



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Families,

What a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had at St Teresa's. The children have returned brilliantly: classes are calm and settled, routines have quickly been re-established, and the hard work has already begun. It has been a real pleasure to walk around the school and see children engaged, focused and ready to learn. An external visitor from one of our fellow Christus Catholic Trust schools commented this week on the brilliant consistency between our classes, the strength of our maths teaching and, particularly, the calm and purposeful atmosphere across the school. It was lovely to hear someone from outside St Teresa's recognise something that we are incredibly proud of.

Last year will undoubtedly go down as one of the most successful academic years in St Teresa's history. We achieved excellent outcomes in both our Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspectorate inspections, our children achieved brilliant academic results, and we celebrated more sporting successes and awards than I could possibly mention here. Behind all of those achievements was an enormous amount of hard work from our children, staff and families, and I remain incredibly proud of everything our school community accomplished together.

It certainly sets a high bar for 2026/27 and it will be difficult to top — but that will not stop us trying! We begin this year with the same high expectations, ambition and determination to make St Teresa's the very best school it can be, and I am tremendously excited about what the year ahead will bring.



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Upcoming Dates:

Mon 14th Sep: Y4 and 6 meet the teacher meeting.

Tue 15th Sep: Y3/4 Mass

Wed 16th Sep: Trust Mass (Invite only)

Thu 17th Sep: Y1/2/3/5 meet the teacher meeting.

Tue 22nd Oct: Y5/2 mass

Thu 1st Oct: The Feast of St Therese

Tue 6th Oct: Y6/1 Mass

Tues 13 Oct: Parents evening

Thu 15th Oct: Parents evening.

Wed 21 Oct: Last day of half term.

Tues 3rd Nov: First day back from half term break.

Wed 4th Nov: Y6 Residential.

Tue 10th Nov: Flue Jabs

Mon 16th Nov: Book fair in this week

Tues 17th Nov: Y5/2 mass.

3rd Dec: School Pantomime

Start of Year Mass

Our Start of Year Mass was a lovely and fitting way to begin the new academic year together. The children behaved beautifully throughout, sang wonderfully and represented the school with great pride; it was especially pleasing to hear a number of parishioners comment on just how well they conducted themselves. The Mass also connected beautifully with our collective worship this week, where we reflected on Jesus' words that, "where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Coming together as a whole school community in prayer is such an important and symbolic way to begin our year. In his homily, Fr Sabu warmly welcomed the children back to school and encouraged them to work hard, make the most of every opportunity and strive for success in the year ahead.



Year 4 and 5 compete at the Year 3 and 4 Districts

Yes, you read that correctly! This week, our Year 4 and 5 children took part in the Year 3 and 4 District Sports competition. Last academic year's event had to be cancelled because of the extreme heat, so the organisers rearranged it for the autumn term - by which point, of course, all of the children had moved up a year!

It was certainly worth the wait. Our children performed brilliantly, bringing home an incredible 16 gold medals and impressing staff from schools across the area. Several teachers commented on the strength of our team and were amazed to learn that St Teresa's is only a one-form-entry school. Just as importantly, the children behaved impeccably throughout the event and represented St Teresa's with real pride, sportsmanship and maturity. We could not have been prouder of them.



Holy Communion Course Begins

Last week, the first group of our children began their preparation for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, and we wish them every blessing as they begin this important journey. Preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time is a significant and formative step in the life of a young Catholic, helping children to deepen their understanding of the Mass, grow in their relationship with Jesus and recognise more fully the importance of the Eucharist at the heart of our faith. It is also a real commitment for the children and their families, and we are very proud of them for taking this next step. Alongside their regular Holy Communion classes, a parish catechist will also be visiting the children in school throughout the year to check in on their learning, answer questions and support them as they continue their preparation.



Missed signup for Holy Communion? Limited spaces available!



For any parents who would still like their child to prepare for First Holy Communion this year but have not yet signed up, there is still an opportunity to do so. Due to the particularly high number of children applying across Basildon this year, the parish is running two separate preparation courses. The first course has already begun, but families can still register their child for the second course, which will take place later in this academic year. We would encourage any interested families to make contact with the parish so that their child can be included. This is open to Catholic students in years 3-6.



Information can be found here: <https://basildoncatholicyouth.org/first-holy-communion/>

Food Bank Replenished

Our school food bank has recently been replenished, and we are very grateful to St Basil's, the wider Our Lady and All Saints parish community, and the Live Simply team for their continued generosity and support.

If you or someone you know is experiencing financial difficulty, please remember that this resource is here to help. You are very welcome to contact the school in confidence, and we will do everything we can to support you and your family discreetly and sensitively.



Ties, Hair and Ear Rings

Finally, just a small reminder about uniform as we settle back into the new school year. I have noticed a number of children wearing dangly or hoop earrings, some unnatural hair colours, and some children wearing shirts without ties. Please do take a moment to familiarise yourself with our school uniform expectations and make sure that these are followed from next week.

We do understand that the first couple of weeks back can involve a little bit of readjustment, but from next week we will need to begin contacting parents where uniform does not meet school policy.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us maintain the high standards we are so proud of at St Teresa's. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and I am really looking forward to all that lies ahead for our children and our school community.

Mr J Bottjer (Head)

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