



Unique and United in Christ

Dear Parents and Families,

It has been another busy and successful week at St Teresa's, with plenty to celebrate across our Catholic life, sport and wider school community.

St Teresa's was proud to attend a special Mass at Brentwood Cathedral, alongside the other schools of the Christus Catholic Trust.

Staff, select children and leaders from across our Trust came together for this beautiful celebration at the start of the new academic year. It was particularly special to sing our new Trust hymn together for the first time, celebrating what it means for our schools to be "Unique and United in Christ."

It was a wonderful reminder that, while each of our schools has its own identity and community, we are also part of something much bigger: a family of Catholic schools working together in faith.



Upcoming Dates:

Mon 28 Sep: First Holy Communion Catechist visiting children.

Thu 1st Oct: The Feast of St Therese

Tue 6th Oct: Y6/1 Mass

Tue 6th Oct: Online Parent's E-Safety Session, lead by school leaders. (All parents invited)

Tues 13 Oct: Parents evening

Thu 15th Oct: Parents evening.

Wed 21 Oct: Last day of half term.

Wed 21 Oct: Small School Athletics.

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

Wed 4th Nov: Y6 Residential.

Tue 10th Nov: Flu Jabs

Mon 16th Nov: Book fair in this week

Tues 17th Nov: Y5/2 mass.

Tues 1 Dec: Y 6/1 mass.

3rd Dec: School Pantomime

St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Elsenham Crescent
Basildon
Essex
SS14 1UE

Phone: 01268 553502.

E-mail: office@st-teresasrc.essex.sch.uk



New Faith Council

Our new Faith Council has now been elected!

The Faith Council plays an important role in the Catholic life of St Teresa's. Our councillors will help to lead prayer, contribute to and design whole-school collective worship, represent the views of their classes and help organise events and charitable activities throughout the year.

At the heart of their role is the idea of servant leadership – using their time and talents to serve others and help lead our school in living out its Catholic mission.



We look forward to seeing everything they achieve this year!

St Teresa's are District Champions!

You may remember that we shared some fantastic sporting news in our last newsletter, after our Year 3 and 4 pupils – now in Years 4 and 5 – returned from the District Sports competition with an incredible collection of gold medals.

Well... the final results are now in.

St Teresa's won the competition overall!

And we really do mean *overall*. This is not an award for our school size or a particular category. Our pupils competed against schools of all sizes across the district and finished first overall.

That means St Teresa's are officially **DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!**

For a one-form-entry primary school, this is an enormous sporting achievement and something of which our pupils should be incredibly proud. Their talent, determination and teamwork have once again shown just what St Teresa's children can achieve.

Congratulations, champions!



Reception visits for prospective parents.

If you, a family member or a friend have a child who will be starting school next academic year, we warmly invite you to attend one of our upcoming open sessions.

Our open mornings and afternoons are a great opportunity to find out more about St Teresa's Catholic Primary School and to help you make an informed decision about your child's school place.

Each session includes a tour led by the Headteacher and SENCo, giving prospective parents the chance to see the school in action, find out more about what St Teresa's has to offer and spend some time in our Early Years classroom. There will also be plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

Our upcoming open sessions are:

7th October at 9.30am

11th November at 1.30pm

If neither of these dates is convenient, please contact the school office. We will be happy to arrange an alternative date for a tour with a member of the senior leadership team.



Secondary School Admissions

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round is now open for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2027.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

All applications received after 31 October 2026 will be treated as late and will only be processed after all on-time applications.

You are less likely to get a place at one of your preferred schools if you apply late.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

All of the application information is available on the website above.



Creation Day Mass Preparations

Our classes are beginning to prepare their contributions for the upcoming **Creation Day Mass at St Basil's**.

Each year, St Teresa's contributes to the displays within the church, giving our children an opportunity to reflect creatively upon God's wonderful creation and our responsibility to care for it.

Work is now beginning across the school and we look forward to sharing the finished displays with our families and the wider parish community.



Cycling to School

You may have noticed our new bike rack at the front of the school!

We would love to encourage more children to cycle to school where this is appropriate for their family. Cycling is a healthy and active way to begin the school day, while also helping to reduce the number of short journeys made by car.

Children are welcome to use bicycles, ordinary scooters and tricycles, which can be left in the designated area during the school day. Please remember that these are left at the owner's own risk and should not be left on the school site overnight. We also still have a bike rack by nursery and another one around the back of Year One.



For safety reasons, e-scooters and other powered or high-risk personal transport devices must not be brought onto the school site.

We hope our new bike rack continues to get plenty of use!

Mr J. Bottjer (Head)

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