

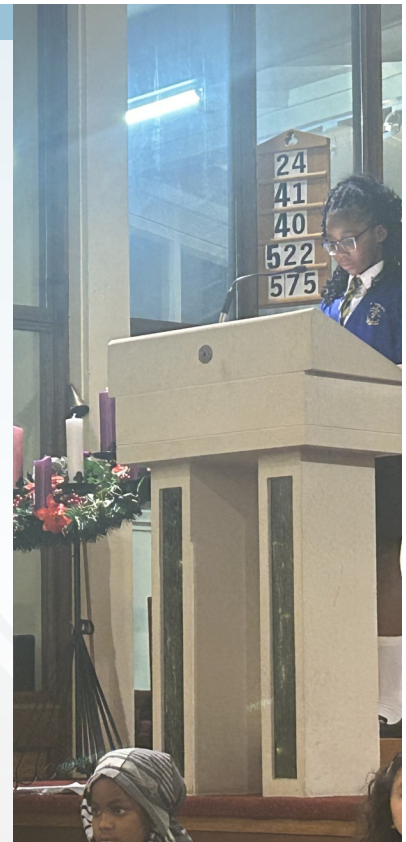


Christmas at St Teresa's

Dear St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Community,
As we approach the festive season, I am delighted to share the wonderful moments and achievements that have illuminated our school over the past few weeks. Our pupils have been incredibly busy, spreading joy, demonstrating our school's values, and engaging with our wider community in truly remarkable ways.

Year 5/6 Carol Concert

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently delivered an exceptional Carol Concert that truly captured the spirit of Christmas. The performance in our local church was nothing short of professional, with pupils beautifully revealing the Christmas story through the lens of John's Gospel. Traditional hymns filled the space, creating an atmosphere that was both moving and inspiring. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Year 5 and 6 teaching teams for organising such a memorable event, and to the staff and parents who supported the production.



De La Salle Nativity

We were also proud to see a select group of our Year 3 and 4 pupils participate in the De La Salle Nativity. This wonderful event brought together children from across the Christus Catholic Trust, with secondary school students leading our younger pupils. It was a fun and exciting show that provided a lovely opportunity for children to meet and socialise across different schools. Our pupils represented St Teresa's beautifully and demonstrated exceptional behaviour.



Upcoming Dates:

19th Dec—Last day of term (Half day)

BASILDON CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

5pm— St Basil's – 24th Dec

6pm – Holy Trinity – 24th Dec

10pm – St Basil's – 24th Dec

10pm – St Therese – 24th Dec

Midnight Mass – Holy Trinity – 25th Dec

8.30am – Holy Trinity – 25th Dec

9am – St Therese – 25th Dec

10.30am – Holy Trinity – 25th Dec

5th January—Children back in.

W/C 5th Jan—Jubilee celebrations

6th January—Year 3 and 4 mass

19th January—Catechist in working with Holy Communion children.

21st January—Select children competing at a bowling event.

22nd January—Select children competing at a swimming event.

23rd January—Year 3 collective Worship

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St Teresa's Awarded :

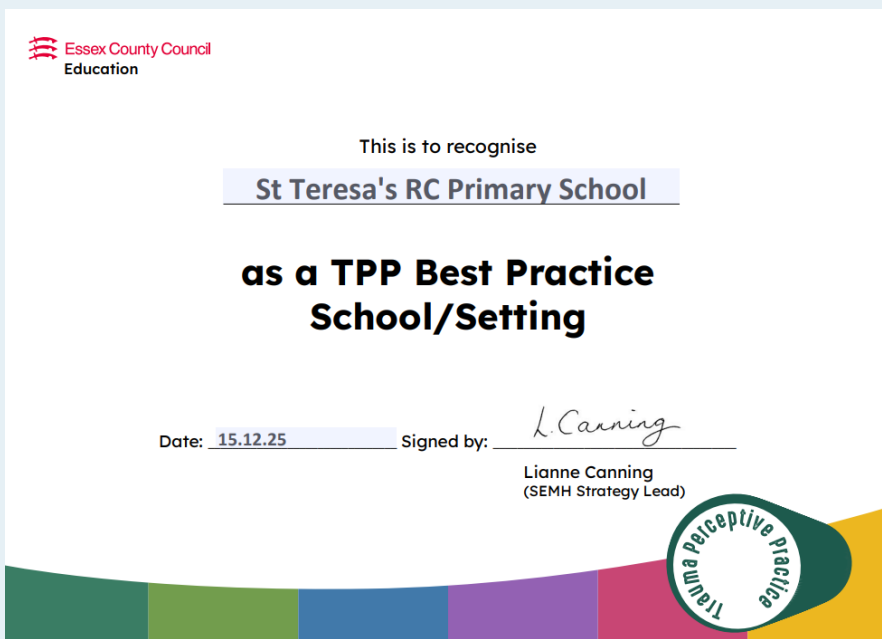
“Trauma Perspective Practice Best Practice Award”.

The reader may be thinking, “that’s a lot of long words...but what do they mean?”. Essentially what this means is that St Teresa’s has been recognised for completing three years worth of specialist training in supporting children’s wellbeing, mental health and supporting their behaviour in school and that this training is now embedded in our policies and practices.

This has been achieved due to dual commitment to “**trauma aware**” practice and our commitment to **Catholic Social Justice** and **teaching and living Gospel values**.

By putting children at the centre of our practices and policies and by demonstrating understanding, kindness and positivity in supporting young people, we have achieved this wonderful

award. We are very proud and excited to share this certificate with you all! (It is now on display in the office!)



St Teresa's Child Lights Third Advent Candle at St Basil's

Louie in year three, who is currently studying and preparing for his First Holy Communion, was invited by Father Sabu to light the third Advent candle at mass this weekend.

What an honour!

Remember to keep all of our Holy Communion children in your prayers as they embark on this important journey of faith.



St Teresa's sing for a Catholic Nursing Home



In a particularly touching moment this week, our pupils visited Dudbrook House, a Catholic family care home. They sang carols for the residents, bringing immense joy to the community. The residents and staff were delighted by the performance, and the children were treated to a Christmas party as a token of appreciation.

The visit was truly special, with everyone leaving filled with Christmas cheer. As a lovely gesture, the staff even sent our children some chocolate as a thank you.



Advent Reconciliation

Our spiritual journey continued with an Advent Reconciliation Service at St Basil's church. Fifteen of our pupils attended alongside parishioners, led by Fr Sabu in a reflective and respectful atmosphere. The children shared their personal experiences, which were both profound and touching:

Chika: "It was nice. The priest told me how to solve my problem and gave me a prayer. It felt good."

Tiffany: "It was good. I feel relieved."

Diana: "It made me feel welcomed."

Kenechi: "It made me feel cleansed."

Stefan: "It made me feel happy and blessed."





***The Parish of Our Lady and All Saints, Basildon
invites you to join us to celebrate Our Lord's birth!
Everyone is most welcome!***

5pm Family Mass – St Basil's – 24th December

6pm Family Mass – Holy Trinity – 24th December

At the family masses we encourage the children to dress up as shepherds and angels

10pm Midnight Mass – St Basil's – 24th December

10pm Midnight Mass – St Therese – 24th December

12 O'clock Midnight Mass – Holy Trinity – 25th December

8.30am Dawn Mass – Holy Trinity – 25th December

9am Dawn Mass – St Therese – 25th December

10.30am Mass – Holy Trinity – 25th December

Christmas Bazaar Success!



Our Christmas Bazaar was a resounding success, raising approximately £1,000 for our school community. Huge thanks go to FOST and our dedicated staff who made the event so strong. The atmosphere was truly pleasant, and the turnout was exceptional. Thank you all for supporting these events.



St Isabella's Sing!

The children in our St Isabella's Room, also had a moment to shine. The children put on a special carol concert for selected staff members, creating Christmas party hats and learning to sing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

We were immensely proud of their performance and all the brilliant progress they are making this year!



Red Wednesday Thank you!

Readers may recall that last month we marked “Red Wednesday” at the school. Our fundraising efforts have been officially recognised with a certificate awarded from ACN which celebrates our achievements! Well done everyone!



Aid to the Church in Need

#REDWEDNESDAY®

Thank You

St Teresa’s Catholic Primary School

£160

Dear St Teresa’s Catholic Primary School

**Thank you so much for fundraising £160 for
#REDWEDNESDAY 2025!**

Which has been matched funded (x2) to £320.

**Your prayers, activities, and witness have already made a
difference help persecuted Christians around the world.**

As our founder, Fr Werenfried van Straaten, reminds us:

“They are being tested in faith; we are being tested in love.”

Yours in Christ

Eileen Murray

Community Fundraiser ACN



ACN

Aid to the Church in Need

12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA
A registered charity in England and Wales (1091994)
and in Scotland (SC040746)

**PONTIFICAL
FOUNDATION**



Little Learner's Carol Concert

Our Nursery's Little Learners were equally impressive, presenting a wonderful carol concert for staff and families. They have had an amazing autumn term, and this was a perfect opportunity to celebrate their incredible progress.



Pink and Purple day: Money Raised for BCCS



In the spirit of giving, we celebrated the third week of Advent by raising £85 for the BCCS charity. Pupils wore pink and purple to support an organisation that provides vital services like counselling and emotional support for children and young people in our diocese.



Special Mentions

A special mention goes to Mylee from Year 5, who won our "Name the Elf" competition. Congratulations on naming the elf Pip! And another special mention to Tami who guessed the number of sweets in the jar! (It was 188!)



Have a blessed Christmas from everyone at St Teresa's

As we conclude this term, I want to wish our entire school community a blessed and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on 5th January. May the joy and love of the season be with you all.

- Mr J. Bottjer (Head Teacher)



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