



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
 Lawton Avenue, Carterton
 Oxfordshire OX18 3JY
 Tel: 01993 841240
www.stjosephsprimarycarterton.co.uk



St Joseph's Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15th May 2026

Weekly Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Today we remember Your Ascension into Heaven, when You returned to be with the Father and promised that You would never leave us alone.

Help us to trust in Your presence, even when we cannot see You.

Guide us to live with kindness, courage and love, so that we may be Your light in the world.

As Your disciples looked up in wonder, help us also to look upwards with hope, knowing that You walk beside us every day.

Bless our school, our families and our community, and help us to follow You faithfully in all that we do.

Amen.



Dear Families,

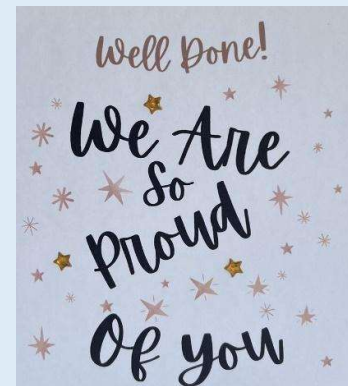
What a fantastic week we have had at St Joseph's! Our wonderful Year 6 pupils approached their SATs with maturity, resilience and positivity, and we could not be prouder of the way they conducted themselves throughout the week. They truly gave their very best and shone beautifully — well done, Year 6!

A huge thank you also goes to our incredible PTFA for organising such a brilliant VE Day celebration.

It was a joyful event that perfectly reflected the warmth and spirit of our school community. As always, I felt immensely proud to be part of such a caring and supportive community. Thank you to everyone who attended and continues to support our excellent school so wholeheartedly.

Next Friday, we will not be holding a celebration assembly as we are celebrating a Whole School Mass in church at 9.30am. All families are warmly welcomed to join us (details below).

Mrs Carder



Lourdes

Miss Hartland

This week we have been enhancing our emotional literacy by reading *The Colour Monster* for Mental Health Awareness Week - I am so proud of how eloquent Lourdes are in talking about their emotions! We have created artwork for each *Colour Monster*, and have practiced new breathing techniques to help us feel calm!

The children have been drawing beautiful portraits of Mary, and role-playing key parts of the Easter story we have learned, such as the disciples gathering to witness Jesus' ascension to Heaven!

As part of our *People Who Help Us* topic, we have been learning more about mechanics & different emergency

Knock

Miss Buckingham

Another busy week in Knock Class. We have been focusing on Phonics, for the Year 1's they have been doing lots of preparation for their phonics screening test that is coming up next term and we have been assessing the Reception children's Phase 2 and 3 phonics sounds and blending to read. I am so impressed with their resilience and positive attitude towards these tests and assessments and am so proud of the results that they are achieving. We have also had the pleasure to welcome a work experience student to our class, and I have been delighted to see the children being so kind and welcoming to her, she has also shared her praise for the kindness and care that the children



vehicles! We have 'fixed' the bikes in the playground, explored tinker trays, and junk-modelled some very impressive vehicles - fantastic teamwork Lourdes!

Maths champion: Cody

Writing champion: Lance

PRAISE award: Poppy

Gospel Values award: Jaythraah

have shown to her. We have explored in more depth, the month of Mary a through daily singing, picture colouring and time to reflect and pray. Additionally, as artists, the children have explored clay and sculpture by making fantastic mini houses with flames upon them to bring our great fire of London learning to life, next week the children will revisit their sculptures and explore paint and colour to add depth to their creations. Overall, a week that has brought me immense pride!

Maths champion: Angel

English champion: Oliver

PRAISE award: Darcy

Gospel Values award: Oliwia

Fatima

Miss Chatfield

This week, we began our Little Red literacy unit. We started by deconstructing the story and exploring the features of a letter before creating our own letters.

In Maths, we learned to recognise coins and notes and practised finding the most efficient way to make different values.

In RE, Year 2 learned about Confirmation and discussed how the Holy Spirit helps us in our lives today. Wednesday was the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima, which we celebrated by creating beautiful portraits of Mary that are now proudly displayed in the cloakroom.

In History, we rebuilt London using junk-modelled houses brought from home. Mr Angus helped us reenact the Great Fire of London by safely setting fire to our model city. We discussed the differences between fire safety in the past and today, and the children ordered the events of the fire on a timeline.

In Science, we learned about carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores, and constructed simple food chains.

Our Year 1 children have also been taking part in lots of phonics interventions and fun activities to prepare for the phonics check in Term 6. They are working incredibly hard on their reading skills.

In Art, the children explored colour mixing while painting their nature-inspired sculptures.

Another very busy and packed week of learning!



Maths champion: Nikole

Writing champion: Sibongile

PRAISE award: Natalia

Gospel Values award: Rupert

Medjugorje

Mrs Hamilton

What a week! Words cannot express the absolute pride myself and the other adults have for the wonderful Year 6s. Their resilience, positive attitude and determination this week has been incredible and I am so proud!

The Year 5s have also made us beam with pride- their adaptability has impressed us all and they have been so flexible joining the Year 3/4s and modelling wonderful behaviour and attitude to their learning.

Thursday and Friday is all about relaxing and enjoying time together, reflecting on our successes and giving our brains a break! We have some Taskmaster Challenges which the children are loving and of course a film.

Thank you to all parents for your support in the lead up to this week, and a big thank you to all staff for their help this week with the tests!



Maths champion: Eloise

Writing champion: Denzil

PRAISE award: All of Year 6

Gospel Values award: All of Year 5



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Walsingham

Mr Dillon Walsingham Class have enjoyed another busy and exciting week of learning. In Geography, we explored the United Kingdom by completing a project about significant landmarks across the UK. The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they researched famous locations and presented their findings beautifully.

On Wednesday, the children attended Mass and represented both their families and the school wonderfully through their respectful behaviour and reverence. On Thursday, we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension and reflected on its importance within the Church.

In Maths, we have been finishing our work on decimals and the children have worked hard to apply their understanding to a range of challenges. We are now preparing Year 4 pupils for the Multiplication Tables Check in June. To support this, children will receive daily times tables homework until the MTC has been completed. Regular practice at home will make a huge difference to their confidence and fluency.

Maths champion: Nico
Writing champion: Jess
PRAISE award: Michael
Gospel Values award: Poppy K

Guadalupe

Mrs Cameron

With May being the Month Of Mary we have been celebrating Mary by making clay flowers, writing the Hail Mary Prayer and discussing with each other how our Mums help and support us as Mary helped and supported her son Jesus.

Charlie-John has been learning about money and can now sequence our money in order, which is amazing. We have also been chatting about the VE day fete that happened last week. All the children said they had loads of fun and were especially impressed that veterans from the war attended.

Maths champion: Charlie-John
Writing champion: Poppy-Jo
PRAISE award: Alfie
Gospel Values: Nico

Attendance

Knock – 85%
Fatima – 94%
Walsingham – 96%
Medjugorje – 99%
Lourdes – 98%



Three cheers for:

The Year 6s! We are so proud of you!



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.
- 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

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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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.

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.

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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VE DAY!





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What's on in Oxfordshire.. and a little further afield?

BRIZE NORTON FAMILIES DAY
 Friday 29th May 1100-1800
Families Flying - Funfair - Attractions
Red Arrows, BBMF & Typhoon Flypasts
Food - Bar - Live Music

Sign up now on Teams!!!

Open Farm Sunday
 Abingdon & Witney College
Common Leys Farm
OPEN FARM SUNDAY
Sunday 7th June
 11:00am - 3:00pm
KIDS UNDER 3 FREE*
Entry £3 per person Sat Nav: OX29 9UU
Common Leys Farm | Hailey | Witney

Make it simple - pay by cash

Hot food and drinks available
Indoor and outdoor activities:
Meet the Animals | Plant sale | Pony rides
Face Painting | Vintage Tractors | Sheep shearing
 *Children under 3 free with a paying adult



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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.