



Fun in the Sun!



This week, I find myself reflecting on the sheer energy, joy, and community spirit that has filled our school over the past week. There have been moments that have genuinely reminded me why the work we do here matters so deeply.

Let me start with our summer fete. The turnout was extraordinary. What struck me most, though, was the generosity of spirit on display. We had volunteers providing food, coordinating music, manning stalls, and doing all the jobs that make an event like this run smoothly. Every single person who stepped forward made a difference, and I want to extend my thanks to each and every one of you.

I would be remiss if I didn't single out Mrs Gilbert, who coordinated the event. The level of organisation and determination she brought to the role was remarkable. Mrs Gilbert, thank you. Your leadership made this fete what it was.

Of course, one of the highlights for me personally was finding myself back in the stocks. I have to report that the children's aims have improved since last year. Daisy in Year 6 is particularly lethal!



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Upcoming Dates:

Tues 7th July: Woodlands Cup
 (invite only)

Wed 8th July: Y6 Adventure
 Island trip.

Wed 8th July: New EYFS Stay &
 Play am

Thurs 9th July: Y6 Leavers
 Mass

Thurs 9th July: New EYFS Stay
 & Play pm

Thurs 9th July: Y3/4 District
 Sports

Friday 10th July: End of year
 reports out to parents.

Tues 14th July: Sports Presen-
 tation PM

Wed 15th July: Rocksteady Sum-
 mer Concert

Weds 15th July: Year 6 Pro-
 duction 6.30pm

Thurs 16th July: Y6 Pool par-
 ty/Disco

Friday 17th July: Last day
 (HALF DAY)

Sports Day Success!

Sports Day was another highlight that I won't forget in a hurry. In fact, I think it was the best Sports Day I can remember at St Teresa's, and that's saying something. The success of the day was entirely down to you - our families, our staff, and our pupils. I have been absolutely inundated with compliments from mums and dads who told me they had a brilliant time. Those conversations mean more than you might realise. When parents leave our school gates with smiles on their faces and memories of joy, we know we're doing something right.

The picnic that followed was a wonderful community event in itself. I want to thank Rhys for his leadership in making it happen, and to acknowledge the parents who participated in the parents' race and the teachers who threw themselves into the staff race in fancy dress.

Those moments of adults being willing to look silly for the sake of fun and community spirit are precious. I have to give a special mention to Mr Kitchener and Mrs Wilkins, whose unexpected and absolutely fierce chicken-versus-dinosaur sprint finish had everyone talking. And Miss Ohart's hilariously slow shuffling in the shark costume? That's the kind of memory our pupils will carry with them for years to come. These are the moments that define a school - not just the academic achievements, important as they are, but the shared experiences and the willingness of our staff to be part of the fabric of our community.



First Holy Communion Sign Up

On a different note, I want to inform families about an important opportunity for our pupils. We are now opening enrolment for First Holy Communion, which will take place in June 2027. This is a significant milestone in the faith journey of our Catholic pupils, and we're delighted to be supporting families through this process. Baptised children in Year 3 or above can enrol by completing an electronic form via the parish website at <https://basildoncatholics.org>. The form will be available from August through September, and further details will be shared in the parish newsletter shortly. If you have any questions about this process, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us here at school.

Reception Class Collective Worship

This week, our Reception class collective worship assembly was a real joy to witness. Our youngest pupils showed us just how much they have grown and how far they have come since joining us. The assembly was focused on Jesus's twelve special friends - the disciples - and the pupils considered what it means to be a good friend, just as the disciples were. It was a lovely reminder of the values we hold dear at St Teresa's, and it was delivered with such enthusiasm and innocence by our EYFS pupils. Well done to them, and to all the staff who supported them in preparing such a meaningful assembly.



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society: Sponsored Walk

I would like to also report that the sponsored walk to raise money for BCCS was a great success. I'd like to thank all those who sponsored me to take part in this event. I joined my fellow Knights of St Columba alongside Parish and School community members to take part on one of the hottest weekends of the year! This did not matter though, we made good time and pressed on, secure in the knowledge that every penny raised would raise much needed funds for a charity very close to St Teresa's heart: The BCCS (who provide counselling services in our community.)



Staying Safe in the Sun!

The forecast suggests that next week will be very warm. Earlier forecasts indicated temperatures in the low 30s, although these have since reduced to the high 20s. We are currently exploring options to improve classroom cooling, although any longer-term measures would not be in place until the next academic year.



At present, the forecast looks warm but manageable, and we expect the school to operate as normal. However, if forecasts were to increase again into the low-to-mid 30s, we may need to consider additional measures to keep children and staff safe. These could include temporary adjustments to school uniform, optional early finishes, or, in exceptional circumstances, a compulsory early closure. Any such decision would be made carefully by the school, in consultation with the Chair of Governors, and communicated to families as early as possible.

For now, please follow our normal summer uniform arrangements, apply sun cream before school, send your child with a named sun hat, and ensure they have a clearly labelled water bottle.

Mrs Fuller is Retiring

As we approach the end of term, I must share some bittersweet news. After a decade at St Teresa's, Mrs Fuller will be retiring. Mrs Fuller has been such a fantastic member of our team. She has supported countless families and children throughout her time here, and her impact on our school community cannot be overstated. Her last day on site will be the final day of term, which means we still have a couple of weeks to work alongside her and to celebrate her contribution to our school. We will be giving her a proper send-off in the last assembly of the year, but I wanted to flag this now because I know that many families who have worked with Mrs Fuller and benefitted from her support may wish to take the opportunity to say thank you and good luck before the end of term. If you would like to do so, please speak to the office about how best to arrange this. Mrs Fuller, we wish you all the very best in your retirement, and thank you for a decade of dedicated service to St Teresa's.



As I bring this piece to a close, I want to reiterate just how proud I am of our school community. The events and milestones I've mentioned in this newsletter are not just isolated incidents: they are reflections of the values, warmth, and commitment that define St Teresa's. Whether it's parents volunteering at our fete, staff embracing the spirit of Sports Day, our pupils growing in faith and friendship, or colleagues like Mrs Fuller giving their all for our children, these are the things that make our school special.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Mr J. Bottjer (Head Teacher)

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