



St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Registered number 8111345.

1st Half Autumn Term 2018 - Thursday 6th September 2018

Weekly Newsletter



At a Glance

Academic Year 2018/19

October Half Term 2018:

Break up on: Fri 19th Oct
Return on: Tues 30th Oct

Mon 29th Oct is a non pupil day

Christmas Holidays 2018/19:

Break up on: Weds 19th Dec
Return on: Mon 7th Jan
Thurs 3rd and Fri 4th Jan are non pupil days

February Half Term 2019:

Break up on: Fri 15th Feb
Return on: Mon 25th Feb

Easter Holidays 2019:

Break up on: Fri 5th Apr
Return on: Tues 23rd Apr

May Day 2019:

No School on Mon 6th May as it is Bank Holiday

May Half Term 2019:

Break up on: Fri 24th May
Return on: Mon 3rd June

Summer Holidays 2019:

Break up on: Weds 24th July



School Meals

w/b 10th September 2018

Week 1 (Please see the School Website or the App for details of the three weekly dinner menus)

First of all can I say a huge welcome back to each and every one of you. It was so lovely to see the children this morning looking so excited, squeaky clean and polished! These first days of term are such important days - the children learn new routines, create class rules, catch up with their friends and hear and share all their news. Again I am positively surprised by how motivated and keen the children are. It is amazing how they just get back into routine and on with their work so quickly. Well done to all of them!

As many of you know last term we said goodbye to several pupils who were off on new adventures. I am happy to welcome Joanne in Year 1, Zach in Year 4 and Logan in Year 6 who will be replacing those pupils. I know you will all go out of your way to welcome them and their families to our lovely school. I would also like to welcome Mr Sellens who will be job sharing in Year 5, Mrs Lawicka, our new Year 2 TA and Mrs Williams and Miss Bennett who will be completing their teacher training in Y5 and Y2 respectively. We are very lucky to have recruited such high quality staff and trainees for our school.

Overleaf you will find some very important reminders about school routines which are all in place to safeguard your children. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with these routines so that we can keep your children safe. You will also find some general reminders and some very important information on attendance.

Finally can I just say how much both myself and the rest of the school staff are looking forward to a happy, fruitful and productive year at St Teresa's.

Mrs Kelly

ATTENDANCE

Much as I hate to start the school year off on a negative note some of you will find an attendance letter in your child's school bag tomorrow. Headteachers have had to take on much of the responsibility for monitoring attendance which was previously conducted by the Educational Welfare Service. As a Headteacher I have to respond to the Government monitoring regulations by writing to all parents whose children's attendance is below the expected average attendance. During the last Ofsted Inspection inspectors noted that:

The school has not yet persuaded all parents that absence for holidays during term time is harmful to their children's educational aspirations. When Ofsted return attendance will be one of their 'key lines of enquiry'. They will expect this issue to have been addressed and for there to have been an improvement in attendance. They will not approach individual parents to discuss this, they will address it with the school and will want to know why it hasn't improved. As a grandparent of nine children - six of whom are school age - I do understand how important a family holiday is and I do realise how much more expensive it is for families to be able to afford a holiday during school holiday periods. I think it is shocking the way holiday companies hike up their costs during the school holidays - but research shows that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil performance and much as I sympathise I have to adhere to Government regulations. This means that you may be fined if you take your child out of school during term time.

GENERAL REMINDERS

PARKING - I really don't think I need to say anything except please respect our neighbours and do not block access to or from their homes. Please use the car park in St George's Fields and please do not stop on the zig zag lines.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL

Please remember that children should not play on the play equipment after school.

All KS2 teachers are available on the playground for a 'quick chat' after school. If you need more than a quick chat/update please make an appointment through the school office. Whilst teachers are always very happy to speak with you they do often have meetings/appointments after school and a longer talk may not always be convenient.

The school gate that leads onto the field closes at 3.30pm

If you need to go to your child's class for any reason please go through the front entrance and make your presence in the school known to a member of the office staff. Please do not go round to the back of the school or enter through the side door. It is really important that we know who is on the premises and why.

If your child is late for school please bring them in via the front entrance, sign the late book and see them off from there. Please do not accompany them to their classroom

These procedures are in place to protect your child.

WATCHES AND JEWELLERY

No jewellery, except for small studs, is allowed to be worn in school. If a child has pierced ears earing must be taken out for PE. School staff are not allowed to remove or replace earrings so if a child cannot do this themselves they must be taken out at home. Children are allowed to wear watches but NOT watches that enable texting or communication of any kind. If your child has this type of watch it must be put in the 'phone box' in class.



MOBILE PHONES



Mobile phones are not allowed in classrooms. This includes in bags kept in the cloakroom areas. Mobile phones must be placed in a 'phone box' in class. Phones should only be brought in to school if absolutely necessary and the school does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage.

MARKING/HOMEWORK

The Dfe has issued guidance on reducing teacher workload created by marking and we are working with other local schools to devise ways of cutting this unmanageable workload. Later on in the term, once it has been trialled and agreed with Governors, we will be holding an Information Evening to share our new policy with you. In the meantime the first change you will notice will be the way homework is marked.

For your information:

- Homework will still be set
- Children will still be expected to do the work set
- Staff will read it and reward it and will address misconceptions verbally.
- Homework will not be marked in the detailed way it has been in the past - the DfE research shows that it is rarely the written marking that moves children on - it is the children doing the work set
- More emphasis will be put on reading at home and times tables

NEW TO YEAR 3

Please note that when children move from Year 2 to Year 3 they are no longer automatically entitled to a free school dinner. All school meals will have to be paid for (unless you have applied for Free School Meals via Essex County Council - please visit www.essex.gov.uk where you will find the eligibility criteria for this and an online application form). You can pay for your child's school meals via your ParentPay account - for information school meals are priced at £2.00 per pupil per day.



Music Tuition

There are spaces available for children who are in KS2 who would like to learn to play a brass instrument or saxophone / clarinet. The tuition is given by a tutor from Essex County Music Services who comes into school during school time. If you would like further information and instructions on how to sign your child up for tuition please come to the school office. The tutor has a limited stock of instruments that he is able to loan out, free of charge, to the children to use for the duration of the time they are having lessons with him.



School App

SCHOOL JOTTER



Please ensure that you have downloaded the School App. This will ensure that you are up to date and will receive notifications and letters etc. To download the app, please visit the Apple or Play Store and search for School Jotter (for information the icon is of a green pencil). Once downloaded you can select St. Teresa's School and all information will then be available to you. You can choose which year groups you would like to receive notifications for in 'settings'. Please do remember to update your preferences now that the children have all moved up a year group. Thank you.

Please remember to check the App and the school website for all sorts of useful information, letters and dates!

www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

We are occasionally asked to promote activities/clubs etc. from local groups. Such activities are not quality assured by the school and parents should be aware of the need to reassure themselves of the quality and safety of the services on offer, for example by visiting, looking at inspection reports etc.