

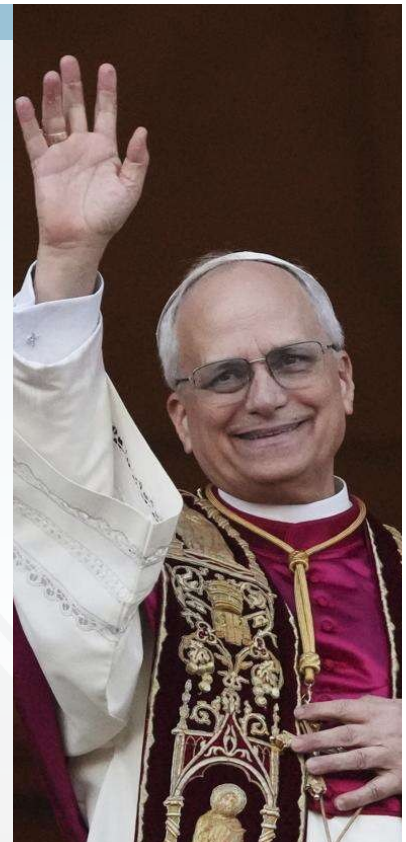


Dear St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Community,

As we approach the end of another eventful term, I find myself reflecting on the rich tapestry of experiences that have woven together to create a vibrant and meaningful learning environment for our pupils. Our school has been a hive of activity, with moments of celebration, commemoration, and spiritual growth intertwining to shape our collective journey.

In recent weeks, we've navigated significant events in the Catholic world. The passing of Pope Francis brought our school community together in a poignant assembly, where we explored his life and the enduring mission he entrusted to us. As we delved into his teachings, we reaffirmed our commitment to living as **Pilgrims of Hope**, carrying forward his legacy of compassion and unity.

Following this period of reflection, we joyfully welcomed Pope Leo's ascension with a spirited collective worship celebration. Together, we contemplated his first words to Catholics worldwide, finding inspiration in his call for peace and harmony. These moments have reinforced our school's spiritual foundation, reminding us of the values that guide our daily interactions and decisions.



VE Day: 80 Years



Our commitment to fostering an understanding of history was evident in our commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The school was awash with Union Jacks, creating a visual reminder of this significant milestone. Our pupils engaged in World War II-themed learning activities across different year groups. Year 1 pupils channelled their creativity into crafting flags and bunting, while Year 5 delved into researching the aircraft that played crucial roles in World War II battles. These hands-on experiences brought history to life, helping our pupils connect with the sacrifices and triumphs of generations past.

Upcoming Dates:

- 23rd May: Last day of half term.**
- 2nd June: Non-Pupil Day.
- 3rd-6th June: Year 4 multiplication checks.
- 3rd June: Children return from half term.
- 4th Jun: EYFS/Nursey Trip
- 20th June: Early year's collective worship.
- 27th June: Y5/6 District Sports
- July: SPORTS DAY: DETAILS TBC**
- July: Summer fete: DETAILS TBC**
- 1st July: Y3/4 District sports
- 4th July: New class teachers announced and letters out to parents.
- 7th July: Transition days for new classes this week.
- 11th July: End of year reports out
- 18th July: Last day of school**

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Thank you, Mr. Morris!

As we celebrate our school's achievements, we must also acknowledge the individuals who have contributed to our success. It is with a mixture of gratitude and sadness that we bid farewell to Mr Morris, our exceptional caretaker. His dedication has gone far beyond his job description, regularly building doors, walls, and other (often last minute) building projects that I have been inspired to undertake!

We extend our heartfelt thanks for his service and wish him a happy, well-deserved retirement. As one chapter closes, another begins, and we're pleased to welcome Mr Brewster as our new caretaker. Many of you may have already spotted him working alongside Mr Morris this month as part of the handover process. We wish Mr Brewster the very best as he steps into this important role.



Year 6: SATS week

Our Year 6 pupils recently completed their SATs, and I'm bursting with pride at their mature and hard-working approach. Their dedication was evident throughout the process, and we eagerly anticipate their results this summer. It's worth noting that the Standards and Testing Agency inspected our SATs arrangements during the week and found our organisation to be exemplary. They were particularly impressed with our systems ensuring fair and rule-compliant test conditions – a testament to the hard work of our staff and pupils alike.

Safeguarding reviewed at St Teresa's

In our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we recently elected to undergo a review into our safeguarding systems and culture by an external inspector from Essex Learning Authority. I'm delighted to share that the review found our safeguarding systems to be very strong.

The reviewer's summary highlighted the **"excellent professional relationships that exist between staff, parents and children, based on the Catholic mission and values, which have fostered a robust safeguarding culture."** This affirmation of our practises underscores the importance we place on creating a safe, nurturing environment for all our pupils.

Year one class assembly and collective worship

Our spiritual life continues to flourish, with beautiful displays of faith and community spirit. The Year 1 class led a touching collective worship celebrating springtime and May, the month of Mary. Their clear voices raised in a joyful song about being "spring chickens," alongside heartfelt prayers and hymns dedicated to Our Lady, filled us all with pride and joy.



George is cutting his hair for a good cause!

I am excited to share that George (one of our members of the faith council) is taking part in a wonderful fundraising initiative for the **Little Princess Trust** by cutting his hair on **Saturday, 31st May**. The **Little Princess Trust** is a charity that provides real hair wigs to children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment or other medical conditions. By supporting George's fundraising efforts, you are helping to provide comfort and confidence to young children during a challenging time in their lives.

How can you help? We invite you to sponsor George or help spread the word about this great cause. Every contribution, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in the lives of children who have lost their hair due to illness.

You can also donate directly through George's JustGiving page: [George's JustGiving Page](#). JustGiving is a secure platform, and UK taxpayers can reclaim Gift Aid, which means your donation can be worth even more!

This initiative, by one of our faith council, beautifully aligns with our Catholic Life and Mission at St. Teresa's. By supporting George, we are embodying our core values of love and service, reflecting the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives. It's a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together and demonstrate our commitment to compassion and support for those in need.



St Teresa's restores its "Prayer Garden" to its former glory



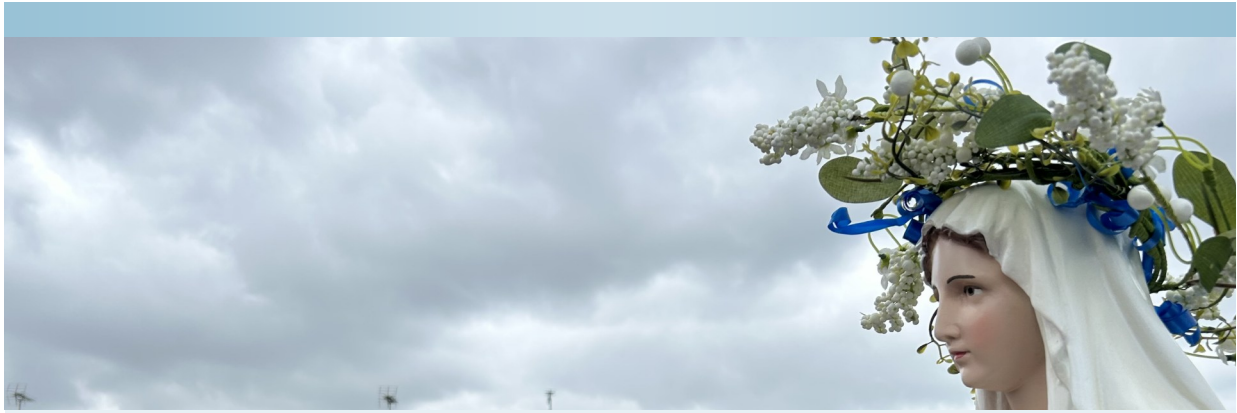
We are thrilled to announce the revitalisation of St. Teresa's Prayer Garden, a cherished space within our school that first opened in 2017 to commemorate 60 years of St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School. This tranquil garden has always served as a special place for prayer and reflection, and thanks to the dedicated efforts of our staff, community members, and pupils, it has now been restored to its former glory.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to help with this project. Together, volunteer staff and children planted

beautiful flowers, jet washed the paving stones, cleaned the icons, and restored the benches, creating a serene environment that embodies the spirit of our school community.

The revitalised Prayer Garden is once again, a welcoming haven for all, providing an ideal setting for quiet contemplation and spiritual growth. We encourage everyone to take a moment to visit this lovely space, reflect, and appreciate the hard work that has gone into making it a beautiful part of our school. It stands as a testament to our commitment to nurturing a caring and supportive environment rooted in our Catholic values.

Thank you once again to all who contributed to this meaningful project. Your dedication and love for our school community shine brightly in the revitalised Prayer Garden.



The May Procession

The annual May procession was a resounding success, showcasing the reverence and good behaviour of our pupils. We extend our gratitude to all parents for their generous flower donations, which added beauty and significance to this cherished Catholic tradition. The May procession, a time-honoured custom in our faith, allows us to honour Mary, the mother of Jesus, in a special way. It's a beautiful reminder of renewal and hope, mirroring the blossoming of spring and the flourishing of our faith.

Although the weather was not particularly Spring like, our spirits were not dampened and we were impressed by the turnout and generous donations of flowers.

As we move forward, let's carry with us the spirit of hope, unity, and faith that has characterised these past weeks. Our school community continues to grow stronger through our shared experiences, our commitment to learning, and our dedication to living out our Catholic values.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in nurturing the hearts and minds of our pupils. Together, we're creating a legacy of compassion, knowledge, and faith that will serve our children well into the future.



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