



# St Joseph's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Weekly Prayer

Loving God,

We thank You for the many blessings we have shared this week at our school. Thank You for the joy, teamwork, and sportsmanship shown by Walsingham Class at their cricket event, and for the kindness and respect they showed to one another and to neighbouring schools.

We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome visitors into our school, and for the chance to share the hard work, progress, and achievements of our children.

Thank You for the growth we see in our learning

This week we have been reading *Doctor Fairytale* and practicing being doctors ourselves! We have been exploring first-aid kits & role-playing as doctors, nurses, and paramedics (poor Miss Hartland has had our confidence, and our friendships each day.

Bless our whole school community—our pupils, staff, and families.

Help us to continue to learn with enthusiasm, behave with kindness, and support one another in all that we do.

**May we always be proud of who we are and strive to do our best, guided by Your love.**

Amen.

*Our Gospel values this term are **Grateful** and **Generous**. Pupils are growing to be grateful for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for blessings of each day;*

*and generous with their gifts, both now and in the future.*

*What does this mean? Catholic Schools help their pupils grow by encouraging them to know and be grateful for all their gifts, developing them to the full so that they can be generous in the service of others.*

**Lourdes**

*Miss Hartland*

This week we have been reading *Doctor Fairytale* and role-playing as doctors, nurses, and paramedics ourselves! We have been exploring first-aid kits, junk-modelling an ambulance, making our own medicines in the mud kitchen, and creating x-rays & skeletons!

We enjoyed celebrating Earth Day on Wednesday and practising our Catholic value of stewardship as we shared ideas on how we can take better care of our planet, such as litter-picking, planting trees, and feeding the birds- please feel free to send me any photos if you enjoy any of these activities this weekend!

This week has been a fantastic one for our school community.

Walsingham Class took part in a wonderful cricket event at the College, where they represented the school brilliantly. Mr Dillon was especially impressed, commenting on the children's excellent behaviour and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the day.

We were also delighted to welcome members of the PFMAC team, including CEO Fraser Long and Director of Education Jane Hemery. They were incredibly impressed by the significant improvements across all areas of St Joseph's, praising both the children's behaviour and their enthusiasm for learning. They were particularly pleased to see the remarkable progress being made across all classes, as well as our new Early Years provision.

We are immensely proud of our children and staff, and the continued strength of our wonderful school community.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Carder



**Knock**

*Miss Buckingham*

We have had another busy week in Knock Class. This week, on Monday, the children arrived to a new role play area which was set up as a Pirate ship! With pirate small world play, pirate hats, telescopes, treasure maps and much more. The children have enjoyed reading pirate and under the sea books.



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

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



In maths we have been super subitisers, able to recognise 1, 2 & 3! I have also noticed a massive improvement in our name-writing this week- well done Lourdes!

Next week Lourdes will be becoming detectives as we read *How To Be A Detective*- we might have a disappearance to investigate! We will also be creating our own portraits inspired by Da Vinci & Rembrandt!

**Maths champion: Lance**  
**Writing champion: Cody**  
**PRAISE award: Jaythraah**  
**Gospel Values award: Beatrix**



This week we have also enjoyed Superhero Readers, the children have been reading to each other in pairs and have worked so hard to make this a safe and fun experience for each other. We have had another exciting forest school session with hot cross buns on the fire and looking for micro habits under the logs, in the bushes etc. The children have continued to learn about Easter in RE and made their own Easter Candles which we added to the prayer table. We spoke about the symbols and what they represent too. This week we have also been enjoying the beautiful weather, and have used our outdoor area to make natural picture frames, used binoculars to spot things in the distance and magnifying glasses to look at little things up close and draw them, and we walked the plank too!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



**Maths champion: Ire**  
**Writing champion: Clara**  
**PRAISE award: Asher**  
**Gospel Values award: Stanley**

**Fatima**  
*Miss Chatfield*

This week in maths, we have been learning about halves, quarters, thirds and three quarters. Year 2 pupils have been given homework to support and reinforce this learning at home; please ensure it is completed and returned on Tuesdays, as this really helps to consolidate their understanding. Children who complete their homework will

**Medjugorje**  
*Mrs Hamilton*

We've had a fantastic week in Medjugorje class marked by outstanding learning behaviour and a real sense of enthusiasm across all subjects. Our SATs predictions are looking very strong, with every child making impressive progress—especially in Maths, where confidence and skill have noticeably grown. The Year 5s are absolutely keeping up with our older peers and they



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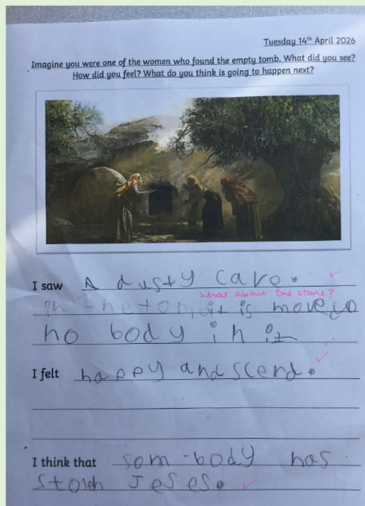
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be rewarded with extra playtime to celebrate their effort and hard work.

In phonics, Year 1 have been learning about alternative graphemes, including the soft 'c' (as in cell and acid) and soft 'g' (as in gem and gym). They also have homework to practise this, and, as with Year 2, children who return it on Tuesday will receive extra playtime.

Please remember to write in your child's reading record each time they read at home. This helps us to monitor their progress and ensure books are changed regularly so children do not keep the same book for too long. Year 2 pupils can now use Times Tables Rock Stars to practise their 2s, 5s and 10s, while Year 1 should continue using Numbots to build their number skills.

Finally, a reminder that we will soon be carrying out our Great Fire of London activity—please ensure your child brings their completed house into school by the 11th so we can set fire to them with Mr Angus! Happy Crafting!



**Maths champion: Charlie-John**  
**Writing champion: Daria**  
**PRAISE award: Emilia**  
**Gospel Values award: Arlo**

**Walsingham**  
*Mr Dillon*

Walsingham class has had a truly excellent week, full of positivity and meaningful learning. In RE, we focused on the Easter season and began looking ahead to May as the month of Mary, writing our own prayers and reflecting on how the most powerful prayers are those that are personal and spoken from the heart. We've included a lovely example from Ava to share this work. The children also enjoyed a fantastic cricket tournament at the College, blessed with wonderful weather, and their behaviour throughout made us incredibly

will certainly be equipped with excellent skills ready for next year.

It was also a joy to welcome our new classmate Lara, who has settled in so seamlessly it feels as though she's always been part of our community.

We were delighted to host our PFMAC CEO, Fraser Long, who joined us for a thoughtful RE discussion on Easter, where we explored the idea of "seeing is believing" and reflected on whether Doubting Thomas truly deserves his well-known nickname.

Altogether, the class is feeling positive, confident, and happy in their learning—ready and excited for all that the summer term will bring!

**Maths champion: Eloise**  
**Writing champion: Lavinia**  
**PRAISE award: Lily**  
**Gospel Values award: Lara**

**Guadalupe**  
*Mrs Cameron*

This week our focus has been on phonics and writing. We have joined Miss Buckingham for her phonics groups in the mornings, which has been a big success. Some children have been able to return to their class for maths lessons, which is also a great achievement. We have also been gardeners, learning about the life cycle of plants, planting sunflower seeds and watching our beans and potatoes grow.

**Have a lovely weekend.**  
**Maths champion: Nico**



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proud. To top it all off, today marks an exciting milestone as we head off for our very first swimming lessons!



Maths champion:  
Writing champion:  
PRAISE award:  
Gospel Values award:

Writing champion: Amara  
PRAISE award: Alfie  
Gospel Values award: Poppy-Jo

#### Attendance

**Congratulations to Medjugorje for 97% What an achievement! Well done!**



#### **Three cheers for:**



Ava's beautiful prayer that she composed! It was shared with our PFMAC team who want to put it into the Diocesan newsletter! Look below!

#### 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,

#### 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



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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.

effort to come along and celebrate Mass together with our school and parish 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.

**29<sup>th</sup> April – Fatima**

**6<sup>th</sup> May – Medjugorje**

**13<sup>th</sup> May – Walsingham**

**20<sup>th</sup> May – Fatima**

## Curriculum Maps

Please do look at our Curriculum Maps for Term 5. These will be clearly displayed on the classroom windows, on Dojo and on the website. They will give you a clear overview of the learning for this term. These will be completed every half term.

**Fatima Curriculum Map**  
*Summer 1 2020*

**As readers and writers,** we are exploring diary recounts through a Great Fire of London text. We will be deconstructing the text to understand the features of a diary before writing our own.

**Our key texts are:** *Escape the Fire!*

**Our phonic sounds in Year 1 are** alternative sounds **and tricky words** are: Unusually, return, quickly, fearful, terrifying, survive, action, direction, question, parents, again, behind, last of...

**As Mathematicians** we have 3 topics - money and fractions. We will be working through the steps to be able to count money, recognise notes and coins, calculate Money and give change, read to 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, 100p, compare money in the fractions unit, we will learn to recognise and find halves, quarters, thirds, three quarters and wholes. We will learn about unit and non-unit fractions and learn to count in fractions to a whole.

**Key Vocabulary:** unit, whole, half, quarter, third, read, unusual, denominator, digit, numerator, equivalent, unit fractions, non-unit fractions, split.

**As Scientists,** we will explore and compare the differences between living things, dead things, and those that have never been alive. We will learn that most living things are suited to specific habitats and understand how different habitats meet the basic needs of plants and animals, and how they depend on one another. We will identify and name a variety of plants and animals in different habitats, including microhabitats, and describe how animals obtain food from plants and other animals using simple food chains. We will also identify and name different sources of food.

**Key Vocabulary:** habitat, microhabitat, conditions, adapted, omnivore, herbivore, carnivore, ocean, woodland, forest, jungle, savanna, desert, mountain.

**As Theologians** we are studying Easter and Pentecost. We will learn stories about the Resurrection and the Holy Spirit, the other characters involved and their reactions. We will be able to identify the symbols used during the Easter season and explain their significance. We will learn the story of Pentecost and understand that the Holy Spirit was the promised gift of Jesus. We will recognise that Confirmation is a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians today.

**Key Vocabulary:** Easter - resurrection, Mary Magdalene, Peter, Paschal Candle, Alpha, Omega, Easter Vigil, Holy Water, Emmaus, Thomas, Doubt, Pentecost - Apostles, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Confirmation, Sacrament, Oil of Baptism, Oil of Christ.

**Our Gospel Values are:** Grateful and Generous

**Across the Curriculum**

**As Historians** we will learn what London was like in 1666 and compare it to today. We will find out what happened when the Great Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666, why it spread so quickly, and how people tried to stop it. We will learn about important people from the time and explore how we know about the past by looking at evidence like diaries and objects.

**As Geographers**  
(Taught in another term)

**As Artists** we are using clay to make sculptures. Use a variety of modelling and printing techniques to create sculptures. We will explore colour mixing to create seasonal colours to paint our final pieces.

**As Athletes** we are developing our PE skills through athletics and a range of field sports including cricket and rounders.

**As Musicians**  
(Taught in another term)

**As Design Technologists** we are  
(Taught in another term)

**As Computer Programmers** we are exploring what the term data means and how data can be collected. We will explore how attributes can be used to organise data and how data can be presented in the form of pictograms and block diagrams. We will use the data presented to answer questions.

**As Deep Thinkers** we are learning that God made us to be in loving relationships through parables including The Good Samaritan.

## Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for students to make good progress, build confidence, and fully engage in school life. **While attendance has been a focus for some time, overall levels of attendance are not showing the improvement we would expect, and this remains a concern for some families.**

We understand that there are times when absence is unavoidable; however, we ask all families to make every effort to ensure children attend school consistently and arrive on time each day. **Good attendance supports not only academic achievement but also social development and wellbeing.**

As a school, we have always prioritised working in partnership with families rather than taking formal action.

However, if attendance does not begin to improve, we may need to review our approach, and the use of penalty notices could become a necessary option in line with national guidance.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to support us in improving attendance so that every child can benefit fully from their education.

Your school leadership is now aspirational for every aspect of the school day; starting with attendance.



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**Ava's Prayer**

*Dear Mary,*

*I know you have a lot of pain in your body right now  
but your son has risen from the dead.*

*I am very excited to see him again when he comes again.*

*This Easter, I will be like Mary - be resilient and never  
make a fuss when life is challenging.*

*Your Son has risen from the dead, Alleluia!*

*Amen*





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Do you know any families that are still considering their school place for September?



### St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Still deciding on your Reception place? Take another look!

#### A SCHOOL ON AN EXCITING JOURNEY

St Joseph's is undergoing **significant, sustainable and positive change**  
— and it begins with our **NEWLY REFURBISHED EYFS!**

*Inspiring learning spaces with a beautiful indoor & outdoor environment,  
designed for curiosity, creativity & joy*

#### SUPPORT FOR BUSY FAMILIES

We've got you covered:

- FREE after-school care until 4:00pm
- Fridays FREE until 4:30pm
- Only £4.50 until 2:00pm

#### EVERYONE IS WELCOME

You **do NOT need to be Catholic** to join us.  
We are proud to be a **warm, inclusive school community** for all families.

#### BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

This is a **fresh start** for St Joseph's — and a wonderful opportunity for your child.

★ COME AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE ★

Contact us today to arrange a visit - 01993 841240  
Bring your child along!

**COME & SEE FOR YOURSELF!**  
Bring your child and experience it first-hand:  
● Watch them explore  
● See them engage and feel at home  
● So easy to believe in!





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### What's on in Oxfordshire?

The best sunny places to visit in Oxfordshire - <https://littleexplorers.com/the-best-sunny-adventures-in-oxford/>

#### The Leys Splash Park

Yet another splash park revamp! Bright rainbow colours and accessible water features make this one stand out. It was already a great park, now it's even better!



#### Wallingford Riverside Splash and outdoor pools

Another refurbished splash park (did the council get a job lot?!) with an outdoor pool beside it. The pool isn't as wow as Hinksey but it's fun and it's in a gorgeous location along the river so lots of opportunities for other activities too like canoeing or boat trips.



Check out the Bluebell woods at Badbury- <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire/badbury/bluebells-at-badbury>

### Bluebells at Badbury



Bluebells at Badbury Clump | ©National Trust Images/David Sellman

Every year, more and more people visit Badbury to enjoy the carpet of bluebells amongst the beech trees in the area known as Badbury Clump - once an Iron Age hillfort. Usually flowering in April, they're a welcome sign that spring is well under way and the warmer days of summer aren't far off.

More at Oxfordshire Mummies – <https://oxfordshiremummies.co.uk/days-out-in-and-around-oxfordshire/whats-on-may-june-half-term-activities-for-kids-in-oxfordshire/>

Oxfordshire Mummies

Home - Places to Visit - Specific Features - Regions - Playgroups and classes - Day care and Nurseries - Contact

HOME - PLACES TO VISIT - ACTIVITIES - MAY/ JUNE HALF TERM ACTIVITIES 2020 - WHAT'S ON FOR KIDS IN OXFORDSHIRE

### May/ June Half term activities 2015: Whats on for kids in Oxfordshire



@oxfordshiremummies

21 April 2015



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### St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS!

**JOIN THE FUN AFTER SCHOOL!**

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

**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!



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★ ★ ★ 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!**



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

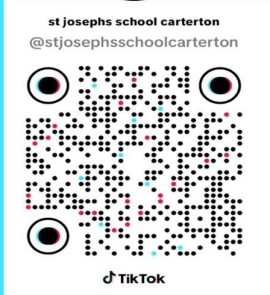
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### Social Media Links TikTok

### Instagram



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