



The Little Way -23 September 2024

Dear parents/carers

In our second edition of our newsletter this academic year, you will find information on a quadruple award success for the school! All these awards cannot be achieved without the hard work and dedication of our staff members -so a huge thank you to all of them involved in the various successes. Thank you to all the children who have also been involved in the work towards these awards. We could not have done it without the engagement of our various groups, that take an active part in school life -thank you!

This coming Sunday, 29 September at 11am we will be celebrating the Harvest Mass. This is a family Mass and all children and their families are welcome to attend. We hope to see as many of you there, as possible.

Please note that there has been a change of time for our St. Teresa's Feast Day Mass this coming Tuesday, 1 October. **The new time is 1.45pm.** We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but unfortunately, Father Jonathan has an appointment he must attend in the morning.

Many thanks

Mr. Turner

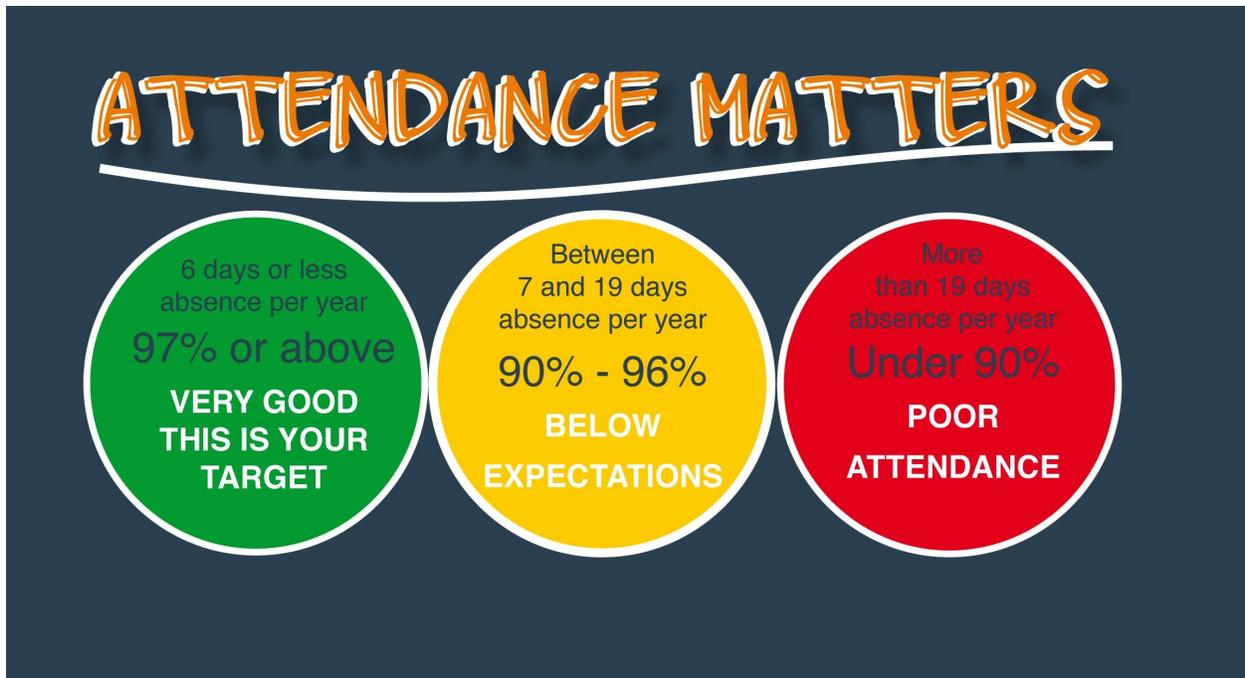
(Head Teacher)

Please find further information on:

- Attendance
- Online safety
- Green Flag Award
- Platinum PE Award

- School of Sanctuary Award
- Healthy School Award
- Art at St. Teresa's
- Achievements
- Ways to connect with us...
- Curriculum parent meetings
- Dates for your diary

Attendance



As a school, we have an attendance target of 96%. Our whole school attendance has been consistently above this since the start of the year -thank you to all parents/carers in your part in ensuring your child/ren's good attendance and punctuality.

Week 1 September attendance = 97.5%

Week 2 September attendance = 98.4%

Week 3 September attendance = 94.9%

Sickness bugs can be common-place at this time of year. If your child suffers from sickness or diarrhoea, please ensure they are off school for 48 hours after the last symptoms.

Please do try to keep holidays to the school holidays. Any request for holidays will be unauthorised and your child will miss out on vital education time. The school will not supply work for your child if you choose to take them out of school in term time.

Did you know?

90% attendance sounds good but means that your child misses on average:

- One half day every week.
- Nearly four weeks every school year.
- Over one school year in a school career.

2 weeks holiday in term time every year with no other absences means that your child:

- Can only ever achieve 95% attendance
- Will miss about two terms in a school career

Being just 5 minutes late every day adds up to missing about 3 days of school every year.

Online Safety

Just to inform parents, we are a **mobile phone free zone** within the school building. This means that Year 5 and Year 6 children, who may have mobile phones, need to hand these in at the start of the day and they are secured in a box. Children can then pick their mobile phones back up at the end of the day.

Through our school curriculum, children will access at times, both iPads or laptops, depending on which topic they might be studying. Technology and the responsible use of it is threaded all the way through our curriculum, particularly in computing. We teach children how to access the internet safely and how to act responsibly whilst doing so. There is a themed week during the academic year that focuses on Internet Safety.

We will share and publish various guides and information for parents on various themes based around technology and safe use of it.

Please find a link below to various guides on social media and the correct age children should be to access them:

[What age can my child start social networking? - Internet Matters](#)

Green Flag Award



We are thrilled to announce, that over the summer holidays, we were awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction, which is the highest level of accreditation and celebrates our dedication to environmental sustainability.

Our fantastic Eco Warriors chose three key topics to focus on: **Waste, Global Citizenship** and **School Grounds**. We joined together to lead the Eat Smart Project run by Bind, teaching pupils about responsible food consumption and reducing food waste; we celebrated Refugee Week with a very successful art and craft sale raising money for West End Refugee Services; and through our fantastic, creative Forest School initiatives, already embedded into the curriculum by Miss Bell, we highlighted our commitment to fostering environmental consciousness and community engagement, and we are incredibly proud of this achievement. The Green Flag Award is a testament to the hard work of our pupils, staff, and local community.

We are so proud to share the panel's thorough feedback:

Congratulations on passing your Eco-Schools Green Flag!

Congratulations!!! Fantastic work! We are very pleased to tell you that you and your Eco-Committee at St Teresa's Catholic Primary School have been successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. We reviewed your application and noted the following:

We are over the moon to be able to welcome another new school to the Eco-Schools programme. You have blown us away with the question you posed to potential Eco-Warriors. We loved the challenge set to design a sensory garden using their senses. With such a stiff selection process you will have amazing warriors dedicated to making your school more sustainable. We would have enjoyed seeing some of the designs and appreciate your amazing new team of Eco-Warriors. You have shown that you recognise the benefits of taking minutes so you have handed this role to the children which was wonderful to read. The Eco-Warriors worked collaboratively to complete the Environmental Review. This entailed walking around the school, pinpointing experts when needed, and successfully finding answers. The comprehensive review highlighted to the warriors the many impressive actions the school was already taking, much to

their delight. The review also shone a light on the areas that still required work, giving the warriors determination to make further positive changes. Whilst perusing through your Environmental Review, we noted that there were no pupil comments. Next year, we would encourage pupils to write down their thoughts and ideas when completing it. Revisiting an annotated review provides an opportunity for reflection. When selecting the topics to include in the Action Plan the warriors took into consideration the location, resources, and external contracts. The final decision was school grounds, global citizenship, and waste. The Action Plan is bursting with activities and plans. You really have ignited the passion and interest of the young people with your school ensuring increased impact. It's clear that whilst developing your plan consideration was given to how you could expand the reach of your Eco-Schools' work to the local community – we love how many actions include working with guests, parents, and projects. The curriculum links supplied are a credit to you. You have planned a whole school activity for Refugee week. This week of learning was woven into the Eco-Schools topic of global citizenship. In English the students read or listened to books about asylum seekers and refugees, then wrote poems or songs about the difficult situations some people face. This flowed into art where the children created work inspired by the books. Another link we enjoyed was the school grounds topic. This was covered in maths and science. Maths analysed the litter that was collected and presented it in different ways, while in science the children planted vegetables and reminded themselves of life cycles, planted trees to cement their learning of photosynthesis, and analysed habitats. We loved looking through all the evidence you uploaded. You have had a brilliant year. While informing can be one of the more difficult areas of the programme, you have made it look easy. You have your Eco-Boards which look great. Just remember to keep it updated with your news, actions, and plans. Use it to show off all the great achievements. The warriors have conducted assemblies, done class presentations, put articles in the newsletter, and used social media. A selection of projects and charities you have worked with are Peace Crane, Kittiwake Projects, and The Magic Hat Café. The school has found creative and worthwhile projects to support. It comes as no surprise that pupil enthusiasm and engagement have been your greatest success. We have been on the edge of our seats reading your application. You've inspired enthusiastic young environmentalists who are excited about sustainability and empowered to make a difference. Your main challenge is one that anyone who works in an education setting is familiar with, lack of time! However, rather than giving up, you consistently strive to make a positive impact and that's truly inspiring. The Eco-Schools' activities you and your Eco-Warriors have delivered over the last 12 months will raise awareness, create an immediate positive impact, and change behaviours. Your waste topic has raised awareness of food waste, teaching about the impact and the need to reduce it. When producing the Eco-Code the creative writers produced poems, raps, and songs. The final one was selected by a vote. The song won because it is a reflection of your journey this year. We greatly appreciate how you've utilised your social media accounts to broaden the impact of your Eco-Schools' initiatives. We cannot express the enjoyment we have gained, and the projects we have learnt about while assessing your application. Furthermore, we have no hesitation in awarding you an Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction.

As always THANK YOU very much for your hard work, we are so proud of all our schools and the collective achievements they have made to protect our planet for future generations. We look forward to working with St Teresa's Catholic Primary School again next academic year to help you expand on your eco-actions and successes of this year.



1 - Green Flag Award presented to one of our Eco Club members

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” – Nelson Mandela.

Platinum PE Award



St. Teresa's became only one of five schools in the city to be awarded the Platinum PE Award for our continued pursuit of excellence in children's physical and mental health.

Please see below some of our supporting evidence of what you can expect your child to experience throughout their time in our school:

St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School is dedicated to fostering physical literacy among its students, integrating movement and physical activity into the daily curriculum to promote a well-rounded education for all. Our school's commitment to physical literacy is evident through its diverse and inclusive physical education programs, designed to develop fundamental movement skills, enhance physical fitness and encourage a lifelong love of active living. We follow the Get Set 4 PE scheme in school and also have 2 sports coaches, one specialising in football and games skills and the other from Newcastle United Foundation. By providing students with regular opportunities to engage in a variety of physical activities, from a variety of sports, dance and gymnastics to thinking about active journeys to school and sponsored walks, St. Teresa's ensures that every child can find an activity they enjoy and can excel in. Our school has also adopted an 'OPAL' style approach to our break times as a result of research into active playtimes and making the most out of their time outside being active.

The impact of this focus on physical literacy is profound. Firstly, students at St. Teresa's benefit from improved physical health, which is critical during their formative years. The children link their learning in PSHE and Science to regular physical activity in PE to understand how it helps to build strong bones and muscles, maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of developing chronic illnesses. Moreover, we emphasise how physical activity is closely linked to mental well-being; students who are physically active tend to experience lower levels of stress and anxiety and exhibit improved mood and concentration (which is why we have lots of brain breaks throughout the day). We take part in the Healthy Schools Award as well as healthy active lifestyle events put on by the PE service and NUFoundation. This holistic approach to education ensures that students are not only academically proficient but also physically and emotionally resilient. As proof, we achieved the school's Wellbeing Award for this.

Furthermore, the emphasis on physical literacy at St. Teresa's cultivates essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership and perseverance (skills that are on display on our PE noticeboard). Through participation in team sports and group activities, students learn the value of collaboration and communication. They develop the ability to set goals, face challenges and celebrate successes, all of which are crucial skills both in and out of the classroom. The school's supportive and encouraging environment allows students to build confidence in their abilities, fostering a positive self-image and a sense of accomplishment. We publish these accomplishments on our school website, newsletters and social media platforms. Children also have the opportunity to show off their skills and talents in celebration assemblies where they can bring in certificates and awards from outside of school too.

In summary, St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School's dedication to physical literacy enriches the lives of its young people, providing them with the tools to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives. We have had a number of ex-pupils continue their sporting journeys beyond St. Teresa's including both girls and boys who now play for academies in the North East in football, high-achieving swimmers and long-distance runners. By integrating physical activity into their daily routines, the school not only enhances the physical health of its students but also contributes to their emotional well-being and personal development. This was highlighted in our Outstanding grading by Ofsted in the Autumn term 2023-

"the school's vision is that all pupils who attend will 'Shine in Little Ways'. However, the school does this in a big way. Staff ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to shine. There are many opportunities for pupils to achieve, both academically and in the wider curriculum. Pupils develop their talent and interests through participating in a wide range of clubs and activities. 'Chimney Sweep' is a particular highlight... Pupils study an ambitious curriculum which begins in the early years. The school ensures that

pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) study the same curriculum as their classmates. Pupils with SEND are fully included in the life of the school. Exceptionally strong learning habits begin in Reception. The curriculum is extremely well designed and fully implemented by staff. From the early years to Year 6 the curriculum is designed to build on prior learning. The order in which pupils will learn new knowledge and revisit previous knowledge is precise and clear. Staff are ambitious that all pupils will become experts in each subject...All pupils are able to attend extra-curricular activities. This includes sporting activities, where some pupils excel...The way in which the school nurtures pupils' personal development is exemplary...Pupils have a deep understanding of the importance of the fundamental British values."

This comprehensive approach ensures that students are well-prepared for the challenges of the future, equipped with the physical and psychological resilience needed to thrive in all aspects of life.

School of Sanctuary Award

We are thrilled to announce that St. Teresa's has now been awarded the School of Sanctuary status. This recognition celebrates our commitment to creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for **everyone**, especially refugees and those seeking sanctuary.

What is a School of Sanctuary?

A School of Sanctuary is a school that is committed to being safe and welcoming to all, especially those seeking sanctuary. This includes people whose lives were in danger in their own country, who have troubles at home or are just looking for a safe space.

A School of Sanctuary is a school which helps its pupils, staff and wider community to understand what it means to be seeking sanctuary and to extend a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community. It is a school that is proud to be a place of safety and inclusion for all.

Becoming a School of Sanctuary

The three principles of being a School of Sanctuary are to:

1. **LEARN** about what it means to be seeking sanctuary.
2. **TAKE POSITIVE ACTION** to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within school and the wider community.
3. **SHARE** your vision and achievements - be proud!

Our Pledge

We support the 'City of Sanctuary' vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

We endorse the City of Sanctuary Charter, and agree to act in accordance with City of Sanctuary values and apply the network principles within our work (as far as our specific context enables us to).

We recognise the contribution of people seeking sanctuary. Sanctuary seekers are welcomed, included and supported within our context. We expect our branches or local groups (if any) to support their local

City of Sanctuary group if one exists, and will facilitate contact between them and their local City of Sanctuary group.

We are willing for our organisation's name to be added to a list of supporters of City of Sanctuary, linked to our website. We are also willing to be contacted by City of Sanctuary with further ideas for how we can turn our support into practical action and to discuss ways we might work together to promote the vision further.

[Resources - Schools of Sanctuary \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](http://cityofsanctuary.org)

Some examples of what we do in school to embed the School of Sanctuary principles:

Share books on different cultures and refugees, PSED talk about what children hear on the news e.g. Ukraine, Saying greetings in different languages, Parents coming in to talk about their cultures, Share lots of celebrations from other countries, Learn about music from across the world, Promote and all inclusive, equal environment from EYFS, Learning about Women who changed the world, including Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole, Universal Church Unit, CAFOD RE, -Languages Week, children share stories in different languages, Shoe Box Appeal, Celebrate Refugee Week, Collection for food banks, CAFOD Global Neighbours Unit, Lenten Walk- CAFOD, Peace Crane lunchtime group, English unit Lubna and Pebble, Black and British in History, Diversity women across the history curriculum, Poetry unit on Maya Angelou, English unit on Little People, Big Dreams including refugees, Class work on Ukraine, Kindertransport for World War History topic, -Diversity in books for independent reading including After the War, No Ballet Shoes in Syria, Road to Nowhere, Show Racism the Red Card workshops, Kids Action Thru Science (KATS) project creating International Links with children and teachers in Delhi, India, Ancient Egyptians.

A very proud achievement for St. Teresa's!

Healthy Schools Award



We are thrilled to announce that our school has been awarded the prestigious **Healthy Schools Award for 2023 -2024!** This recognition celebrates our commitment to promoting health and well-being across our school community. From encouraging healthy eating habits and physical activity to fostering mental and emotional well-being, we have worked hard to create an environment where both the children and staff can thrive.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our teachers, students, and families, who have made healthier choices and made everyone's well-being a top priority. We are excited to continue building on this success, creating a school where everyone can learn and stay healthy.

Art in St. Teresa's



Take One Picture

This week, all classes will be participating in the Take One Picture programme. Planned by the National Gallery, this programme aims to have children across the country create artistic responses to a painting. Each class will create a piece of artwork inspired by the given painting. Once complete, the artworks will be displayed in the school hall to be enjoyed by children and parents in an after school exhibition. If you would like to explore the National Gallery, virtual tours can be found at the following link:

[Virtual tours | Visiting | National Gallery, London](#)

OPAL Art Leaders

To increase opportunities to access artistic expression, Upper KS2 children will be acting as OPAL Art Leaders. Each week the OPAL Art Leaders will deliver different art activities to children during lunch time which aim to develop their confidence and artistic skills.

Achievements



Please do encourage your child/ren to bring in their out of school awards/achievements. We like to celebrate these, as well as in school awards, in Celebration Assembly every other week. Our next assembly is this coming Friday.

Well done to all the children who took part in the Junior Great North Run a couple of weeks ago. Seven girls remembered to bring their medals in (pictured), but other children also stood up during the assembly who took part, to receive their well done round of applause from us all.

The under-11 boys' team took part in the ESFA competition. Winning their first game 1-0, losing the second 0-1 and winning their final fixture 5-1. Like Eddie Howe, Mr. Turner still hasn't settled on his best team, so there was some movement in positions, with some boys playing in unfamiliar positions, but they all played well and should be proud of their efforts -well done!





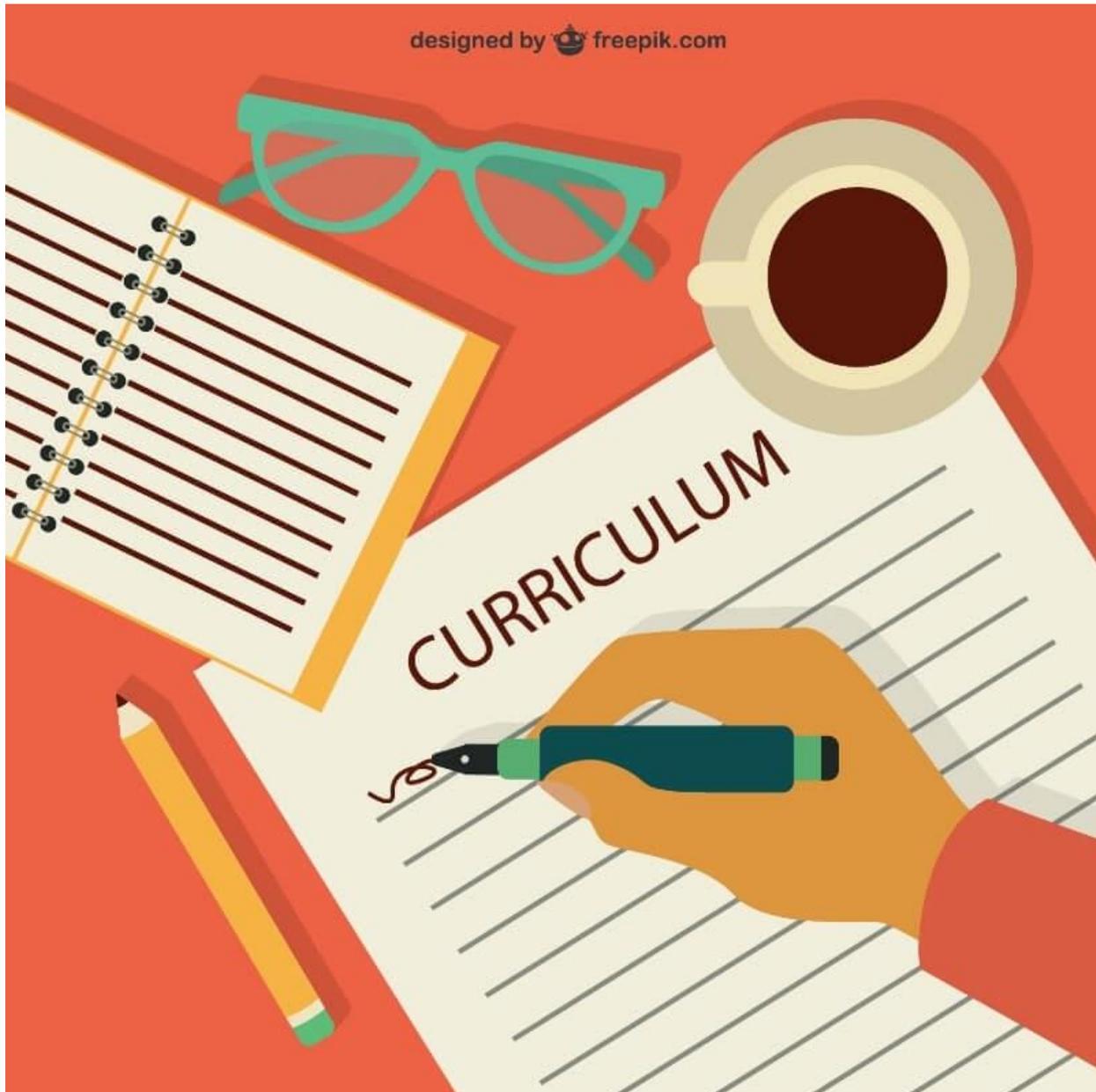
Ways to connect with us...

Please do give us a follow/like on our various social/communication platforms...

To see children's day-to-day work through the week, follow our St. Teresa's [Twitter page](#). As this page is currently locked and only for our parents/friends of St. Teresa's, **please email the office with your username** so we can accept your request.

Give our [Facebook Page](#) a like/follow to be notified of any key information via this page.

Parents' curriculum meetings



Our annual curriculum meetings will be taking place over the next few weeks, please see dates below.

This is an opportunity for parents to hear about what your child/ren will be learning this year and how you can best support them in their new year group.

We also have a section on our website, that parents can access that gives you the chance to read and learn more about our curriculum:

[Curriculum | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School \(stteresasnewcastle.org.uk\)](http://stteresasnewcastle.org.uk)

Dates for diary



Calendar dates can also be found on our website at: [School Calendar | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School \(stteresasnewcastle.org.uk\)](http://School Calendar | St Teresa's Catholic Primary School (stteresasnewcastle.org.uk))

***Please note further dates will be added as/when confirmed/organised and will be in bold**

Wednesday 25 September, 3.30pm - **Reception/Year 1 parents' curriculum meetings**

Thursday 26 September, 3.30pm - **Year 3/Year 4 parents' curriculum meetings**

Sunday 29 September, 11am - **Harvest Family Mass, in church (all welcome)**

Tuesday 1 October, 1.45pm - **St. Teresa's Feast Day Mass in church (all welcome)**

Tuesday 1 October, 3.30pm - Year 5/Year 6 parents' curriculum meetings

Wednesday 2 October, 3.30pm - **Year 2 parents' curriculum meeting**

Monday 7 October, 1.30-2.30pm - **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

Tuesday 15 October 4-5.30pm - **Girls' football competition @Jesmond Park Academy**

Thursday 17 October, 9am - **Phonics parents' meeting for Reception and Year 1 parents (in the hall)**

Tuesday 22 October, 9.30am - **Bishop's visit to St. Teresa's for Mass (all welcome)**

Tuesday 22 October, 4-5.30pm - **Under-11 boys' football league matches @Jesmond Park Academy**

Thursday 24 October, 9.30-10.30am- **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

Thursday 24 October, 4.15-5.15pm - **Rec/Year 1/Year 2 Halloween Disco**

5.30-6.30pm - **Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6 Halloween Disco**

Friday 25 October, 3.20pm - **break up for October half-term**

Monday 4 November, 8.40am - **back to school after October half-term**

Tuesday 5 November 9.30-10.30am- **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

Monday 11 November - **odd sock day for Anti-bullying week (children can wear odd socks)**

Thursday 14 November - **individual and sibling school photos**

Tuesday 19 November, 4-5.30pm - **Under-11 girls' league fixtures @Jesmond Park Academy**

Thursday 21 November, 1.30-2.30am- **Reception 2025/26 school tour**

Monday 25/Tuesday 26 November - **Parents' evenings**

Tuesday 26 November, 4-5.30pm - **Under-11 boys' league fixtures @Jesmond Park Academy**

Friday 29 November - **school closed to all**

Monday 9 December - **Reception/Key Stage 1 Nativity (dress rehearsal)**

Tuesday 10/Wednesday 11 December, 9.30am - **Reception/Key Stage 1 Nativity performances for parents**

Wednesday 11 December, 5.30-7pm - Wreath Making Night for parents/family members and wider community

Thursday 12 December - **Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch**

Thursday 12 December, 3.30-5.15pm - **Christmas movie night for Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6**

Wednesday 18 December, 10am - **Tyne Theatre Christmas Pantomime for whole school**

Thursday 19 December, pm - **Christmas parties (More details will follow)**

Friday 20 December - **Christmas jumpers can be worn today**

Friday 20 December, 2.30pm - **Carols in the Forest School (all welcome)**

Friday 20 December, 3.20pm - **break up for Christmas holidays (return on Tuesday 7 January)**