



A Fantastic Start to the Academic Year!

Dear St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Community,

As we enter the third week of our academic year, I am delighted to share some wonderful insights into our school's vibrant life and recent achievements.

Our pupils have demonstrated exceptional learning behaviours across the classes, marking a strong and promising start to the year. I'm particularly impressed by our early years class, who have begun their educational journey with remarkable kindness in their play, respect in their behaviour, and genuine enjoyment in their learning. It truly feels like the beginning of a great academic year.

St Teresa's Faith Council

Our faith council has been selected, and they will represent our classes and school by helping to shape collective worship and organise events linked to our Catholic life and mission. We look forward to them building upon the council's achievements from last year, continuing to embody the spirit of our school community.



Christus Catholic Trust Mass

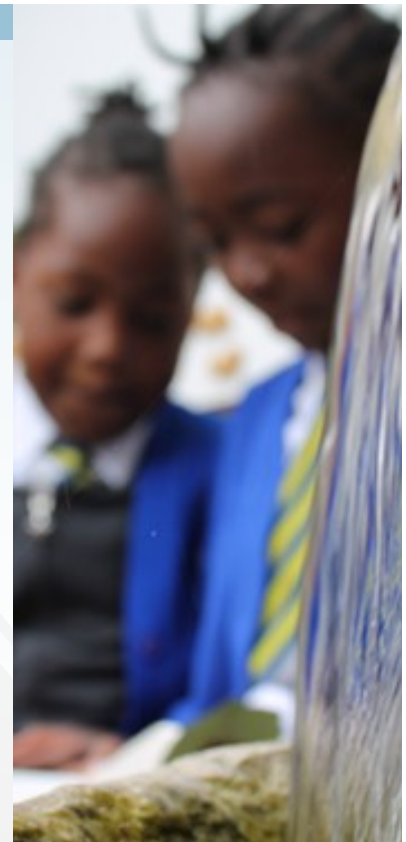
I'm proud to celebrate some significant moments from recent weeks. As a member of the Christus Catholic Trust, we participated in a moving staff mass at Brentwood Cathedral. Fr Canon Stephen Myers presided over a packed service with staff from across Essex and Thurrock Catholic schools. Our Year 6 pupils represented St Teresa's beautifully by singing in a joint schools choir, perfectly capturing our trust's motto of being "unique and united in Christ".



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

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Upcoming Dates:

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.

23rd October: End of half term for children (Staff Inset Days). Children return on Tuesday 4th November.



New Displays Update the School Entrance

We've also been enhancing our school environment. Near our prayer garden, we've installed three special displays that explain to new parents, children, and visitors what makes our school a truly special place. These improvements were partially funded by the generous donations from our Summer fete, and we have plans for further works to ensure our school environment remains bright, friendly, and reflective of our unique Catholic identity.

Student Leadership

At St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, we nurture our pupils' voices and foster collaboration and leadership. Our Faith Council, a democratically chosen chaplaincy team, plays a vital role in leading the spiritual life of our school. This group organises challenges events that reflect our Catholic values, spirituality, confidence and service to others. By engaging in these initiatives, the Faith Council ensures that every pupil's faith journey is enriched and respected.

Our School Council consists of elected representatives who collaborate with school leadership to raise educational requirements. Working together with the Head Teacher, they discuss new initiatives and provide feedback on policies and practices. Their responses enable us to actively shape the educational experience, offering a variety of responsibility and ownership. The School Council emphasises British democratic values by ensuring every pupil's voice is heard in decision-making.

Leadership Curriculum Council is essential in developing a relevant and engaging curriculum. For children's quality education, working alongside teachers and school leaders, they help to create a safe, healthy, and inclusive learning environment. They ensure that the curriculum is relevant, meaningful and engaging. This commitment to the democratic principle of inclusivity, acknowledging every pupil has unique talents to contribute, ensures that every child has a central role in our community where all are encouraged to learn and grow in faith and knowledge.

Our Unique Charism*

St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as "The Little Flower" was a French Carmelite nun who lived in the late 19th century. She is celebrated for her simple yet profound spirituality and her "Little Way" of love and trust in God. St. Therese believed in doing small acts of kindness and love in everyday life, believing that even the smallest actions could be meaningful in God's eyes. This is a belief shared by the children and staff of St Teresa's Catholic Primary School.

At our school, we embrace the core values of love, acceptance, respect, and reflection, which resonate deeply with St. Therese's beliefs. We encourage our students to show love and kindness to one another, to accept differences, to respect each other's uniqueness, and to reflect on their actions and choices. We remind children that their small acts of kindness are a true reflection of what it means to be Christian and to live in the way of Christ and in the model laid down by St. Therese. Our students embody St. Therese's teachings by demonstrating compassion, kindness, and empathy towards their peers and the community.

In our community, we encourage the "Little Way" and aim to set an example of love and service to others. We encourage our students to follow in the footsteps of St. Therese and make a positive difference in the world, one small act of kindness at a time.

*Charism means our unique spiritual character. It describes what makes our school a special place.

Our Core Values

Our values are embedded in every aspect of school life. Love, Accept, Respect, Reflect help us all to follow in Jesus' footsteps, promoting Gospel values. Our values dovetail with the fundamental British values of: Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance. Democracy is embedded at the school. Children are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard.

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for all pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and empowering education.

Our approach towards managing behaviour is rooted in these core values and informed by both Trauma Perspective Practice and Catholic Social Justice.

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. St Teresa's is a culturally diverse school with a highly regarded inclusive ethos and practice. We celebrate this diversity in our curriculum. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

Rocksteady club begins!

And to think, we were always taught to be silent in the library!

St Teresa's budding young rockstars have begun rehearsing weekly on a range of instruments such as keyboard, electric guitar and drums.

Under the tutelage of a professional musician, we look forward to hearing what "Rocksteady Club" will create this year!



Governors Monitor RE Lessons and Learning Environments

Governors, Miss Benoy and Fr Sabu visited the school this week to look at RE learning environments and lessons. Governors were impressed with the inspiring lessons and the children's hard work. Fr Sabu mentioned that what he saw showed the Bible being applied to the modern world in a way that young people could understand and all lessons were closely aligned with church teaching.

Children were happy to share their work with governors which included writing, reflections, prayers, art and drama in response to their learning in RE.

Well done to the teachers and children of St Teresa's!



FOST Quiz Night!



I'd like to draw your attention to some important upcoming events and notices. The FOST quiz is approaching on 3rd October, and there are still spaces available for teams. Tables accommodate up to eight people at £5 per person, with £3 going directly to the school and the remainder allocated as cash prizes for second and third place. Payment is cash on the door, however we ask you call up the school and book your place first. You're welcome to bring your own drinks and nibbles. The evening begins at 7pm, and there will also be a raffle.

Class Masses Continue

Our class masses continue, and parishioners and parents are always welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:30am at St Basil's. Year 4 and 3 have already represented the school brilliantly at our first mass, with Years 5 and 2 following suit at our latest service. Upcoming mass schedules are as follows:

Years 6 and 1: 7th October
Years 3 and 4: 11th November
Years 5 and 2: 25th November
Years 6 and 1: 2nd December



Do you have outstanding payments left to pay?

I must also address an important administrative matter. Since transitioning to the new Arbor system, we've noticed that many parents have outstanding payments for school trips, breakfast club, dinners, and extra curricular clubs. If you are in arrears and experiencing financial difficulties, please visit the school office. We offer flexibility and can discuss payment plans if your circumstances require it. However, please be aware that failure to settle outstanding amounts could impact your ability to access future purchasable items such as clubs, breakfast club, residential, or school trips.



Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our school community.

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