



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Lawton Avenue, Carterton

Oxfordshire OX18 3JY

Tel: 01993 841240

www.stjosephsprimarycarterton.co.uk



The Pope Francis Catholic
Multi Academy Company

St Joseph's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th May 2026

Weekly Prayer

A Prayer for Our Year 6 Pupils Before Their SATs

Loving God,

We place our Year 6 children into Your gentle and caring hands

as they prepare for their SATs next week.

Fill their hearts with calm,

their minds with clarity,

and their spirits with confidence.

Help them to remember all they have learned and to approach each challenge with courage and peace.

Lord, we believe in each and every one of them.

We know they are capable, strong, and full of potential.

Let them shine brightly,

not just in their work, but in who they are—

unique, valued, and deeply loved by You.

Guide them to be true to themselves,

to trust in their abilities,

and to know that their worth

is far greater than any test or result.

Remind them, Lord,

that they are much more than these assessments—

they are Your children,

gifted with kindness, creativity, and purpose.

**Walk beside them in every moment,
and bless them with peace and confidence.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Dear Families,

As our wonderful Year 6 pupils prepare to take their SATs next week, we want them to know just how incredibly proud we are of each and every one of them. They have worked so hard, shown resilience, determination and growth, and these tests are only one small part of the amazing individuals they are becoming. SATs do not define them — their kindness, creativity, character and effort matter far more. That said, we know they are ready to truly shine and show just how much they have learned! Remember, Year 6: we are all behind you, gang!

We are looking forward to sharing some relaxing breakfasts together next week and celebrating all of your hard work on Friday.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Wickens and Mrs Quinn, who have worked tirelessly to support and encourage the children throughout their Year 6 journey. Their dedication, care and commitment have made such a difference, and we are hugely grateful for all they have done.

Good luck, Year 6 — you've got this!

Mrs Carder



Lourdes

Miss Hartland

This week, we read 'Alan's Big Scary Teeth' and learned more about dentists! We used toothbrushes to paint characters from the book, made a minty water-tray for Alan the Alligator to live in, role-played as dentists, and cut out different patterns to compare sharp teeth with flat teeth (see if your children can name the different types of teeth we have!)

To support our understanding of this term's Gospel Values (grateful & generous) we read about Jesus feeding the 5000, and made our own playdough loaves & fish to see how far

Knock

Miss Buckingham

A lovely week in Knock Class. We have enjoyed some new activities this week such as pin a shape pin boards, ribbon weaving and our new small world farm. The children have been working hard in phonics to learn their tricky words, some of these include: there, were, so, he, she, we, friend, some and come - if you'd like to practice these at home too. We have started our new pentecost topic in RE and the children are already retelling the story well. At forest school we enjoyed fruit skewers topped in



we could share them! I'm very proud of the values Lourdes are demonstrating to their friends and the wider school community this term!

I hope to see you all at the VE Day Fayre- enjoy your weekends!

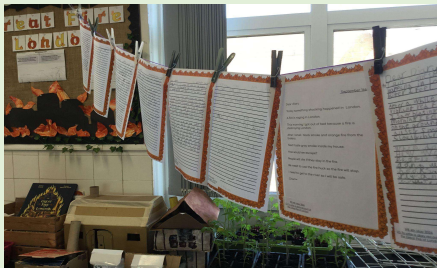
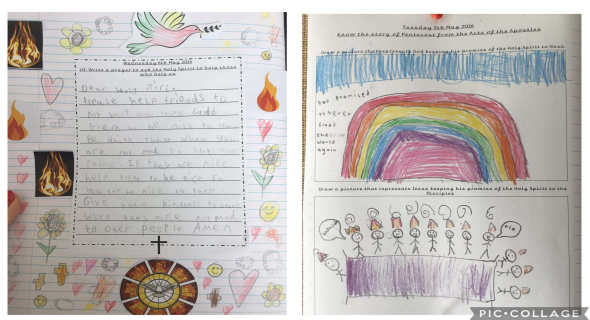
Maths champion: Jaythraah
Writing champion: Jayden
PRAISE award: Cody
Gospel Values award: Lance

chocolate. We have finally been getting excited for VE day, making headbands.

Maths champion: Rose
Writing champion: Ayda
PRAISE award: Miliana
Gospel Values award: Harley-Rose

Fatima
Miss Chatfield

This week, the children worked incredibly hard writing and publishing their Great Fire of London diaries. They put so much effort into including everything they have been taught this term, such as expanded noun phrases, adverbials of time and place, contraction apostrophes, suffixes, prefixes, and much more! We are very proud of all their hard work and effort. In Maths, we finished our fractions unit by learning how to find fractions of an amount. We also enjoyed creating beaded bracelets for the VE Day festival as part of the class entrepreneur competition. In RE we started the Pentecost unit. Year 2 drew pictures of different ways God and Jesus have kept their promises as well as writing prayers to the holy spirit to ask them to help those who help us. Year 1 made Pentecost headbands and ordered the story. See Dojo for more photos of letters and prayers!



Maths champion: Salvador
Writing champion: Pennie
PRAISE award: Zhaleh
Gospel Values award: Anis

Medjugorje
Mrs Hamilton

Medjugorje class have had a truly focused and positive week as we prepare for next week's SATs. The children have worked incredibly hard to secure their knowledge across all areas of learning and should feel enormously proud of the effort, resilience and determination they have shown. There has been such a calm and mature atmosphere in the classroom, with everyone supporting and encouraging one another brilliantly. This week, there have also been some wonderful moments of incredible team spirit, collaboration and genuine thoughtfulness towards each other, which has made us especially proud. The children have shown kindness, encouragement and friendship in abundance — qualities that matter far beyond any assessment. More importantly, the children know that SATs do not define who they are; they are already kind, talented and unique young people with so much to offer the world. We feel confident, prepared and ready to shine, and we know they will make their families — and all of us at St Joseph's — incredibly proud. Alongside our learning, we have also been very excited to take part in the VE Day celebrations and have loved joining together as a school community to remember and celebrate such an important occasion.

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



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Walsingham

Mr Dillon

Walsingham class have had a wonderfully positive week as we prepare for our exciting VE Day celebrations! The children have worked so hard collecting toys for our tombola and have shown such enthusiasm in making their own VE flags ready to wave proudly. We have also been practising our special parade walk and the children have approached it with huge smiles and fantastic teamwork. Swimming continues to be a real highlight of our week and it has been lovely to see the children growing in both confidence and enjoyment in the water. More than anything, Walsingham feels like an incredibly happy class at the moment, with a renewed sense of positivity, kindness and excellent behaviour

— we are simply great!

Maths champion:

Writing champion:

PRAISE award:

Gospel Values award:

Guadalupe

Mrs Cameron

This week I asked two of the children to help me write our news letter. Here is what they said....."We have worked hard in phonics, learning tricky words, we like joining Miss Buckingham for this and then going back to class to re cap with Mrs Cameron before having some time in the court yard". "We have read to Mrs Cameron every day too".

"We are looking forward to the VE day fayre, dressing up in red, white and blue, parading for our visitors and waving our flags".

Maths champion: Charlie-John

Writing champion:Nico

PRAISE award:Amara

Attendance

Knock – 86%

Fatima – 94%

Walsingham – 96%

Medjugorje – 98%

Lourdes – 100%



Three cheers for:

The PTFA – thank you so much for planning the VE festival – we cannot wait to celebrate!



Can we please remind Y5 parents that secondary schools are starting to have their open mornings/evenings for secondary school.

Please ensure you visit the secondary schools website for dates and times

Burford School -

<https://www.burford.oxon.sch.uk/admissions/joining-in-year-7>

Carterton Community College -

<https://www.cartertoncc.oxon.sch.uk/information/admissions>

GreyFriars - <https://www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk/join-us/admissions>

Don't Forget!

- Please ensure sun cream is applied to your child before school and that each child has a sun hat with them every day.
 - All children MUST come to school each day with fresh water in their water bottle.
 - Mon 11th May KS2 SATs begin.
 - Mon 11th May—Mental Health Week
 - Fri 22nd May—Finish at normal time 3.10pm for half term.
- Fri 22nd May – Whole School Mass at St Joseph's Church and the Crowning of Our Lady – all families welcome.

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.

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.



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<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.

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

13th May – Walsingham

20th May - Fatima

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.



Please could all children bring a flower or small posy to offer to Mary as part of this celebration. There's no need to buy flowers — a flower or blossom picked on the walk to school would be just as lovely.



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MORE LEGO THAN YOU CAN DREAM OF



New Lego store opening in Westgate in Oxford this weekend!

As always, Little Explorers is a great site with great family finds!

LITTLE EXPLORERS

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Open Farm Sunday

Have a moo-ch around a farm

Oxford Maths Festival

Open Farm Sunday
Farming's open day is back on the 9th of June and the Oxfordshire offering is strong! Book ahead as lots of the open day events sell out very quickly.

Oxford Maths Festival
An extravaganza of all the wonderful curiosities mathematics holds. Over two days you can immerse yourself in a wide range of events, with something for everyone, no matter your age or prior mathematical experience.

[What's happening at a farm near me](#) [Read more](#)



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Another great site – <https://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/things-to-do/family-days-out-oxfordshire/>

Family day out in Oxfordshire

Take your child to [Crocodiles of the World](#) where you can see different crocodile species and learn all about them – you can even become a keeper for a day!

For younger children, [Fairytale Farm](#) is a great option, with a range of farm animals and plenty of activities. Fairytale Farm is also fully accessible and specially designed with disabilities and special needs in mind. Enjoy a unique sensory experience with their Enchanted Walk – a magical journey inviting you to look, touch, smell and listen along the way.

At [Blenheim Palace](#), the Walled Garden is a joy to visit for all ages, with the Marlborough Maze, Pizza Café and exotic Butterfly House. With plank bridges, ladders, swings, slides and even a sand pit, it is a great place to unwind after a day at the Palace.

Travel back in time to the golden age of the Great Western Railway at [Didcot Railway Centre](#). Savour the sights, sounds and smells of steam as you explore this 25-acre living museum with trains dating from Victorian times to the 1960s.

Near Didcot in Aston Tirrold, [Ridgeway Adventures](#) offers activities for ages 8+, with archery, laser maze heist and more.

SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.
So sitting at your table, with a pencil and your test,
Remember SATs aren't who you are, remember you're the best.