

Weekly Newsletter

At a Glance

Academic Year 2018/19

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

Forthcoming Events / Visits:

9th January - 'Two John's' e-safety presentation from 6.00 - 8.00pm. Details overleaf!

School Meals

The dinner menu will recommence in the Spring Term with Week 1 however there will be slight amendments to the menu - these will be sent out via the School App.



What a wonderful end to the term we have had! I am sure those of you that were there would agree that the Carol Service yesterday was absolutely wonderful. The singing was just beautiful and the service was a timely reminder about what Christmas really is about.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those people who make St Teresa's such a wonderful place. The trouble is, where do I start! First of all thank you to you parents - not only for the help and encouragement you give to your children (and the school) but also for your huge support in raising money for charity. Since September we have raised: £540 for BCCS through the joint schools concert (the concert raised £3000.00 in all - a magnificent achievement!), £260 from the raffles at the KS1 Nativity, £139.65 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, £197.13 for CAFOD through 'Brighten Up' day, £225.36 for Children in Need on Pyjama Day. Also you have made the winter months a bit more bearable for many families through your Harvest donations, and your support for me this past year makes working at St Teresa's a real pleasure. Thank you for the cards and gifts - I haven't sent any cards myself but instead I have bought a gift from CAFOD World Gifts so that someone, somewhere, will be taught to read in your name.

Thank you to the Governors who work so tirelessly behind the scenes, keeping me on my toes and making sure that we give your children the very best of educations. Thank you to the staff: teachers, teaching assistants, LSAs, kitchen staff, MDAs (dinner ladies), Mr Burton our Site Supervisor and the office staff who all do over and above what is expected of them. Thank you to FOST - since September they have organised the Advent fayre which raised £1001.04, the Christmas Discos which raised approximately £850 and the Autumn Craft event and bauble decorating which raised £310.61 - money which will all be spent on your children. Thank you to those of you who give up your time to volunteer in school - going on trips and volunteering in class. Your time and help is very much appreciated.

Most of all though thank you to you children. You are what makes St Teresa's such a special place. I really hope Father Christmas comes to visit you over the holidays - I am sure he will.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas. To those of you travelling, have a safe journey. To those of you staying at home, enjoy whatever it is you have planned. I am looking forward to seeing you all again, safe, happy and relaxed in January. Have a wonderful Christmas and a joyful, peaceful new year. May God's blessings be upon you and your families,
Mrs Kelly



Attendance

Rec:	95.67%	Year 3:	96.56%
Year 1:	96.67%	Year 4:	96.56%
Year 2:	97.59%	Year 5:	97.81%
		Year 6:	98.18%

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

Congratulations Year 6 for having the highest attendance last week.

Congratulations to Year 4 for having the highest overall attendance in the Autumn Term.

Congratulations to the following children who have all had 100% attendance this term:

Rec: Oliver, Samuel, Erin, Codey, Alexander, Nahla, Rowan, Alexandra, Victoria

Y1: Olive, Katelan, George, Ava, Annabelle, Esme

Y2: Anaiah, Jessica, Amelia, Keira, Edwin, Milly

Y3: Charles

Y4: Temidayo, Jeremy, Ryan, Marc, Ben, Erin, Zach, Aidan, Alex R, Michael, Harry S, Kaya

Y6: Alice, Beverly, Matthew, Georgia, Scarlett, Victor, Lily T, Frances



Reflections of the Week



December's Gospel Value – Hope

“Joy is the true gift of Christmas, and we can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness’. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us.” Pope Benedict XVI

This week our main focus was our special Carol Service.

On Tuesday afternoon, the entire school filled the church along with parents, family members and parishioners to hear the Christmas story told through special readings and songs. Each class, right from our very youngest children all the way up to our eldest children in school, shared such special messages by singing with their class. There is something magical about children singing all together and it was amazing to listen to them share such a special story in such a loving way.



It is so important for us to remember that the true meaning of Christmas is the presence of Jesus in our hearts, rather than the presents we give and receive. The children have been learning in their Come and See lessons about the preparation and the need to wait for the coming of Jesus Christ our Lord. It would therefore be so special if the children could take time on Christmas morning to remember Jesus' birthday and to thank God for such a wonderful gift, Jesus the Messiah, the Prince of Peace.

“Let us do little things well today”

A very special thank you must go to Mrs Wilson for supporting the children with learning the songs and ensuring that the Christmas message was heard far and wide on Tuesday. We are very lucky to learn from Mrs Wilson, her talents and passion for music really do help us to share God’s messages in such a unique and special way.

Congratulations to all those children who have done little things well this term. It has been wonderful hearing about all the amazing things the children have been doing and I cannot wait to hear even more next term.

Children please remember that the little things are not just limited to school. Please ensure you do all you can to do the little things well at home during this special Christmas season.

Merit Certificates

Congratulations to the following children who received a certificate in our Merit Assembly last week:

Year 1: Grace, Beth, Ila, Daniel R, Kelsey

Year 2: All of Year 2, Amelie, Milly, Bailey

Year 3: Millie, Charles, Isabella **Pen Licences:** Ava, Elli

Year 4: Annabel, Braeden, Michael, Lemuel

Year 5: Isaac B, Olga, Nicole, Diyoni, Sandali, Leah, Declan, Mac, Niamh, Maya, Diya, James

Year 6: Theo, Emily, Riley, Victoria

Presentation Award: Sienna (Y1), Toby (Y2), Imogen (Y3), Sofia (Y5), Georgia (Y6)



Messages from Mrs Kelly

I hate to see the year out with a downer butThere have been several occasions recently when staff have been told/approached to say that a child is unwell or has an appointment and is unable to attend school. Posts on social media, seen by staff and/or other parents or comments from children on their return then prove this to be untrue. This is extremely unfair on the children involved for many reasons including the fact that they have to lie about where they were and how they are feeling and have to 'keep secrets' from or lie to adults that they trust. To teach children to be honest is one of the most fundamental of life lessons and one that we go to great lengths to teach all children. However, for children to learn this lesson it needs to be reiterated at home and so I am asking you to please be truthful about your child/ren's absence. If it turns out that the absence is not for a legitimate reason it will be changed to unauthorised anyway - but being lied to about it diminishes all trust - something we need to have in order for your child/ren to develop and thrive at school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Reminders for January

PE kits must be in school every day. During winter months children may wear a tracksuit over their PE kit but this must be dark in colour. Girls are not allowed to wear tights for PE - they must have a spare pair of socks in their plimsoll bag

Hair styles

I have copied and pasted some information from our uniform policy which can be found on the school website:

Hair must be a natural colour and must not be styled in an extreme manner (this includes no tram lines or closely cropped styles, haircuts must not be shorter than number 2).

No fancy hair adornments, plain hair accessories may be worn. They must be in school colours of blue only.

School Coats - should be plain and dark in colour (black / navy)

Thank you for your co-operation in helping to maintain the high standard of our uniform.

Payment Deadlines - Reminder

A reminder that all payments need to be cleared today (dinner money, breakfast club, music lessons, etc.). You can check balances via your child's ParentPay account.

A reminder that the following payments are due as follows:

Y3 Visit to BT Adastral Park on 15 01 19: **Payments are now overdue.**

Year 2 Swimming Lessons: **All payments should be completed in full by the end of term.**



IMPORTANT – ADMISSIONS FOR RECEPTION – SEPTEMBER 2019

The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 12 November 2018**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2019. **THE STATUTORY NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 15 JANUARY 2019.**

From 12 November 2018, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

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

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2019-20 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Information regarding admissions can also be found by visiting our school website www.st-teresas.essx.sch.uk and following the links to Admissions.

Libraries

Essex County Council has launched a public consultation on the future of the county's libraries. Traditional library usage has declined over the last 10 years and the Council want to hear your views about how the service should change. The consultation runs until 20th February and we would encourage you to make your views known online at:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation>

Any concerns please contact Cllr Sue Lissimore sue.lissimore@ntlworld.com Tel 07540 328316
Colchester Borough Councillor for Prettygate ward. Essex County Councillor for Drury division.

eSafety



PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY

On Wednesday 9th January 2019 the 'Two Johns' (which some of you will have heard of) are coming in to school to teach the children, staff and parents about e-safety. So important is their message to parents that we are putting on 'film nights' from 6-8pm for children so that child care is arranged for you if you need it. I am sure that many children will receive new IT equipment for Christmas and it is vitally important that they not only know how to use and enjoy it but how to keep safe while using it as well. Please put the date in your diary - we all think that we are internet safety savvy but I am sorry to say that I think we will all find out in January that we are not.

The Governing Body of
St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School



Chairman: Mr S Clements
Tel: 01206 508445 Email: office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Formal Consultation on Admission Arrangements for September 2020

In accordance with the Schools Admissions Code, the Governing Body of St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester wishes to consult with stakeholders and the wider community on their proposals to modify their current admission arrangements. It is proposed that these arrangements first apply to applications for admission to Reception in September 2020 and to all other applications receiving during the 2020 - 21 academic year.

As determined by the Schools Admissions Code, this consultation is for parents / carers of children aged 2 - 18, other persons in the area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements, all other admissions authorities within the local area, the local authority and the Diocese of Brentwood.

The statutory six week consultation period will run from 28th November 2018 - 24th January 2019 (not including school holiday periods). A copy of the consultation can be found on the school website www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk under the 'Admissions' section

Comments on the proposal to revise the Admissions Criteria are invited and will be considered and used by the Governing Body to inform their final decision on whether to implement the proposed revisions. Formal notification of the Governing Body's decision and a copy of the Admissions Criteria will be placed on the school's website by the end of February 2019.

Consultation responses should be made in writing to St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex, CO3 9BE or by email to office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

The closing date for responses to be received is 24th January 2019.

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.