



## Eastertide at St Teresa's

Dear St Teresa's Community,

What a wonderful time of year this is. The weather has been absolutely lovely, and it has lifted all our spirits as we move through the school year. More importantly, we have been celebrating Eastertide - a time that sits at the very heart of our faith and identity as a Catholic school. The message of resurrection, of hope and renewal, resonates throughout our community. You will have noticed that our prayer areas are adorned with white cloths, a beautiful symbol of the joy and light that Easter brings. It is a privilege to celebrate this season together, and I hope you have all been able to reflect on its significance with your families at home.

## St Teresa's: One of Basildon's "top schools!"



I am delighted to share some wonderful news that recognises the hard work and dedication of our entire school community. St Teresa's has been named in the Echo newspaper as one of the top five primary schools in Basildon.

When you consider that there are over 45 primary schools across our town, this is a truly great achievement. The recognition was based on a range of factors, including our results, previous inspections, and parental surveys collated through the School Guide website. We are immensely proud to be recognised as offering one of the highest quality educations available in this town.

What makes this achievement even more special is that we have managed to maintain our small school community and family feel throughout this success. Our ethos and curriculum remain rooted firmly in our faith, and that is something we will never compromise on. This recognition is not just a tribute to our staff - though their commitment is extraordinary - but to every pupil who comes through our doors each day and engages wholeheartedly with their learning and their spiritual development.

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Elsenham Crescent  
 Basildon



### Upcoming Dates:

**Mon 4th May:** Bank holiday—No School

**Wed 6th May:** FILM NIGHT

**Mon 11th May:** Year 6 SATS week

**Tues 19th May:** Individual photos for Y6

**Wed: 20th May** Y1 trip to Barelands

**Fri 22nd May:** Y1 Collectbe worship

**Fri 22nd May (NEW DATE):** May Procession (Parents welcome)

**Fri 22nd May:** Half term begins

**Mon 1st June:** Children back after half term.

**Thur 4th June:** Year 5/6 Rounders event (invite only)

**Tuesday 9th June:** Year 5/2 attend mass.

**Wednesday 10th June:** School Summer fete: **Details tbc**

**Thurs 16th June:** Year 6/1 attend mass.

**Thurs 25th June:** Fustal year 5/6 event (invite only)

**Thurs 2nd July:** Year 5/6 Athletics event (invite only)

## Miss Aldridge completes a marathon for charity!

Beyond the classroom, our school community continues to embody the values we hold dear. I want to take a moment to celebrate Miss Aldridge, who has recently completed a marathon for charity. This is no small feat, and it represents far more than just physical endurance. Miss Aldridge is regularly living out the values of Catholic social teaching in her everyday life, demonstrating both solidarity with others and a genuine option for the poor in her endeavours. The cause she has chosen to support is particularly moving - she has raised money for a support group for people who have suffered baby loss. It is a very noble cause, and one that speaks to the compassionate heart of our school community. If you would like to contribute to her fundraising efforts, [please follow this link](#).



## Visit from Imran Kotel

We were also privileged to welcome Imran Kotel to our school last week. As a practising Muslim, Imran was able to teach our pupils about some of the core tenants of his faith. Now, we are a Catholic school, and our Catholic identity is central to everything we do. However, we are always open and accepting to people of all faiths and beliefs. One of the most valuable lessons Imran shared with us was that we have far more in common with his faith than one might initially assume. Concepts such as pilgrimage and giving to the poor are important parts of the Muslim belief system, just as they are in our own. This was a great opportunity for our pupils to learn, to broaden their understanding of the world, and to recognise the threads that connect us all, regardless of our religious background.



## Collective Worship at St Teresa's

One of the things I am most proud of at St Teresa's is the way we are continuing to push our pupils to develop greater independence in their spiritual lives. Our pupils have been taking the lead in developing their own collective worship sessions. They are writing prayers, arranging our worship spaces, selecting Bible readings, and leading their peers in reflection and celebration. This is no small thing. It requires maturity, confidence, and a genuine understanding of what worship means. Last week, we were honoured to have a representative from Brentwood Diocese join us for some of these worship sessions, and it was truly lovely to see the quality and thoughtfulness of what our pupils have created. I am so proud of how much our children have developed in their maturity and religious literacy over the past couple of years. They are now able to lead worship with a confidence and authenticity that is genuinely moving to witness.



## Reception Class: Learning about the Holy Spirit.

Our Reception class have been on their own spiritual journey as we approach Pentecost, learning about the Holy Spirit. They have enjoyed creative activities that bring the concept of the Holy Spirit to . They have been outside, feeling the wind and experimenting with bubbles and streamers - because the Holy Spirit is sometimes described as a wind. They have also created various representations of flames in their classroom using multiple mediums, exploring the imagery of fire that is associated with Pentecost. Beyond the creative activities, they have learned how the Spirit gave the disciples the gift of tongues, and they have had fun learning to say "God loves me" in many different languages. These activities are not just enjoyable—they are deepening our youngest pupils' understanding of their faith in age-appropriate and engaging ways.



## JusTalk & Whats APP—Safeguarding your children

We are seeing an increase in pupils using messaging apps such as “JusTalk Kids” and “WhatsApp” to communicate outside of school. While these can be positive, they can also lead to misunderstandings or unkind messages, which sometimes impact friendships and wellbeing in school.

We will always support children in resolving any issues, but as these interactions happen on personal devices, parental oversight is key.

We ask parents and carers to:

- Monitor which apps their child is using, when they are using them, and what is being said.
- Avoid unsupervised group messaging/ remove them from large group chats.
- Talk to their child about respectful online behaviour.

**CONSIDER DELETING THESE APPS FROM YOUR CHILD'S DEVICE**



Thank you for your support in helping children use technology safely and positively.

## St Therese of Liseux Artwork

Finally, I would like to share something that has brought joy to my heart. One of our Ks2 pupils has, in their own time, produced a lovely piece of artwork depicting St Therese, our school's patron saint with some children in our school uniform. This is now on display in my office.

The work is beautiful and shows real care and attention. It is a wonderful reminder of the talent and creativity that exists within our school community, and I wanted to share it with you all.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Mr J.Bottjer

Head Teacher



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