



A Season of Reflection & Celebration

As I sit down to write this piece, I find myself overwhelmed with pride at what our St Teresa's community has achieved over the past few weeks. It has been a truly remarkable period, filled with moments that remind me why I am so proud to be Head Teacher of this wonderful school. From sporting triumphs to spiritual growth, from musical performances to acts of genuine kindness, our pupils and staff have demonstrated the very best of what it means to be part of the St Teresa's family.

Ofsted Inspection

As you are aware, this week, we welcomed inspectors into school for our Ofsted inspection. I would like to thank all of you who supported the inspectors in their work by engaging in the survey that was sent out.

We are incredibly proud of how our children represented St Teresa's throughout the process. They spoke with confidence, demonstrated positive attitudes to their learning, and showed the values that make our school such a special place.

Inspectors spent time in lessons, around the school, and speaking with pupils and staff. It was a great opportunity to share the work that goes on every day at St Teresa's.

We would also like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support of the school.

As part of the OFSTED process, we are not able to share the outcome of the inspection until the final report is published. We will, of course, share this with you as soon as it becomes available, which is likely to be in about a month's time.



Upcoming Dates:

Fri 27 Mar: Easter holidays begin
 (School finishes as normal at 3.05pm)

Mon 13th Apr: Children back in for Summer Term

Tues 14th Apr: Year 3 and 4 attend mass.

Tues 28th Apr: Year 5 and 2 attend mass

Thur 30th Apr: School visit from Imran Kotel

Mon 4th May: Bank holiday—No School

Wed 6th May: FILM NIGHT (Available to book on Arbor School Shop)

Fri 8th May: May Procession (Parents welcome)

Mon 11th May: Year 6 SATS week

Tues 19th May: Class Photos/
 Individual photos for Y6

Wed: 20th May Y1 trip to Barelands

Fri 22nd May: Y1 Collective worship

Fri 22nd May: Half term begins

Monday 1st June: Children back after half term.

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Essex Athletics Champions

Next, I need to celebrate an achievement that will stay with us for years to come. Last week, our pupils competed in the final of Essex county's small schools athletics competition, and I am delighted to tell you that we came first out of 120 schools. This is arguably the single greatest sporting achievement we have ever achieved as a school.

Our pupils progressed through the qualifiers and made it all the way to the final, where they competed against other schools of similar size. Throughout the entire competition, they conducted themselves with pride and respect, representing St Teresa's in the very best way possible.

The credit for this extraordinary success belongs entirely to our pupils and to Rhys, our sports coach. Rhys has described this achievement as the highlight of his thirteen-year career as a qualified sports coach so far. When someone with that level of experience and expertise says something is the pinnacle of their professional life, you know you are witnessing something truly special.

Our boys and girls who represented the school competed brilliantly, showing determination, teamwork, and a spirit of excellence that is simply inspiring. Well done to every single one of you who took part. You have made us all incredibly proud.



St Teresa's Sing at Catholic Retirement Home

Beyond the world of sport, this has also been a season of deep spiritual reflection and meaningful community engagement. As we journey through Lent, our school community has been thinking carefully about what it means to give, to serve, and to prepare our hearts for the Easter season. This reflection has manifested itself in several beautiful ways.

One moment that particularly touched my heart was when we sent a choir to perform at a local Catholic nursing home. The residents absolutely loved hearing our pupils sing, and our children enjoyed spending time with the residents and staff, sharing in conversation and connection. This visit embodies something really important about Catholic social teaching. We often think about charity in terms of giving money, and whilst that is important, true charity is also about giving our time, our presence, and our attention to others. During Lent, a season that calls us to think deeply about generosity and sacrifice, our pupils learned this lesson in the most practical and meaningful way possible. They gave their time, and in doing so, they brought joy and companionship to people who treasured it. That is the essence of what we are trying to nurture here at St Teresa's.



Easter Bonnets

The children across Early Years (Nursery and Reception) have been making very creative Easter Bonnets to take home and use in their Easter celebrations!

Children used a variety of materials across both classes to create some very varied and expressive designs.

Many chose to include messages and symbols linked to the Easter story which they have been exploring in class.



Easter Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported the Easter raffle! This competition raised around £375. This money will contribute towards our continual improvements of your children's learning environments.

Many happy children went away with prizes! I was also moved, as I often am, at how the children of St Teresa's celebrate one another. Children who did not win were still cheering and clapping for their classmates who did. What a beautiful example of our community spirit!



Mother's Day Sale



I am also pleased to tell you that our Mother's Day fundraising raised around £350, which will go towards the continual improvement of our learning and collective worship areas. It is wonderful that we can combine celebration with practical support for our school.

I am sure lots of mums, aunties, nans and big sisters were very pleased with the lovely gifts that our children brought home!

Collective Worship in Lent

Our Key Stage 2 pupils also had the opportunity to attend a Lenten reconciliation service this week. It was a powerful moment for our children to pause, to reflect, and to consider their choices and actions during this sacred season. The service provided space for them to think about how they want to prepare spiritually for Easter, and I was moved by the maturity and thoughtfulness they brought to this experience.



Speaking of maturity and reflection, our Year 3 and 4 pupils performed our annual Stations of the Cross tableau, and it was truly poignant and moving. This performance helped us all to understand the passion of Christ and to grasp the true meaning of Easter in a way that words alone sometimes cannot convey. Parents and governors who attended praised the work as mature and reflective, and rightly so. Our pupils brought real depth and reverence to this sacred story, and it was a privilege to witness their engagement with something so central to our faith.

In the mean time, as the sun has started to come out, we have re-opened our prayer garden. It is lovely to see classes and individuals using this area for collective worship, lessons about the stations of the cross or just quiet prayer and reflection once again.

It has not only been about the bigger performances and competitions, either. Our Year 1 pupils completed a beautiful collective worship in class that was designed by the children themselves. It was a Lenten reflection, and what struck me most was how independent some of our youngest students are becoming in developing prayer and worship in their classrooms. To see five and six-year-old children taking ownership of their spiritual development in this way is truly wonderful. It shows that we are creating an environment where faith is not something that happens to our pupils, but something they actively participate in and shape.

Year 2 also marked a real success with their collective worship focused on Mothering Sunday. The class considered the roles of important women in our lives, and what a beautiful thing that was to thank God for and celebrate as a community. The warmth and gratitude that filled the room was genuinely moving.



St Teresa's Rockstars!

And then there was the Rocksteady bands performance, which was simply amazing. It was fantastic to see how far our young rockstars have come, performing various musical instruments in front of a live audience. The confidence, skill, and joy that our pupils displayed as they performed was a real highlight. These young musicians have worked incredibly hard, and they should be immensely proud of themselves.

What all of these moments have in common is that they reflect the values we hold dear at St Teresa's. Whether it is excellence in sport, acts of kindness and service, spiritual growth, musical achievement, or the development of independence and confidence in our youngest learners, we are committed to nurturing the whole child. We believe that education is about far more than academic attainment alone, though of course that matters. It is about developing young people who are kind, thoughtful, resilient, and who understand their responsibility to others and to their community.



Parent Governor Vacancy: Autumn 2026

As we look ahead, I would like to draw your attention to an important opportunity. Next academic year, we will have a vacancy for a parent governor position at the school. If you are interested in this position and would like to be part of the leadership and governance of St Teresa's, I would encourage you to contact the school office to register your interest. Governors play a vital role in supporting the school, and we would welcome someone from our community who shares our vision and values.

Thank you to all of our pupils, staff, parents, and governors for making St Teresa's such a special place. Your continued support and engagement make everything we do possible.

Mr J.Bottjer

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