

## 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

4<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



We have had such a positive start to this academic year! It has been so lovely to see the children again; they all look very well and have definitely grown over the summer break. The hard work has started already; every class has been settled and focused – very impressive!

A very warm welcome to all the new members of our school community. A special well done to our new children in Hedgehogs'

Class – they have settled so quickly.

During our welcome assembly on Wednesday, I spoke to the children about the importance of having a 'toolkit' for school and what they need: our values & rules, being prompt, excellent attendance and having the right uniform. Please support your children by following the uniform policy and especially remember:

- No trainers (unless it is PE day)
- No jewellery – with the exception of stud earrings (these need to be removed for PE)
- No polo shirts (unless it is PE day), only school shirts which are tucked in

Thank you for supporting your children to follow this policy.

The weather has been very changeable this week and we would be grateful if you could please ensure that your child brings a raincoat to school every day.

Thank you for your help with providing your child with a healthy packed lunch and nut-free food, it is appreciated by us all. If we can please just remind you that sugary drinks are not permitted for daily drinking through the day; the children should just be drinking water in order to protect their teeth and avoid those afternoon sugar slumps!

### **Attendance:**

Our Trust, KCSP, have updated the Attendance Policy (attached) and we have been instructed to follow it rigorously. Please find attached a letter, as well as the new policy, which explains the requirements and process.

Attendance is vital for your children to thrive so please support in ensuring excellent attendance.

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### **Clubs:**

Payable clubs for individual year groups are now available to book on ParentPay.

If your child is in years 3-6 and would like to join the Choir Club or your child is in years 5-6 and would like to join the netball club, please email the office so that we may add their name to the list.

### **Benedict's Law:**

Further to our letter of this week, please remember to inform the office of any allergies that your child may have, if we have not been made aware of these already.

In the event of an emergency, spare EpiPens for children are located in the school office.

### **Year 6 Walking Home Consent Letter and Mobile Phones:**

If we can please just remind you that the children should not be bringing mobile phones to school, unless we have received a signed consent form to advise that your child will be walking home from school unaccompanied each school day.

### **Parents and Mobile Phones:**

Thank you for not using your phones to make messages, calls or take photos on site; it is really appreciated and it helps to protect our school community.

### **PE Days:**

We do apologise, but there has been a slight amendment to PE Days, the new plan is as follows:

Monday: Year 2 and Year 5

Tuesday: Year 1 and Year 4

Friday: Year 3 and Year 6

Children should come to school in their full PE uniform that day including a plain white t-shirt - no logos please.

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### **Year 6 Secondary School Process:**

The online secondary school process has now started and applications can be made at the following link:

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

We shall be holding a Y6 secondary school information evening on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September to discuss this process, but in the meantime, you may wish to start researching open days at secondary schools that are of interest to you.

### **Year R Phonics Workshop:**

There will be a Phonics Workshop for our Reception Class Parents on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026/27:**

Parents/carers wishing to register their child for the First Holy Communion Programme 2026/27 are kindly asked to complete the registration form. Registration is open to baptised children in Year 3 or above at school in September 2026. The form is available to download from the Parish Website ([www.st-teresas-ashford.org.uk](http://www.st-teresas-ashford.org.uk)). Hard copies are also available in the Church Porch. Once completed, forms should be handed in at the Parish Office please. The registration deadline is Sunday, 13th September 2026. The first meeting for parents/carers will take place in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 22nd September at 7pm. Classes for children will begin on Saturday, 7th November 2026 at 11am (registration at 10.45am) and will continue fortnightly thereafter during term time until First Holy Communion Day on Saturday, 29th May 2027. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the catechists, Samantha, Brenda or Julian.

### **Universal Credit and Free School Meals:**

We would just like to remind you that if you are in receipt of Universal Credit, your children are entitled to Free School Meals every day whilst they are in school, a saving per child of £3.15 a day, regardless of year group.

Apply online at the following link:

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



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### Dates for the Diary:

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** - Year R start full time - 8.45am - 3.15pm. Afterschool club timetable begins.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September** - Year R Phonics Presentation at 2.30pm - all Year R Parents are welcome to attend.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September** - Kent Test for pre-registered children in Year 6. Please arrive at school at the usual time.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September** - Skip2BFit workshop (<https://skip2bfit.com>) for all year groups! We would be grateful if everyone could wear their PE kit to school that day.

Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Lisa Huotari

**Headteacher**