



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

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

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



The  
**Pope Francis Catholic**  
Multi Academy Company

# St Joseph's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

## Weekly Prayer

Dear Mother Mary,  
this is your special month of May.  
Thank you for loving us  
and taking care of us.  
Help us to be kind,  
to listen to God,  
and to follow your Son,  
Jesus Christ.  
Stay close to us every day,  
and guide us with your gentle 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.*

Dear Families,

It's been a wonderfully busy and joyful week at school!

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils had an unforgettable trip to RAF Brize Norton, where they watched the launch of the Falcons—an experience that filled the day with excitement, smiles, and plenty of bouncing energy from the children, alongside very proud staff. We were also delighted to be joined by our PFMAC CEO, who spoke warmly of his pride in our school and is already looking forward to returning for future events.

As we begin May, the special month of Mary, we are also preparing for a family Mass with Fr Paul, during which we will crown Our Lady—more details to follow soon.

Have a wonderful long Bank Holiday weekend, and we'll see you again on **Tuesday!**

Mrs Carder



Have you heard the singing in Oxford on May Day morning?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyp6kp0zd7o>

## **Lourdes**

*Miss Hartland*

This week Lourdes have been learning how to be a detective as we delve deeper into our People Who Help Us topic! We have explored how our fingerprints are different with some finger-painting, discovered different rescue vehicles and then made them from junk-modelling, and designed our own ID badges to practice our name-writing! We then put all our new knowledge about collecting clues to the test as we went on an investigation to find our missing toys- well done Lourdes, fantastic comprehension & teamwork!

## **Knock**

*Miss Buckingham*

What a week! We have been so lucky to enjoy another week of lovely weather and the children have all shown their gratitude for this. We enjoyed snacks, forest school, lots of water play and PE in the beautiful sunshine. At forest school, the children ate cheese and pepper skewers which they prepared in the morning, where they demonstrated strong fine motor control and pattern making skills. The children enjoyed toasting their skewers and watching the peppers blacken and the cheese start to



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<p>We have been building our relationships in class by painting portraits of each other, and making heart artwork to show our friends that we love them, just as God loves us!</p> <p>We have been blessed with some gorgeous sunshine for our outdoor learning, where we cooked cheese &amp; pepper skewers over the fire in Forest School, and challenged our throwing &amp; catching skills in PE!</p> <p>Enjoy your long weekend!</p> <p><b>Maths champion: Beatrix</b> <b>Writing champion: Spencer</b> <b>PRAISE award: Willow</b> <b>Gospel Values award: Poppy</b></p>	<p>melt. This week the Reception children were working on their counting up to and back from 20, we used our fingers and worked carefully on 1-1 correspondence. This week we have tried a new approach to tidying our beautiful classroom -we have pictures of the children dotted around the classroom and this is their area to tidy up, they have taken on this responsibility and are all working their hardest to make their area tidy before helping a friend with theirs. I wonder if you could ask your children what their tidy up area is and what they need to do to make sure it is tidy.</p> <p>Looking forward to another beautiful week next week! See everyone on Tuesday!</p> <p><b>Maths champion: Joshua</b> <b>Writing champion: Angel</b> <b>PRAISE award: Imogen</b> <b>Gospel Values award: Nevaeh</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fatima</b> <i>Miss Chatfield</i></p> <p>We have had a wonderfully busy and engaging week in class! At the start of the week, we enjoyed a visit to the library where the children had the opportunity to explore a wide range of books. They took part in a book review activity and were kindly each given a reading journal to take home. On Friday, we went to Carterton Community College to take part in a cricket festival. The children participated in a variety of fun games designed to develop their skills, teamwork, and confidence. They showed great enthusiasm throughout the day! In the afternoon, everyone enjoyed an ice lolly to cool off and celebrate their hard work and achievements. In Literacy, the children began writing their own diary recounts of the Great Fire of London. They have been working hard to include key skills we have been learning, such as using adverbs and expanded noun phrases to make their writing more detailed and engaging. In Maths, we have been exploring non-unit fractions and developing our understanding of equivalence, particularly how one half is equal to two quarters. In RE, the children learned more stories about the disciples realising that Jesus was alive. They explored these through acting, drawing, and crafts, while also reflecting thoughtfully on the disciple's thoughts and feelings and related this to important moments of realisation in their own lives. It has been a fantastic week, and we are very proud of all the children's effort and enthusiasm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Maths champion: Daisy</b> <b>Writing champion: Cali</b> <b>PRAISE award: Nikole</b> <b>Gospel Values award: Matilda</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Medjugorje</b> <i>Mrs Hamilton</i></p> <p>What a beautiful week we've had! Not just the weather, which has been glorious, but the children have been utterly wonderful, tackling fractions, comprehension and electricity through to computing with shapes to create vectors and honing their cricket skills.</p> <p>In English we have been looking at non fiction texts and reading as a class, in pairs and in groups. The children have been great- the text we looked at was very detailed and full of very technical information- I was so impressed with their ability to pick out the key facts and answer the questions. Well done Medjugorje!</p> <p>In Maths we have been revising fractions and I am so pleased with how much has been remembered- they have absolutely smashed fractions, decimals and percentages this year! Next week we will move onto percentages.</p> <p>In RE we have finished off our Easter unit ready for Pentecost this coming week. We have had some brilliant discussions this term so far and I am so proud of their insights and ideas.</p> <p>We have also had a cricket coach join us these last two weeks and the children have had so much fun honing their throwing, catching and team building skills. The weather has certainly helped with the enjoyment!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Maths champion: Serafym</b> <b>Writing champion: Kaitlin</b> <b>PRAISE award: Danny</b> <b>Gospel Values award: Elena</b></p>



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### Walsingham

*Mr Dillon*

This week in Walsingham Class, one of the highlights of our week was our visit to RAF Brize Norton. The children had a wonderful day and were especially excited to watch the Falcons display team. It was a fantastic experience for everyone, and the children represented the school beautifully throughout the visit.

In RE, we have begun learning about Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The children have enjoyed discussing the story of Pentecost and thinking about how the disciples spread the message of Jesus with courage and joy.

In Maths, we have now completed our unit of work on time.

The children have worked hard to develop their understanding of reading clocks, calculating durations, and solving time problems. We are very proud of their progress and are looking forward to starting our new unit on decimals next week.

**Maths champion: Poppy K**  
**Writing champion: Aurora**  
**PRAISE award: Louis**  
**Gospel Values award: Aria**

### Guadalupe

*Mrs Cameron*

What an exciting week we have had. The table tennis table has been built! We have had fun practicing our ping pong skills, this is so good for our gross motor skills, coordination, and teamwork, as well as being great fun.

All children in Guadalupe have joined Miss Buckingham and myself again this week for phonics and are showing good progress and enthusiasm during the lessons.

We have talked about April being the month of the military child and that wherever you put down roots that is your home.

We have been very lucky to attend the RAF Falcons first jump of the season. This was an amazing opportunity. A memory our children will cherish and remember for a long time.

**Have a lovely bank holiday weekend.**

**Maths champion:**  
**Writing champion: Nico**  
**PRAISE award: Charlie-John**

**Gospel Values award:**

### Attendance

**Well done**  
**Medjugorje – 98%**



### Three cheers for:

**Walsingham Class!** They were the epitome of excellence at RAF Brize Norton this week – we are very proud of you!



### 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.

### 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.

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.

**6<sup>th</sup> May – Medjugorje**  
**13<sup>th</sup> May – Walsingham**  
**20<sup>th</sup> May – Fatima**



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### The Falcons!

What a fantastic day! Our Year 3s and 4s were invited by Brize Norton to attend the launch of the Falcons! They were absolutely in awe of the special experience; and I'm sure we have more children with the aspiration of joining our amazing armed forces in the future.

We were joined by the CEO of the PFMAC, Fraser Long, who I'm sure will be joining in for more experiences of this in the future. As always we were very proud of our wonderfully behaved and respectful children.



### 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.



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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.

### Sporting Achievements

Three of our glorious girls represented our school at the School's Triathlon in Abingdon last weekend. They had an incredible time cheering each other on and helping others at the transition point.

Well done to Elena, Rosina and Lavinia – GIRL POWER!





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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 **5:00pm**

#### 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
- Seeing is believing!





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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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# 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!



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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!**



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### Social Media Links

#### Instagram



@STJOSEPHSSCHOOLCARTERTON

#### TikTok



TikTok

#### Facebook



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