



Pilgrims of Hope!

Dear St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Community,

As we continue our journey through this academic year, I am delighted to share with you some remarkable moments and important updates from our school.

Last week, our Faith council participated in a truly inspiring pilgrimage walk along the seafront at Chalkwell, joining six other schools in the Christus Catholic Trust. This special event was a beautiful celebration of our Catholic identity and the Jubilee year. At each landmark, our pupils stopped to sing hymns and read prayers, with each school taking turns to lead. I was particularly proud of Christopher, who delivered our school's prayer with exceptional confidence in front of over fifty people. The headteachers and teachers from across the trust were unanimous in their praise of the exemplary behaviour demonstrated by pupils from every school. It was a powerful moment of unity, showcasing our shared journey as pilgrims of hope and the strength of Catholic schools working together in Essex.



Upcoming Dates:

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.

4th Nov—Children back in school (Tuesday)

5th-7th Nov—Year 6 Residential

12th Nov—Prospective parents school tour (pm)

13th Nov—Prospective parents school tour (am)

18th Nov—Book fair begins

2nd Dec—Y5 Walk Online

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Elsenham Crescent
 Basildon
 Essex
 SS14 1UE

Phone: 01268 553502.

E-mail: office@st-teresasrc.essex.sch.uk



New School Sign

We've also made some exciting visual improvements to our school. You may have noticed our brand new school sign, which is part of our ongoing efforts to beautify and modernise both our interior and exterior spaces. The new sign now perfectly aligns with our newsletter and website branding, presenting a cohesive and professional image of St Teresa's.

Congratulations, Miss Joyce!

I am thrilled to share a wonderful personal faith journey that has touched our school community. Miss Joyce has been confirmed as a Catholic, with Mrs Harris, our assistant head and RE lead, serving as her sponsor. This is a momentous occasion that we celebrate wholeheartedly. Both Miss Joyce and her mother completed a comprehensive course about their faith and were confirmed together during the same mass. We extend our warmest congratulations to Miss Joyce on this significant step in her spiritual path.



Early Success for St Teresa's Football Team!

Our football team has started the year with tremendous spirit and success. They recently participated in a mini-tournament against local primary schools, demonstrating remarkable skill and determination. Their performance was outstanding - securing three wins, one draw, and facing a challenging loss to the impressive Lee Chapel side in their final game. Following this, St Teresa's pulled off a fantastic 10-2 victory against Chapel Hill in an exciting home game.

We are immensely proud of their start to this football season and the dedication they've shown already! There will be plenty more games to come!



Year 6 Collective Worship

The children of year 6 delivered a moving collective worship, reflecting upon the book of Genesis and the choices that we make as children of God. This was attended by the whole school as well representatives from parents, friends, governors, family members and parishioners. The children wrote, planned and delivered this collective worship independently and we asked the guests for their feedback, some of which is printed below:

"I was deeply moved by the Holy Spirit during the song and the bible reading, and the worship was incredibly creative and inspirational. I am so proud of our Year 6 students. May the holy spirit be with each and every one of them."

"I am a past student of St Teresa's now in Year 9 and I am immensely impressed with the effort and singing of this school. It makes me want to come back and be a Year 6 again! It really makes me proud to be a past student of this school."

"Excellent as always. Very moving."

"Everything was so lovely. I loved children's spiritual growth, confidence and the whole performance. Well done teachers and the children."



Creation Day Display at St Basil's Church

The children of St Teresa's have all contributed to a wonderful new display in St Basil's church. This was put together to commemorate Creation Day mass this past weekend.

The children have offered prayers, messages of environmentalism and pictures from scenes in the Bible.

Fr Sabu, in his homily on Saturday mass, praised the children of St Teresa's for their RE work (which he had recently monitored as a governor) as well as their efforts in creating this beautiful display.

He also spoke about the importance between the community links that we maintain between the local parish and our school.

Following creation day mass, this art will eventually return and be put on display at the school where all can see it!



Whats-App

I must also address an important e-safety concern that continues to require our collective attention. We are still encountering instances of pupils using WhatsApp, despite the UK age restriction of 13 years old (as of April 2024). No primary school child should have access to this platform. The potential for inappropriate interactions and the emotional challenges these group chats can create are significant. We have observed children as young as year four using the app, which consistently leads to lost learning time as teachers support pupils who have been upset by online interactions.



I implore parents to carefully consider the e-safety implications and remove WhatsApp from their child's devices. Our primary goal is to ensure the happiness, safety, and emotional well-being of our pupils, and your support is crucial in achieving this.

Quiz Night Success!

The FOST quiz night was a great success, with teams engaging in a battle of brains and general knowledge. Quizzers did amazingly well on round three, which was based on a Year 6 SATs test! The atmosphere was lovely and laughs were had by all.

Thank you to all who took part, helped organise and helped to tidy up afterwards!

After prizes were taken into account, the evening raised over £200 pounds for the school.

The next big FOST event will be the Christmas Bazaar. Look out for information about this coming up in newsletters soon!

	Six Sees	Christopher Wilken	Maria's Minions	Will and Gracie	Dirty 1/2 Dozen
Round 1	5	8	4	6	6
Round 2	3	5	3	6	4
Round 3	14	10	6	9	7
Round 4	7	10	4	7	4
Round 5	9+5	10+5	5	18+5	18+5
Round 6	6	5	3	4	5
Round 7	6	10	14	6	5
Round 8	7	7	6	8	6
Final Round 1	11+5	13+5	6	14+5	8+5
Final Round 2	15	15	15	14	14
Total	83	102	66	103	87

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

Mr J. Bottjer (Head Teacher)

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