competition!

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