St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

"With Jesus we live, love and learn"

13/11/26
Autumn 2 Week 2



Introducing Our New Prefect Team!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting few weeks at St Teresa's, with so much to celebrate across our school community. From our Year 6 children demonstrating remarkable leadership and maturity to the generosity shown during our Harvest collection, there are plenty of reasons to be proud of our wonderful school.

I am delighted to announce that our new Year 6 prefect team has now been selected, including the appointment of our new Head Boy and Head Girl!

Being a prefect is a significant responsibility. These children will be expected to act as role models for our younger pupils, support staff with aspects of school life, represent St Teresa's at events and take on a range of leadership responsibilities throughout the year.

I am particularly proud of the journey this cohort has made. Having watched these children grow and develop over the years, it is wonderful to see them mature into confident, responsible young people who are now ready to take their places as leaders of our school.

Congratulations to our new prefect team, Malachai (Head Boy) and Temi (Head Girl). We are incredibly proud of you and look forward to seeing the difference you will make this year!



Upcoming Dates

Mon 16th Nov: Book fair begins

Tues 17th Nov: Y5/2 mass.

Thurs 19th Nov: After school tag rugby event (invite only)

Thurs 20th Nov: Dance competition (invite only)

Thurs 26th Nov: Tag rugby event (invite only)

Tues 1 Dec: Y 6/1 mass.

Thurs 3rd Dec: School Pantomime

Mon 7th Dec: Some 3/4 children invited to DLS nativity

Tuesday 8th Dec: Reception and KS1 nativity (2.15pm)

Wednesday 9th Dec: Reception and KS1 nativity (9.15am)

Friday 11th December: Christmas dinner and jumper day

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Our Lady & All Saints

Applying for reception class spaces for next year

If you (or perhaps a family member, friend or neighbour) have a child that is due to start Reception next year, the Reception Admissions round for September 2027 is now open.

All applications must be made online via Essex County Council here: Primary school places | Essex County Council.

Please ensure that any online application is submitted by the deadline, which is **Friday 15th January 2027**. Families are less likely to get a place at their preferred school if they miss this deadline.

If you have made your application online and your child is a Christian or Baptised Catholic, please ensure that you submit the relevant supplementary information form/baptismal certificate to the school office before the above deadline.

Year 6 Residential – What an Incredible Group of Children!

Continuing our celebration of Year 6, I simply must share how enormously proud we are of the children following their recent residential visit to PGL.

The staff who accompanied the children returned full of praise. In fact, they described this as the best-behaved cohort they have ever taken on a residential visit! Staff at PGL were equally impressed by the children's behaviour, attitudes and enthusiasm.

What an extraordinary compliment to receive!

Throughout the visit, our children demonstrated courage, resilience, friendship, independence and a willingness to challenge themselves.

Residential visits are about so much more than activities and adventures. They provide opportunities for children to discover things about themselves, develop confidence and create memories that will stay with them for years to come.

My sincere thanks also go to the staff who gave up their time and their evenings with their own families to make this wonderful experience possible.

Overleaf, you will find lots of photographs from the visit**.** I hope they give you a flavour of the wonderful time everyone had!













Harvest Festival – Thank You for Your Generosity!

A heartfelt thank you to all the families, staff and parishioners who contributed to our Harvest food collection.

At a time when so many families are finding life financially challenging, our school and parish community once again dug deep and provided an incredible amount of food and essential supplies for those who need them most.

The generosity shown was truly heartwarming.

Harvest reminds us that we have a responsibility to care for one another, particularly those who are experiencing hardship. Our collection was a wonderful example of Catholic Social Teaching in action, demonstrating the importance of human dignity, solidarity and our responsibility to support the common good.



It is one thing to teach children about love, compassion and generosity. It is quite another for them to see these values demonstrated so clearly by the adults and communities around them.

Thank you for helping us put our faith into action and for showing our children what it truly means to live, love and learn with Jesus.

Remembrance at St Teresa's

The school recently observed Remembrance Day on the 11th of November. The children learned about the significance of poppies and the concept of remembrance for those who gave their lives.



The school's faith counsellors brought prayer intentions to Monday collective worship focusing on remembrance, thanking those whose sacrifices have made us safe and praying for peace in current conflicts around the globe.

Your children were extremely well behaved and mature during our observances on the 11th. The atmosphere across the school during the minute's silence was one of quiet reflection and prayer.

Celebrating Black History and more Multicultural Events to come!

In our last issue, you may remember our school proudly celebrated Black History Month, giving our children valuable opportunities to learn about, explore and celebrate Black history, culture and achievements.

We are incredibly proud of the rich diversity of our school community. St Teresa's is home to families from a wide range of backgrounds, from many cultures, nationalities and traditions.

Celebrating the cultures and experiences of our families is an important part of making St Teresa's a welcoming, inclusive and loving Catholic community where everyone feels they belong.



And there is more to come!

Our School Council has been particularly enthusiastic (and rather persistent!) in telling us that they would like another Multicultural Celebration Day this academic year.

I am delighted that our children are so passionate about celebrating the diversity of our community, and we will be looking to make this happen.

Watch this space for more details!

The Book Fair Is Coming Back!

The Book Fair Is Coming Back! Our popular Book Fair will be returning next week! From Monday 16th November, books will be available to purchase after school every day throughout the week.



The Book Fair is a fantastic opportunity to encourage a love of reading, discover new authors and perhaps even get a head start on some Christmas shopping!

It also benefits the school directly. Funds raised through our previous Book Fairs have enabled us to purchase a wonderful range of additional books for our school library, helping us to keep our reading materials fresh, exciting and appealing to children.

We can now accept contactless payments using mobile phones and actively encourage families to use this option.

Christmas Dates

How is it nearly that time of year already!? For your convenience, we are communicating some of the key dates for Christmas events.
Specific details for specific events will be shared in due course to year groups and children invited.



December	
Thursday 3rd	Whole School Pantomime – Dick Whittington
Monday 7th	De La Salle Nativity for selected children (Invitation Only)
Tuesday 8th	Reception and KS1 Nativity 2.15pm in school hall, parents welcome.
Wednesday 9th	Reception and KS1 Nativity 9.15am school hall, parents welcome.
Friday 11th	Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day
Tuesday 15th	Christmas Fayre 3.05pm – 5pm school hall, parents, family & friends welcome.
Wednesday 16th	Rocksteady Concert in school hall 2.15pm (Invitation only)
Wednesday 16th	Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert at St Basil's (After school – more details to follow)
Friday 18th	Last day of term (1.15pm finish)
Monday 4th January	Children return to school

Firework Fancy Dress!

To celebrate Bonfire night, the children in our Little Learner's Nursery wore bright colours and came in with firework themed hair. This is because they have been learning all about fireworks! Look at our "bright sparks" in all their technicolour glory!



Parking Around School – A Plea to Our Families

Unfortunately, we continue to receive complaints from residents regarding inconsiderate parking at drop-off and collection times. Residents have reported vehicles being parked across driveways and garages, preventing people from entering or leaving their own properties as well as an isolated report of anti-social behaviour on a resident's property.

I want to be very clear that this is not acceptable.

We must remember that St Teresa's is part of a wider community. Our neighbours have as much right to enjoy their homes and access their properties as we have to bring our children safely to school.

Unfortunately, when individual drivers park inconsiderately, it is often the school's reputation that suffers. The school receives the complaints and is left to manage the resulting frustrations, despite having no powers to enforce parking restrictions on public roads.

I would ask all parents and carers to consider the example we are setting. We pride ourselves on being a loving, caring and Christian community. Our actions outside the school gates should reflect the same values that we teach inside them.

Please park legally, leave driveways and garages clear, drive carefully and treat our neighbours with the courtesy and respect they deserve.

A Reminder About End-of-Day Collection: 3.05pm

I would also like to clarify our arrangements for the end of the school day, following a small number of queries about the timing of class dismissals.

The school day finishes at 3.05pm. Our gates open at 3.00pm to allow parents and carers time to enter the school grounds and make their way to the appropriate collection points.

However, this does not mean that children should begin being dismissed at 3.00pm.

We have received some feedback suggesting that classes have been late coming out, but in a number of cases it appears that children have actually been dismissed at, or very close to, the correct finishing time of 3.05pm.

Our teachers should not be opening their classroom doors to begin dismissing children before 3.05pm, as the children are still in school until that time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

- Mr J. Bottjer (Headteacher)

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