



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 22nd May 2026

Weekly Prayer

Loving God,

We ask Your blessing upon all of our families during this half term break.

May their homes be filled with joy, peace and love.

Keep everyone safe in their travels, adventures and time together, and grant rest to all who are tired.

Thank You for the many successes and happy memories of this half term.

We are proud of all our children and thankful for the strength of our community.

As we look ahead to the final term of the school year, fill us with hope, determination and excitement for all that is still to come.

Help us to continue to grow in kindness, faith and wisdom, always walking together in Your love.

Amen.



Dear Families,

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, we have so much to be thankful for and incredibly proud of as a school community. Our children continue to amaze us with their kindness, resilience and enthusiasm, and we are so grateful for the ongoing support of our wonderful families and staff.

We are already looking forward to an exciting summer term ahead, filled with Sports Day, school trips, residentials, outdoor adventures and hopefully many sunny days together!

Wishing all of our families a peaceful, restful and happy half term break spent with those you love most.

We look forward to welcoming you all back for the final term of the school year.

Mrs Carder



Lourdes

Miss Hartland

I am so incredibly proud of Lourdes' behaviour during our first Mass with the whole school at St Joseph's! It was lovely to be a part of our community, and to see Lourdes' R.E.

learning in practice - well done Lourdes!

We have finished up our 'People Who Help Us' topic with firefighters! We have explored colour-mixing to make fiery paintings, built fire-engines out of playdoh, and even rescued our class pets from the trees in the playground with some firefighter role-play! Next term we will be focusing on fairytales, so find your favourite stories to share when we come back to school!

I hope you have wonderful week, ready for our final term together

Knock

Miss Buckingham

The last week of term! We have welcomed Mrs Quinn to teach us a few times this week, and I am so happy to share that the children have impressed her by showing off their Pentecost knowledge and illustrating the Pentecost key words. We also enjoyed singing and dancing along to a Pentecost song, "Holy Spirit Fire".

In Phonics, our Year 1's have been applying and deepening their knowledge of digraphs by adding sound buttons to words to aid reading. Reception children have continued their Phase 4 learning and have been learning to read longer words by "splitting them in half", which is a great strategy to segment and blend.

We have continued celebrating Mary, by drawing pictures of her, doing daily prayer and singing.



Maths champion: Spencer
Writing champion: Willow
PRAISE award: Beatrix
Gospel Values award: Jayden

We look forward to our last day of term, when we will take part in the Mary procession, paint our fire of London house sculptures and enjoy pizza at the Forest school!

Maths champion: Grayson
English champion: Maisie
PRAISE award: Stanley
Gospel Values award: Sahar

Fatima
Miss Chatfield

Medjugorje
Mrs Hamilton

We have had a lovely last week of term! We finished off our Pentecost unit by reflecting on Confirmation and completing our end-of-unit markers.

Another wonderful week to finish off a very tiring but inspiring term- the children have absolutely smashed their SATs this term and we are all so proud.

In Maths, the children have been learning about time. They practised counting in 5s to work out how many minutes past the hour it was, using straight number lines 1-12 and 5-60 before drawing wrapped number lines to support their understanding of clock faces. They also explored quarter past, quarter to and half past.

In English we have started writing lots of different pieces so we can practice all the skills we have developed. We have written diary entries, newspaper reports and next term we will complete some writing based on the video "Alma"- do have a look over half term, it's fantastic!

In Literacy, the children have continued learning how to write a recount letter as part of our Little Red unit. They have been using expanded noun phrases, rhetorical questions and subordinating conjunctions in their writing. We have done all the preparation and now look forward to writing their own letters after half term.

In Maths we are focussing on arithmetic and will continue with our daily quick maths tasks to prepare the children for the next academic year.

For Science, we enjoyed a Forest School session in the wild area. The children conducted an investigation to explore which habitats woodlice prefer and, of course, we took advantage of the opportunity by toasting marshmallows too! This also gave us a wonderful opportunity to discuss fire safety in 1666 compared to today as part of our Great Fire of London history unit.

In RE we have looked at Pentecost and the children have produced some amazing pieces of art with the younger children- so wonderful watching whole school projects and seeing our older children nurture the little ones.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a teddy bear picnic provided by the Food Angels as a reward for raising the most money as a class on VE Day. It was a fantastic day! We also attended Mass on Wednesday, where we welcomed many parents who joined us. The children behaved beautifully and represented the class wonderfully.

Next term has crept up so silently- for some it will be the last one here with us at St Joseph's and I plan to fill it full of fun and happy memories!

Maths champion: Kaitlin
Writing champion: Oscar
PRAISE award: Lily
Gospel Values award: Lavinia





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Have the best half term and enjoy lots of family time in the beautiful weather!



Maths champion: Chael
Writing champion: Tommy
PRAISE award: Mya
Gospel Values award: Dexter

Walsingham

Mr Dillon

This week in RE, Walsingham Class completed our learning on Pentecost. The children have enjoyed exploring the story of the Holy Spirit and understanding why Pentecost is such an important celebration in the Church.

On Friday morning, we were also very fortunate to attend Mass with Fr Paul for the Crowning of Our Lady. During this special celebration in the month of May, which is dedicated to Mary, the children reflected prayerfully and took part beautifully in honouring Our Lady.

In English, we have continued our Robin Hood writing unit. The children have been developing their descriptive writing by using expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials to make their sentences more detailed and engaging. They have produced some fantastic adventurous writing inspired by Sherwood Forest and the adventures of Robin Hood.

In Maths, we have begun learning about time. The children have been practising reading clocks, understanding durations and solving time problems. Alongside this, we have continued practising our Times Tables regularly in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC).

When we return after the holidays, our Year 4 children will complete the MTC. Every child will bring home a times tables pack to practise over the break. It is important that the children are able to answer multiplication questions within 6 seconds. Regular short bursts of practice at home will make a huge difference. It would also be very beneficial for Year 3 children to begin learning and recalling their times tables now in preparation for next year.

Thank you for your continued support this half term. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term in Walsingham Class.

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

Guadalupe

Mrs Cameron

A successful week for our Guadalupe children. They have been extremely kind in welcoming the children from Lourdes class to join us for National Bee Day which was on Wednesday, we enjoyed honey on toast and the older children supported the little ones to do some Bee activities.

Some of Guadalupe children have tried really hard to complete class work supplied by their class teacher, which has been great to see. We love any achievements! I'm sure we have a budding gardener on our hands too, as Poppy has replanted our broad bean plants outside to give them a good chance to grow over half term.

Maths champion: Charlie-John
Writing champion: Charlie-John
PRAISE award: Lucas
Gospel Values; Poppy Jo



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Miss Woods who has passed her apprenticeship with **DISTINCTION** and is now an official Teaching Assistant! Hooray!!

We are so proud of you, and so lucky to have you as part of our team.

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>

Crowning Our Lady

We had the most beautiful and prayerful time walking together to church, carrying the statue of Our Lady, lovingly adorned with the beautiful flowers brought in by our families. It was a truly special moment of faith and community. Following a wonderful end-of-term Mass shared with our whole school community, Angel had the honour of crowning the statue of Mary. It was a joyful and reverent celebration, filled with love, reflection and gratitude as we gathered together in this special month of May, dedicated to Our Lady.



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.



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Whole School Mass and the Crowning of Mary





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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.

UPDATED - Summer Term Clubs

**St Joseph's
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
FITNESS CLUB with Mrs Hamilton & Mrs Carder	BOARD GAMES with Mr Dillon	GARDENING with Mrs Lyon	ART CLUB with Mrs Hamilton	MOVIE CLUB with Mrs Carder
AROUND THE WORLD CLUB with Mr Morton	MINDFULNESS with Miss Buckingham	TEA TIME CLUB with Mrs Wickens & Mrs Cameron	FASHION CLUB with Miss Chatfield	LONGER FRIDAY FUN!



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**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

**CARTERTON
FLOWER & PRODUCE
SHOW**

**VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, BAKING,
CRAFTS, PHOTOGRAPHY,
CHILDREN'S CLASSES**

Carterton WI Hall
SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST

BRISTOL AQUARIUM

Mermaids & Monsters

MONSTER HUNTERS WANTED!
MEET A MERMAID!
HANDS ON ACTIVITIES!
BOOK NOW!

23rd - 31st May

HEADINGTON FESTIVAL
30-31 MAY 2026

SATURDAY 30 MAY
EXTENDED MARKET LONDON ROAD
MARKET STALLS - FOOD
9AM - 2PM

OPEN AIR CINEMA
BURY KNOWLE PARK
FILM SCREENINGS AT 4PM & 7.30PM
BAR - FOOD

SUNDAY 31 MAY
FESTIVAL AT BURY KNOWLE PARK
1PM - 5PM

FARM ANIMALS - BALLOON MODELLER
GO-KARTS - STALLS - RAFFLE - SPORTS
BANDS - MUSIC - BAKING
INFLATABLES - JEBB THE JESTER
FOOD - TEA - CAKE - BAR

FREE ENTRY WWW.HEADINGTONACTION.ORG/FESTIVAL @HEADINGTONFEST

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **HEADINGTON ACTION** **ROUND TABLE**



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WILTSHIRE CHARITY 4x4 AND OVERLAND SHOW

23RD-24TH MAY 2026

LITTLE SMITHCOTT FARM
IDOVER LANE
DAUNTSEY SN15 4JL

- 4x4 ARENA OFF ROAD TRACK
- PASSENGER RIDES IN A CHALLENGE
- TRUCK • DOG SHOW
- TRADE TENTS
- CRAFT TENT
- BEER TENT
- NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT
- FOOD VENDORS • RAFFLE

TICKET PRICES SUGGESTED DONATIONS
OVER 18's £5 | CHILDREN 12-18 £1 | CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

PROCEEDS TO CHARITY
Wiltshirecharity4x4overland@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook

Carterton COMMUNITY MARKET

MARIGOLD SQUARE - SHILTON PARK

LAST SAT OF EVERY MONTH!
10 AM - 2 PM

PLUS INDOOR CRAFT FAIRS
OVER 40 STALLS
ON SELECTED DATES

Local Produce
Crafts & More!

CARTERTON ARTS WEEK

CRAFTERS & MAKERS MARKET

FREE ENTRY

SATURDAY
23RD MAY
10AM - 2PM

CARTERTON TOWN HALL & MARKET SQUARE (OX18 3JL)

SUPPORT LOTS OF AMAZING SMALL & LOCAL BUSINESSES!
PLUS 'HAVE A GO' CRAFTING ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

If you are a crafter or maker and you are interested in having a stall please email: CartertonArtsWeek@gmail.com for more info. (Pitches are £5, outside pitches and tables inside the town hall are available. You must have your own public liability insurance).

KIDS UNDER 5 GO FREE

FAM FEST LIVE

CHELTENHAM. IT'S ALMOST TIME

YOUR FAMILY FESTIVAL DAY OUT IS NEARLY HERE

GET READY FOR

TRIBUTE ACTS • INFLATABLE THEME PARK • STUNT SHOW
ZORB BALLS • NERF WARS • FACE PAINTING • CHARACTERS
FOAM PARTY • KIDS YOGA • FIRE ENGINES • KIDS DISCO
& SO MUCH MORE

SUNDAY 16TH JULY | CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE. GL50 4SH

GET TICKETS NOW



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WILD WANDER

Wednesday 27th May 10 – 12
Willow Meadows, Carterton, OX18 1PF

This May half-term, come to our **FREE** Wild Wander and see what we can find at Willow Meadows.

Willow Meadows is home to a huge variety of different flowering plants, butterflies and birds.

Book your space online now. 

FREE EVENT!

Wild Oxfordshire | OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL | WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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.