



# St Joseph's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

## Weekly Prayer –

Loving God,

As we come to the end of this term and prepare to celebrate Easter, we thank You for all the joy, learning and friendships we have shared.

Fill our hearts with Your peace, and bless our families with happiness, love and togetherness

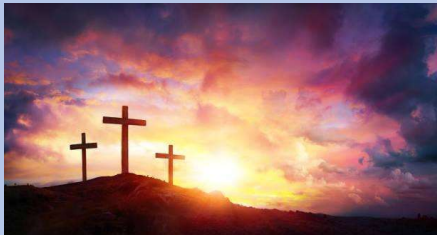
during this special Easter time.

We remember all those around the world who need Your comfort and care.

We pray for peace in every country, and ask that Your light shines where it is needed most.

Help us to be kind, caring and gentle, so that Your love may shine through us and reach our wider community near and far. May the joy of the Risen Jesus be with us always.

Amen.



From all of us at St Joseph's, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our parents and carers for your continued dedication and support of our wonderful school community. Your partnership makes a real difference, and we are delighted to see such positive progress across the school. Our academic outcomes are showing significant improvement, and attendance has strengthened, reflecting the shared commitment we all have to our children's success. As we move into the final part of the academic year, we do so with great confidence, knowing we are in a positive and secure place, with so much to celebrate together. We wish all our families a happy, peaceful and joyful Easter, filled with love and togetherness.



Mrs Carder

## Lourdes

*Miss Hartland*

We have had so much fun reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to finish up our Spring topic this week! We have made our own magic beans, junk-modelled the Giant's castle, and have even been measuring the longest beanstalks we can build!

We have also learned about Holy Week with Knock class, taking part in lots of role-play to deepen our understanding of Palm Sunday and The Last Supper- we shall be celebrating Easter after the half-term!

I have noticed lots of lovely independent reading this week in class, keep up the good work Lourdes! I hope you have a restful holiday, I can't wait to see what you get up to!

**Maths champion: Jayden**

**Writing champion: Lance**

**PRAISE award: Spencer**

**Gospel Values award: Beatrix**

## Knock

*Miss Buckingham*

We have had another lovely week in Knock. Holy Week is of my favourites each year. We have enjoyed role playing Palm Sunday and making palm leaves. To role play The Last Supper, I washed the children's feet in class, and we enjoyed toasting rustic loaves of bread over the fire at forest school and we drank blackcurrant squash to represent the wine they had at The Last Supper. The children visited the church garden to look at the cross and celebrate Good Friday. The children are also coming home with Easter cards for you!

We have continued to enjoy some sunny weather outside and during this time we have worked together to tidy up and organise the outside areas.

I have informed the children that there are lots of fun and exciting changes happening to our environment, and that after Easter the classroom will be looking very different!

We will be having a new floor and have lots of new furniture being delivered. I absolutely cannot wait to share these changes with you all once they're done!

I hope everyone has a lovely, lovely Easter!

**Maths champion: Felix**  
**Writing champion: Abraham**  
**PRAISE award: Ire**  
**Gospel Values award: Clara**

**Fatima**  
*Miss Chatfield*



This week in Literacy, we have been focusing on adverbs, with the children practising different types by creating lots of fun and silly sentences. In

Maths, we have

completed our multiplication and division unit by learning how to multiply and divide by ten. Year 2 children can now access TTRS to continue practising these skills, and Year 1 are welcome to have a go too if they would like. In History, we continued learning about Mary Seacole, where the children designed posters to advertise the British Hotel. In RE, we have taken part in a range of Holy Week activities, including exploring the emotions of the crowds and Jesus on Palm



Sunday, creating thoughtful "wondering" drawings of the Last Supper, collaboratively painting the Stations of the Cross, and writing and sharing prayers and reflections. We also took part in a Lenten pilgrimage in class, where children read prayers aloud, and attended Father Paul's blessing of the Stations. We also enjoyed making Easter cards, having an Easter egg hunt and a Year 1 Easter phonics lesson. Have a fabulous Easter and a well-deserved break to spend quality time with your families!

**Maths champion: Salvador**  
**Writing champion: Pippa R**  
**PRAISE award: Lyla**  
**Gospel Values award: Pips**

**Medjugorje**

I know I say how proud I am of your children every week but I really do mean it! Last week was assessment week and having marked their papers I am genuinely brimming with pride. Our class have seen so many changes this year including how we approach certain subjects and their attitude to their learning has improved week after week! I could burst- well done Medjugorje!

In English we are looking at the features of diary entries ready to dive in next term. They have remembered so much from our previous unit and can now apply these skills in a different context- I'm bowled over by how much they have soaked up from expanded noun phrases to subordinate clauses acting as time adverbials. We will be linking our unit to the book "The Last Bear."

In Maths we have returned to decimals and we are applying previous knowledge like pros in order to advance to adding and subtracting decimals using partitioning.

In RE we have focussed on Holy Week and loved making our Stations of the Cross canvases ready to be blessed by Father Paul.

I hope my class rest well over Easter and enjoy time with their families. Year 6 return to SATs prep as we are now officially on the countdown. I shall be sending home bits and bobs for them to do if they wish and links to videos explaining concepts if their brains need little jump starts over the fortnight break. As ever, totally optional, but absolutely beneficial.

A big thank you to you all for your support this term. I will miss them lots over the break!

*Mrs Hamilton*

**Maths champion: Denzil**  
**Writing champion: Archie**  
**PRAISE award: Max**  
**Gospel Values award: Aleks**



### St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Lawton Avenue, Carterton  
Oxfordshire OX18 3JY  
Tel: 01993 841240

[www.stjosephsprimarycarterton.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsprimarycarterton.co.uk)



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#### Walsingham

*Mr Dillon*

In Walsingham Class we have had a busy and reflective week. In RE, we have been learning about Holy Week and its importance in the Christian calendar. The children also produced a fantastic piece of extended writing, showing great understanding and thoughtfulness. As part of our learning, they worked carefully to create our own class Station of the Cross, which will be displayed in the school hall for everyone to see.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed attending Mass with Fr Paul. The parishioners were very impressed with the children's excellent behaviour and the way they confidently contributed when answering questions during the service.

In Maths, we have recently completed our topic on measuring weight. The children have enjoyed using scales and developing their understanding of grams and kilograms through practical activities.

I wish all our families a very happy and peaceful Easter.

**Maths champion: Elizabeth**

**Writing champion: Nancy**

**PRAISE award: Nadia**

**Gospel Values award: Mollie**

#### Guadalupe

*Mrs Cameron*

As ever, a busy week for Guadalupe children. Lots of class learning from class teachers, as well as individual choice of subjects which includes maths challenges (again), shared reading to others, which was a joy to hear, with great expression and confidence. We have made lovely Easter cards to take home to give to our families and decorated Easter Bunny biscuits, which were enjoyed by the children! Guadalupe also joined the whole school to create a canvas to be part of the Stations of the Cross display. We also enjoyed a visit from Father Paul when he came to bless them during a special assembly.

Have a Very Happy and Peaceful Easter.

**Maths champion: Nico**

**Writing champion: Poppy-Jo**

**PRAISE award: Amara**

**Gospel Values award: Charlie-John**

#### Attendance

Well done for Lourdes who gained 100% attendance this week.

Who school attendance is 91% - not great.

Let's improve this please!



#### Three cheers for:

Medjugorje and Knock class who worked together today to act out the Stations of the Cross.



#### Vacancy!

**We are delighted to share that we currently have vacancies for Foundation Governors at our amazing school.**

This is an exciting time to become involved. Our school continues to go from strength to strength, with clear improvements, growing aspirations, and a strong sense of purpose across our community. We are proud of the progress we are making and the positive direction in which we are heading.

As a Foundation Governor, you must be a practising Catholic and will play a vital role in shaping the strategic vision of the school, ensuring our Catholic ethos remains central while supporting continued improvement and excellence for all our pupils. It is a deeply rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

If you feel called to serve our school community in this way, we warmly encourage you to apply using the link below.

<https://www.pfmac.org.uk/appointing-new-governors>

If you would like to find out more or have an informal conversation about the role, please do come and speak with Mr Morton or Mrs Carder, who would be very happy to talk further.

#### Social Media

We are increasingly using social media as a way to share an accurate, up-to-date picture of our school with both our immediate community and a wider audience. Like many schools, this allows us to celebrate achievements, highlight opportunities, and ensure that the story being told about our school reflects who we are today. We also recognise that platforms such as Facebook are a well-established and effective way of engaging prospective families: they allow us to communicate directly with those most interested in our school, share key information, and showcase daily life beyond formal updates. In doing so, we are aligning our approach with other schools within PFMAC, ensuring consistency in how we promote and represent our community. This helps us

#### Dates for School Masses on Wednesdays (9.30am)



We would like to inform you that the dates listed below indicate when your children will be attending Mass at St Joseph's Church as part of our school's faith life.

These occasions are an important opportunity for our pupils to come together in worship and to strengthen their understanding of our shared values and beliefs.

**We would be delighted if you were able to join us.** If you are available, please make every effort to come along and celebrate Mass together with our school and parish community.



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present a balanced, authentic view of our school, particularly where past perceptions may not reflect the positive environment we see today. Safeguarding remains our absolute priority: we will only share images of children where parental permission has been explicitly given, in line with the consent you provided on entry to the school, and we strictly follow all legal and safeguarding guidelines. This approach ensures that we respect family preferences while responsibly promoting our school community.

Your presence helps to show our children the importance of faith, community, and belonging, and it is always a joy to welcome families into these celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing these special moments with you.

**Dates to follow**

### From the PTFA

**EASTER RESURRECTION GARDENS**

*A Beautiful School Activity*

The children had a wonderful time creating their **Easter Resurrection Gardens**

It was a lovely way to explore the meaning of Easter through creativity, nature, and hands-on learning

**THANK YOU**

- Parents who purchased the garden kits
- Parents who attended and supported the event
- Our amazing helpers on the day

Your support made this event so special!

**TOTAL RAISED**

**£124**

Every penny goes back into supporting our school and children!

**OUR CREATIONS**

Thank you for your continued support

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENTS

**VE DAY CELEBRATION**

*A Celebration of Our Forces & Families*

Friday 8th May | 3:00pm - 6:00pm  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

**Veterans VIP Table**  
Carterton's Oldest Veterans

**Thank You Wall**  
Leave a Message for Our Heroes

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- 3:30pm - Children's Parade for Veterans
- 4:15pm - Children's Entrepreneur Contest
- 5:00pm - Tug of War  
Military vs Children & Teachers vs Children!

**Attractions & Activities**

Music	Fun Family Games
Food/Drink	1940s Photo Booth
Free Craft Fun	Fairground Rides
Children's Entertainment	WWII Vehicles
Nerf Gun Team	Military, Veterans and Charity stalls

**All Funds Support Our PTA & Future Festivals!**

**THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS INVITED TO COME TOGETHER • REMEMBER • CELEBRATE!**



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### What's on during the Easter Holidays?

#### Gardens and Stately homes:

- **Hop along to Blenheim Palace this Easter:** (3-6 April 2026).  
There's a whole host of activities, entertainment and outdoor fun for all the family this Easter bank holiday weekend. Take the miniature train down to the Walled Garden and join us for a whole host of egg-citing activities from circus shows and a fabulous vintage fairground to up-close encounters with all kinds of weird and wonderful egg-laying creatures, as well as our giant wicker egg trail. And of course, the Easter Bunny himself will be in residence and waiting to greet you!  
Read our family/ children focussed review of Blenheim palace with all details [HERE](#)  
Read our review of "The Lost Garden" [HERE](#)
- Join the **Big Easter Bunny Hunt** around the Waterperry gardens: 28th March – 19th April  
Hop along to Waterperry Gardens this Easter holiday dressed as a bunny (optional) to find eggs that our bunny has dropped and eggsplore the beautiful Spring gardens at the same time. Carefully hop around the gardens and sniff out the eggs. Every time you find one, match it to the ones on the provided sheet. Collect your prize from the Garden Shop  
£4.75 per child, including a prize. Children must be accompanied by an adult for whom the garden entrance fee applies.  
(read our review of Water Perry gardens [HERE](#))
- **Easter Trail at Tumblestone Hollow** Discover our Easter Trail, nature walk, craft activities and storytelling sessions, all within the picturesque backdrop of our gardens and woodland adventure playground.  
Ticket includes access to the Tumblestone Hollow Adventure Playground and the Gardens at Stonor. Read our review from before [HERE](#)  
Tickets: Child 3-4 years £11, Child 5 + £13 , adult £12
- **Bouncy bunny hunt at Evenley Wood garden:** Not advertised per  
Read our review of [Evenley Wood garden HERE](#)  
Ticket – £6 admits one child to participate in the Easter trail. Adults are still required to pay normal admission fees.
- **Easter at Compton Verney** Saturday 28 March – Sunday 12 April 2026  
Let your imagination run wild with thousands of LEGO® bricks ready for you to build, create and reimagine in spring into Lego. Also, Big Blue block Build, stack, channel and connect these larger than life play Big Blue blocks. Designed to inspire children to build stimulating environments and activities for hours of fun or take part in the Folk art animal trail.  
Read our review of Compton Verney [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)  
Tickets: Adult @ £19.94, Children (aged 3+) FREE

#### Lambing:

The full post with all details, including ticket prices, can be found [HERE](#)

- **The Old Farm Shop near Abingdon** on 21 & 22 March and 28 & 29 March.
- **Lambing at Bishops court farm, Dorchester-on-Thames** Saturday 28th March & Saturday 11th April
- **Downside Farm in Blewbury:** With more lambs on the way, keep an eye out for lamb feeding and cuddling sessions, which will be released towards the end of the month
- It's **Lambing time again** at Roves Farm: *April 2026 – exact dates TBC*
- **Lambing returns to Cotswold Farm park** 13th Feb – 19th Apr 2026
- Lamb Cuddles at **Farmer Gow's** available towards the end of February and throughout March 2026.
- **Lambing at Thrifty's Farm** throughout the Easter break
- **Spring into Easter at Odds Farm** throughout the Easter break
- **Spring on the farm at Hogshaw farm** – throughout the Easter break
- **Meet the lambs at Lillingstone Pick Your Own, Buckingham**
- **Mini Meadows Farm** will be welcoming Ryeland lambs and Pygmy goat kids

More info found here: <https://oxfordshiremummies.co.uk/days-out-in-and-around-oxfordshire/easter-2022-whats-on-for-kids-in-and-around-oxfordshire/?scrllybrkr=fd781e3>

LITTLE  
EXPLORERS  
Oxford Bumper Easter  
Family Guide  
Mar 24, 2026

<https://littleexplorers.com/your-oxford-easter-family-guide-2026/>





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# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS!

### JOIN THE FUN AFTER SCHOOL!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3.15 - 4.00pm	3.15 - 4.00pm	3.15 - 4.00pm	3.15 - 4.00pm	3.15 - 4.30pm
<b>SATS BOOSTERS</b> with Mrs Hamilton	<b>BOARD GAMES</b> with Mr Dillon	<b>GARDENING</b> with Mrs Lyon	<b>SATS BOOSTERS</b> with Mrs Hamilton	<b>MOVIE CLUB</b> with Mrs Carder
<b>EXPLORE THE WORLD CLUB</b> with Mr Morton	<b>MINDFULNESS</b> with Mrs Wickens	<b>TEA TIME CLUB</b> with Mrs Cameron & Miss Buckingham	<b>SPORTS CLUB</b> with Miss Chatfield	

**NO LIMIT TO SPACES - EVERY CHILD IS WELCOME!**  
Sign up at the office.

All clubs (with the exception of gardening, which is kindly run and resourced by a dedicated PTA volunteer) are completely free until 4pm—every single day! 4.30pm on a Friday!

Need a little extra time at the end of the day? We've got you covered with extended care until 5pm for just £4.50—that's nearly half the cost of our previous after-school provision. Best of all? There's no limit on places—everyone is welcome!

### Social Media Links

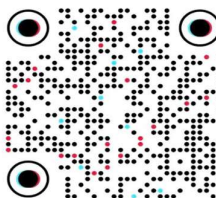
#### Instagram



@STJOSEPHSSCHOOLCARTERTON

#### TikTok

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TikTok

#### Facebook



St Joseph's Primary School