



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Families,

What a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had at St Teresa's. The first week back has been nothing short of exceptional, and I am delighted to share with you just how brilliantly our children have settled into their routines. Their behaviour has been outstanding, and it has been a joy to witness their thoughtful engagement during our Tuesday whole school collective worship and our musical Liturgy on Thursday.



This brilliant start fills me with great optimism for the year ahead, and I am particularly looking forward to beginning to welcome our new early years pupils next week.



The Catholic Year in Review 2025



I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who took the time to complete our Catholic Year in Review 2025 survey. The response was overwhelming, with over 140 replies, and the findings are truly encouraging. They paint a picture of a school community that is thriving in its Catholic mission and values.

[You can read all about the findings of their review here!](#)

The staff voice was unanimously positive, with 100% confirming that children are engaged in and enjoy their RE lessons. This is testament to the dedication of our teaching team and the genuine

enthusiasm our pupils bring to their learning. Our pupil voice revealed equally impressive results, with strong positive ratings for RE lessons and their enjoyment of learning across the board.

Upcoming Dates:

Tue 8 Sep 2025: Year 4 and 3 to attend 9.30 mas

Tue 16 Sep 2025: Year 5 and 2 to attend 9.30 mass

Tue 23 Sep 2025 — Walk of Hope — Pilgrimage for Faith Council (See separate letter for those invited)

Wed 01 Oct 2025 — Feast day of St Therese

Fri 03 Oct 2025 —Year 6 Collective Worship Assembly

Fri 03 Oct 2025 — FOST Quiz night

Tue 07 Oct 2025 —Events: Year 6 and 1 to attend 9.30 mass

Mon 13 Oct 2025 —Y1 parent's evening.

Tues 14 Oct 2025 —All other class parent's evening.

Fri 17 Oct 2025 — Year 5 Collective Worship Assembly

Mon 20 Oct 2025 — All classes second parents evening.

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Catholic Year in Review Continued

Opportunities to attend mass within the school year received 100% positive feedback, while our commitment to supporting charities and raising money for those in need achieved an outstanding 98.9% positive response. Our pupils also recognised how we help them to pray and celebrate special times together, with 94.3% positive feedback, and they appreciate the care they receive from teachers and staff, with 90.6% expressing positive views.

Our parents' voices were equally affirming. An impressive 96.6% of you confirmed that the school promotes Catholic life and mission, while 93.1% agreed that we embody our core values of Love, Accept, Respect, and Reflect. You also rated highly our sense of community, inclusion, and pastoral care, which are fundamental to everything we do here at St Teresa's.

The staff voice reinforced these findings beautifully. Not only did 100% of our team confirm that children are engaged in and enjoy RE, but 95.5% agreed that the school embodies Love, Accept, Respect, and Reflect. The same percentage confirmed that we promote Catholic life and mission, inclusion, community, and pastoral care. These findings can be found in detail on our website, and I encourage you to take a look at the comprehensive results.



Changes Coming to School Reception and Atrium

I am excited to share that we have some wonderful changes planned for our entrance and displays. A new school sign and some beautiful permanent displays are currently being designed and are due to be installed this half term. These will really brighten up the office and atrium and will be used to showcase our unique charism, school values, and the importance of student leadership at St Teresa's. I look forward to sharing what is created in future newsletters but for now, here is a sneak preview of some of the lovely artwork that will be on display in this space!



Secondary School Applications (For Year Six Students)

There are several important notices I need to bring to your attention. For our Year 6 parents, this is a crucial reminder that you can apply for a secondary school place between 12 September 2025 and 31 October 2025. You need to apply online via Essex County Council, and I cannot stress enough the importance of applying before the deadline, as any applications received after this date will be logged as late applications.

A change in reporting head bumps to parents



I also want to inform you about a small change to our communication procedures. Parents will now receive an email from the office for a head bump via Arbour instead of a phone call. Of course, if it was a serious bump or there were any concerns, we would still call you directly.

Thank you for signing up to Arbour in such numbers – your engagement with our systems makes communication so much more effective. If you are having any technical difficulties with the app, pop in and speak to the office!



Arbour

First Holy Communion Course Signup



For families with children in Years 3-6 who started in September 2025, there is an opportunity to join the Parish programme leading to First Holy Communion in June 2026. To apply, you need to complete the web form, which is available now!

[First Holy Communion Signup Form](#)

The closing date is Tuesday 30th September, and applications cannot be accepted after that date. Any queries should be directed to Eddie on 07808 952071 or at basildonfhcadmin@brcdt.org. I am pleased to share that the school has begun collaborating with catechists from the local church, who will visit pupils at the school and sign their books while discussing their learning throughout the year, in preparation to them undertaking this all important sacrament.

FOST Quiz Night Fundraiser

Parents, I already have the pleasure of knowing how very bright your children are...but now I want to put **your** brains to the test!

We are delighted to invite you as well as any friends or family from the wider community to the FOST quiz night on 3rd October. Tables are for up to eight people at £5 per person, with £3 going to the school and the rest as cash prizes for second and third place. Payment is cash on the door, there will be a raffle, and you're welcome to bring your own drinks and nibbles. The evening starts at 7pm and will be hosted here at the school. There will be another letter sent out soon as a reminder of this date.

Class Masses Continue

Finally, I am delighted to announce that our class masses will begin again next week. Our children will be attending Tuesday 9.30am mid-week masses, and parents are always welcome to join us. The autumn term dates are set, beginning with Years 4 and 3 on 8th September, followed by Years 5 and 2 on 16th September, and Years 6 and 1 on 7th October.

Mr J Bottjer
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