St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L Huotari
Quantock Drive
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8QN

Tel: 01233 622797
office@st-teresas-ashford.kcsp.org.uk
www.st-teresas.kent.sch.uk

1st November 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,



Welcome back everyone! We hope that you have all had an enjoyable and restful half term break, and we look forward to seeing you all again tomorrow! Term 2 is always a very busy and exciting one, with lots happening in the lead up to Christmas!

Many of you will already have had the opportunity to meet Mrs Bourne, our Deputy Headteacher, who joined St Teresa's at the start of this term. Mrs Bourne has settled in extremely well and is enjoying getting to know our children, families and wider school community.

From Term 2, I will be providing leadership support to another school within our Trust for part of the week. I would like to reassure parents that I will remain the Headteacher of St Teresa's and will continue to lead the school.

To ensure strong leadership presence each day, either Mrs Bourne or Miss Ireland will be available, and I will also be in school at various points during the week.

This arrangement reflects the collaborative way in which our Trust schools support one another and provides an opportunity to share expertise across our family of schools, while ensuring that St Teresa's continues to benefit from strong and consistent leadership.

School Meals

If we can please just remind you that Chartwells will be launching their Autumn/Winter menu and we come back to the week one menu as per the attached link:

https://www.st-teresas.kent.sch.uk/School-Lunch/

Meals continue to be free for those children in Years R, 1 and 2 and for those entitled to means tested Free School Meals in all years. Don't forget that the eligibility criteria has changed for Free School Meals and if you receive Universal Credit, we strongly advise that you apply online for this extra benefit, even if you are not sure if your child will eat a school cooked lunch.

https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals

For all other children, the meal price remains at £3.15 per day, payable on the day or in advance via ParentPay.

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Extended School Care

Booking forms for Term 2 can be collected from the Early Birds and Nights Owls' team. We politely ask that all bookings are paid for in advance to secure your booking and equally that any unwanted bookings are cancelled by 6.00pm the previous day to avoid a cancellation fee.

We are enrolled in the Government Tax Free Childcare scheme and you may wish to enrol in this to take advantage of tax-free childcare:

https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare quoting our URN of 144420

Alternatively, if you are in receipt of Universal Credit, you may also be able to get financial assistance with your extended school care costs:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-childcare-costs

Kindly note that this applies to Breakfast Club and Night Owls' bookings only.

Afterschool Clubs

The new afterschool club timetable for children in years 2-6 and Y6 Booster sessions will start from week commencing Monday 2nd November. Further details regarding an updated timetable for Yr 6 children will be confirmed this week, so please look out for individual letters.

Y6 Secondary School Admissions

Just a reminder to Year 6 Parents that online applications for secondary schools **must** be made by **tomorrow Monday 2nd November** at the attached link:

https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/secondary-school-places

Flu Immunisations

Flu immunisations are due to take place this **Thursday 5th November** in school. If you would like your child to be immunised on this day by the NHS service Kent Community Health, please ensure that you register online at the attached link by **Monday 2nd Novembe**r.

www.kentimmunisations.co.uk

Our school's unique code is: **KT144420**

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Asthma Pumps, Epipens and Prescribed Medications

If your child has been prescribed any of the above, please ensure that they are brought back into school tomorrow.

Coats

Coats and waterproof shoes are essential items this term!

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

St Teresa's will be supporting the Poppy Appeal again this year and poppies, snap bands, etc will be available to purchase from Monday 2nd November through to Wednesday 11th November at school. Kindly note that there is a suggested minimum donation of £1.50 per snap band.

Christmas Competitions

Don't forget to send in your Christmas entries for the KCSP Christmas Card competition by Monday 9th November and your suggested Christmas design for a Price and Buckland jumper by Monday 16th November.

Kent Messenger First Class Photo

Parents of Year R may wish to be advised that The Hedgehogs Class photo is due to be printed in the Kentish Express, which will be on sale this Thursday 12th November.

https://www.kentonline.co.uk/news/native/don-t-miss-childhood-memories-captured-forever-in-our-first-345397/

Individual and Sibling Group School Photos are due to be delivered to school this week.

We attach a copy of our updated calendar of events for this academic year. Please take the time to have a look at any events that will involve your child - the children can get very upset when they miss a key event in school.

Messages from St Teresa's Church

First Holy Communion Programme 2026/27
The first class of this year's First Holy Communion programme is on Saturday, 7th November at 4pm in the Church Hall, followed by Mass at 5.30pm. Class registration is at 3.45pm.

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Please ensure that your child arrives on time for registration, so that the class can begin promptly at 4pm. The children will all sit together at the 5.30pm Mass. If any of them would like to read at this Mass, or take up the Offertory, or take round the basket collection, please have a word with Sam, Brenda or Julian.

Calling all children and families!
Our first session for children and families took place two Saturdays ago. It was led by Father Mario and the children began to learn about the features of the Church Sanctuary, what each is called and what purpose it serves. There was also time for prayer and play. Some of the children volunteered to read at the 5.30pm Mass afterwards and did so beautifully. The next session is on Saturday, 14th November at 4pm and is open to all children and youngsters in the Parish. We warmly encourage parents and carers to lend their support to this initiative.

Events for this week:

Monday 2nd November: Back to school, deadline for Y6 secondary school online admissions and flu immunisation consents

Tuesday 3rd November: Reception Class 2027 Open Morning from 9.30am to 11.30am with a talk from the Headteacher at 10.00am

Wednesday 4th November: Y6 Chartwells Food Workshop in school

Thursday 5th November: Flu immunisations take place in school for those children where consent has been given only.

Friday 6th November: KCC Reception Class - online admissions open for entry at https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places

Many thanks for your continued support.
Kind regards,

Lisa Huotari

Headteacher