



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 17th July 2026

Weekly Prayer

As we come to the end of another school year, we pause with grateful hearts to thank You for every lesson learned, every friendship made, every challenge overcome, and every blessing received.

Like St Joseph, help us to be faithful in the small things, courageous when life feels uncertain, and always willing to trust in Your loving plan. May we carry his quiet strength, kindness, patience, and humility wherever we go.

Thank You for our teachers, staff, families, governors, parish, and everyone who has helped our school community to grow in faith, love, and knowledge this year. Bless those who have cared for us, encouraged us, and inspired us to become the people You are calling us to be.

We pray especially for our Year 6 pupils as they begin a new chapter. Walk beside them as St Joseph walked faithfully beside Jesus. Give them confidence when they feel nervous, wisdom when they make choices, and hope for all that lies ahead. May they always remember that they are deeply loved by You.

As the summer begins, keep us safe in Your care. Fill our hearts with joy, our homes with peace, and our days with opportunities to show kindness and compassion to others.

St Joseph, protector of families, faithful servant, and patron of our school,
pray for us.

May Almighty God bless us all,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Dear families –

As another school year draws to a close, I have found myself reflecting with enormous pride on everything we have achieved together as a school community. It has been a year filled with challenge, growth, laughter, faith and remarkable success.

Our children have continued to amaze us every single day. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, during performances, in worship or through acts of kindness, they have shown resilience, compassion, curiosity and determination. They have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and have reminded us all what makes St Joseph's such a special place.



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Academically, we have continued to go from strength to strength. Our curriculum has evolved significantly, our classrooms have become increasingly engaging and inclusive, and our pupils have risen to every challenge presented to them. We are incredibly proud of the progress made by every child, celebrating not only outcomes but also the confidence, perseverance and love of learning that underpin them.

Our Catholic faith has remained at the heart of everything we do. Together we have celebrated Masses, led beautiful prayer and liturgy, supported charities, cared for our local community and sought to live out the values of St Joseph through faithful service to others. Watching our children grow not only academically but spiritually has been one of the greatest privileges of the year.

There have been so many highlights that it would be impossible to mention them all. Sports Day demonstrated incredible teamwork and sportsmanship. Our Year 5 and 6 residential to Yenworthy was an unforgettable adventure filled with courage and friendship. Puzzlewood brought such magic to our youngest learners! The Falcons jump wowed us all! Our performances, educational visits, fundraising events, parish celebrations and countless everyday classroom moments have created memories that will stay with us for years to come.

To our wonderful Year 6 pupils, thank you for the joy you have brought to St Joseph's. You leave us as confident, compassionate and capable young people, ready to embrace the next chapter of your journey. We pray that you continue to let your light shine brightly wherever life takes you. Remember that you will always remain part of the St Joseph's family.

Finally, thank you to our incredible staff, governors, parish, volunteers and, of course, our families. Your encouragement, trust and unwavering support make everything we do possible. St Joseph's is far more than a school; it is a community built upon faith, love and shared purpose.

As we head into the summer holidays, I wish every family a safe, restful and joyful break filled with precious time together. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September as we begin another exciting chapter in the life of our wonderful school.

May God bless you all, and thank you for a truly memorable year.

Mrs Carder





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Lourdes – soon to be Mustard Seeds!

Miss Hartland

We have had so much fun celebrating our final week of school, and saying goodbye to our older classmates as they began their transition into reception! I am incredibly grateful to have been able to work with such a wonderful group of nursery children who bring such positivity & a love of learning into school everyday!

We shared a beautiful Mass together on Wednesday- we are all very proud of Lourdes, and are excited to see them continue on their St Joseph's journey!

Future Palms - we will miss you, good luck on your reception adventures!

Future Mustard Seeds - enjoy your Summers, I look forward to hearing all about them in September!

Knock - soon to be Palms!

Miss Buckingham

What a wonderful way to end an incredible year together!

This week, we have enjoyed a fantastic final week in Knock Class, filled with excitement, creativity and happy memories. The children embraced their transition day with great enthusiasm, spending time with their new teachers and beginning to look forward to the adventures that await them in September.

We have also created some truly beautiful artwork ready to brighten our new classrooms. Whether inspired by **Picasso** for our new **Palms** class or **Van Gogh** for our new **Vines** class, the children's creativity and care have shone through in every masterpiece.

Looking back over the year, I could not be prouder of everything the children have achieved. The academic progress they have made has been exceptional, but just as importantly, their emotional growth, confidence, resilience and kindness towards one another have been truly outstanding. It has been a privilege to watch each child grow into the wonderful individual they are today.

Thank you to all of our families for your unwavering support throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with you.

I wish you all a restful, happy and fun-filled summer. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we return in September!

Fatima- soon to be Vines!

Miss Chatfield

What a fantastic final week we've had!

We started the week with Transition Day. Some of our Year 2 children enjoyed spending the day in Mr Dillon's class, while the rest of Year 2 and our Year 1 children stayed with me as we settled into our new classroom. It was lovely to see everyone embracing the change with such enthusiasm and confidence. Olive Class produced some beautiful river paintings, while Vine Class created stunning sunflower artwork inspired by van Gogh. The children's artistic talents have been wonderful to see.

In Maths, we continued our learning on measurement, exploring volume, capacity and temperature through a range of practical activities. In Literacy, the children wrote their own stories set in Puzzlewood before creating their own twisted retellings of *Little Red Riding Hood*.

As the year comes to an end, it is bittersweet to say goodbye to some of our Year 3 children. It has been a privilege to teach them over the past three years, and I wish them every

Medjugorje- soon to be Oaks!

Mrs Hamilton

What a year. I have been so lucky to spend the last academic year with the most amazing children making memories, smashing targets, laughing, crying (!)... it has been the biggest privilege moving through this year with such wonderful humans.

My Year 5s are now ready to move up to the helm and lead the way next year and I am so incredibly proud of all their progress. They have transformed into the most mature, kind and compassionate group of children and they make me proud daily.

And Year 6... what can I say. I'm sure today will be full of hugs, tears, laughter and reminiscing. I will be soaking up every last second, and I don't need to say it but I will...



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success and happiness as they move on to their new class. I can't wait to welcome my wonderful Vine Class back in September and begin another exciting year together. Wishing all of our families a fantastic, relaxing summer holiday. Thank you for all of your support throughout the year—we hope you have a wonderful break!

We will miss you SO much.

Walsingham – soon to be Olives!

Mr Dillon

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to say how incredibly proud I am of every child in Walsingham Class. It has been a fantastic final week filled with celebration, reflection and excitement for the journey ahead.

This week, we gathered together for our whole school Mass, giving thanks for the many achievements and happy memories we have shared throughout the year. The children showed great reverence and represented our class beautifully.

We also enjoyed spending time together reflecting on all that we have learned this year. The children have thought about the progress they have made, the challenges they have overcome and the many successes they should be proud of. It has been wonderful to celebrate their individual achievements and recognise how much they have grown in confidence, maturity and independence.

As part of our transition activities, the children have spent time getting to know their new classrooms and teachers. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents for your continued support throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to the children for making this such a memorable year. It has been an absolute privilege to teach Walsingham Class. I wish every one of them a happy, restful and safe summer holiday

Guadalupe – soon to be Meadows!

Mrs Cameron

Thank you to the wonderful children who have made Guadalupe an adventure. Some days we don't know how we are going to feel or how we are going to approach our tasks, but they have all tried really hard to focus, be positive and show self control.

This week we attended the whole school leavers Mass in Church. This was a really touching service which made us all think about how fortunate we are to be part of St Joseph's School and parish. The behaviour from our children was fantastic as was the singing!

From September we will be called Meadows, we look forward to welcoming everyone back. In the meantime have a wonderful summer break. Look after yourselves and each other.

Our new class names!

As part of our continued journey as a Catholic school, we are delighted to introduce our new class names for the coming academic year. Each name has been carefully chosen to reflect our faith, our school vision and the values we hope to nurture in every child at St Joseph's.

Our inspiration comes from the trees and plants that are mentioned throughout Scripture. These biblical symbols speak of faith, growth, resilience, hope and God's abundant love. They also hold a special significance for our school, as they honour **St Joseph**, our patron saint. As a carpenter, St Joseph worked with wood every day, and these names provide a beautiful connection to his vocation of building, nurturing and creating. Just



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as St Joseph faithfully cared for Jesus, we strive to nurture every child, helping them to grow strong in faith, character and knowledge.

Rather than simply identifying year groups, our class names remind us that every child is growing in God's love and has a unique part to play within our school community.

🌱 **Mustard Seeds** reminds us that even the smallest seed can grow into something extraordinary (Matthew 13:31–32). Like our youngest children, every journey begins with small steps which, with love and care, flourish into something wonderful.

🌿 **Palms** symbolise welcome, hope and new beginnings. They remind us to greet others with kindness and to celebrate the unique gifts each person brings to our school family.

🍇 **Vines** are inspired by Jesus' words: *"I am the vine; you are the branches"* (John 15:5). They remind us that when we remain rooted in Christ and support one another, we bear much fruit together.

🫒 **Olives** represent peace, wisdom and resilience. Throughout the Bible, the olive tree is a symbol of hope, endurance and God's covenant, encouraging us to persevere through challenges with faith and courage.

🌳 **Oaks** symbolise strength, steadfastness and courage. As our oldest pupils prepare for the next stage of their journey, we hope they will stand tall in their faith, lead with humility and compassion, and use their gifts in service of others.

🌼 **Meadows** reflects a place of peace, nurture and growth. Our Enhanced Pathway provides a calm, supportive environment where every child is valued, understood and empowered to flourish at their own pace while remaining an integral part of our St Joseph's family.

Together, these names tell the story of growth, belonging and faith. They remind us that, just like the trees and plants of Scripture, every child is deeply rooted in God's love. With the guidance of St Joseph and the support of our school community, we pray that each child will continue to grow into the person God has created them to be.



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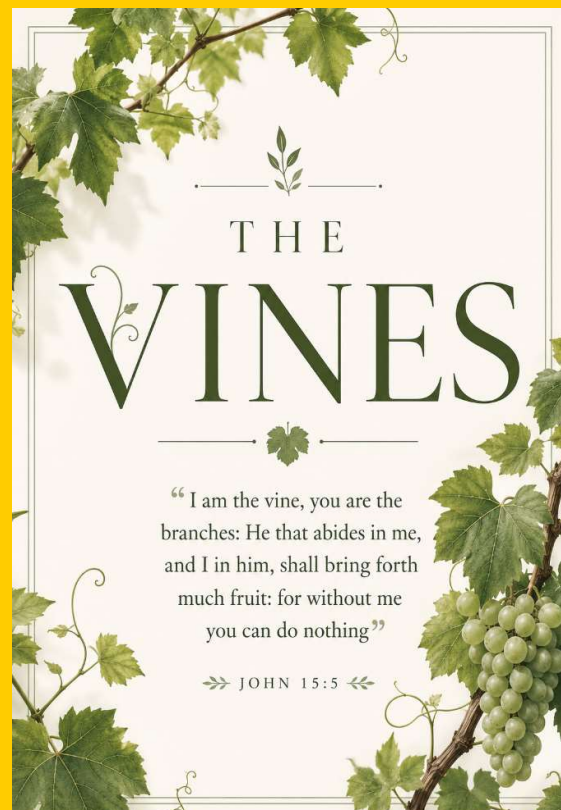
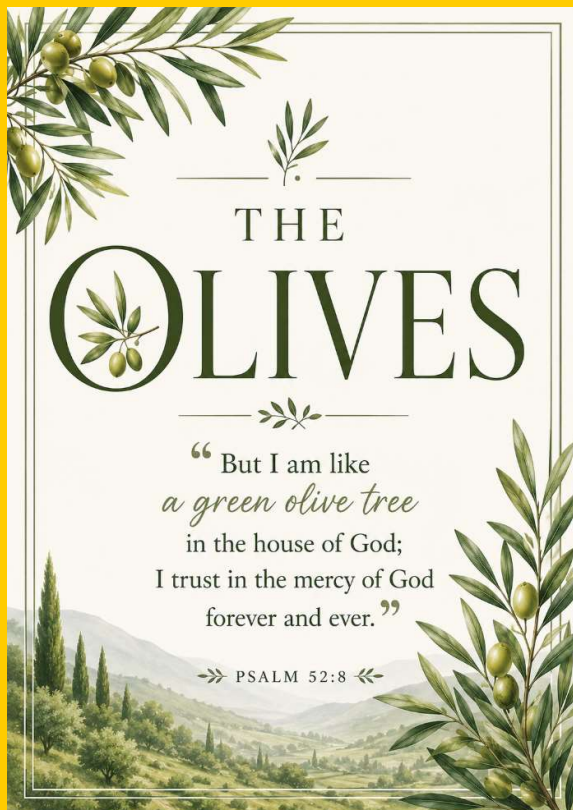
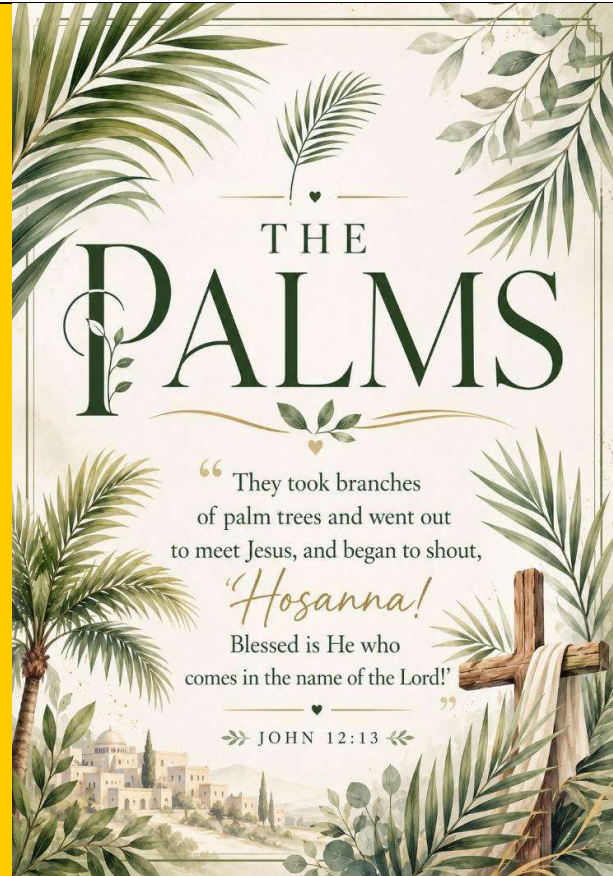
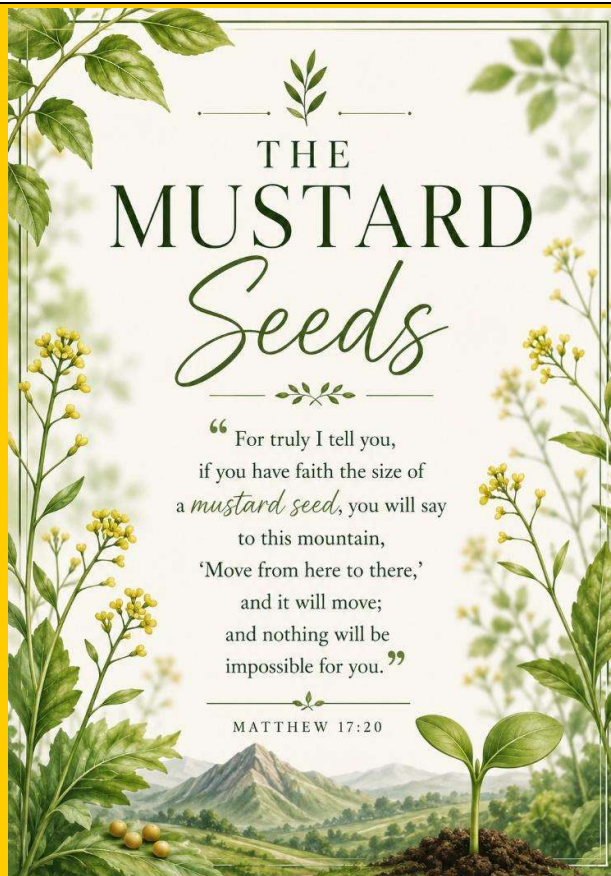
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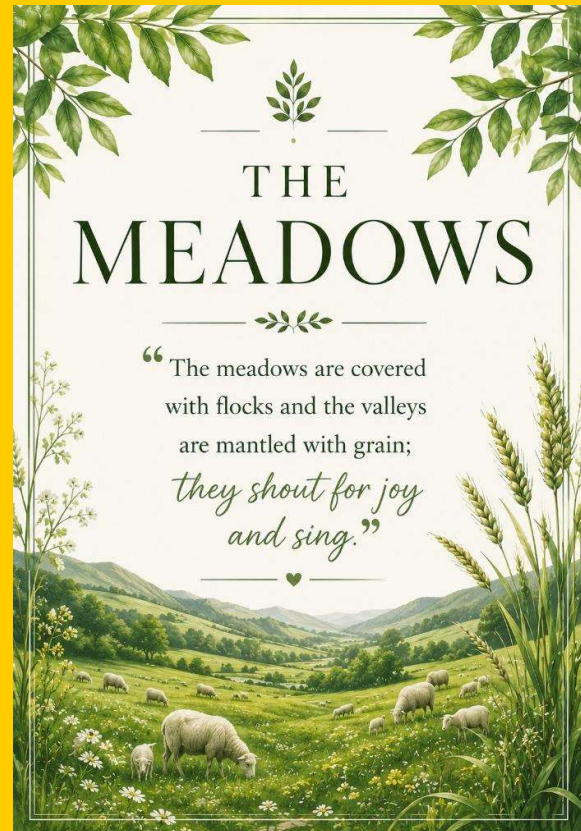
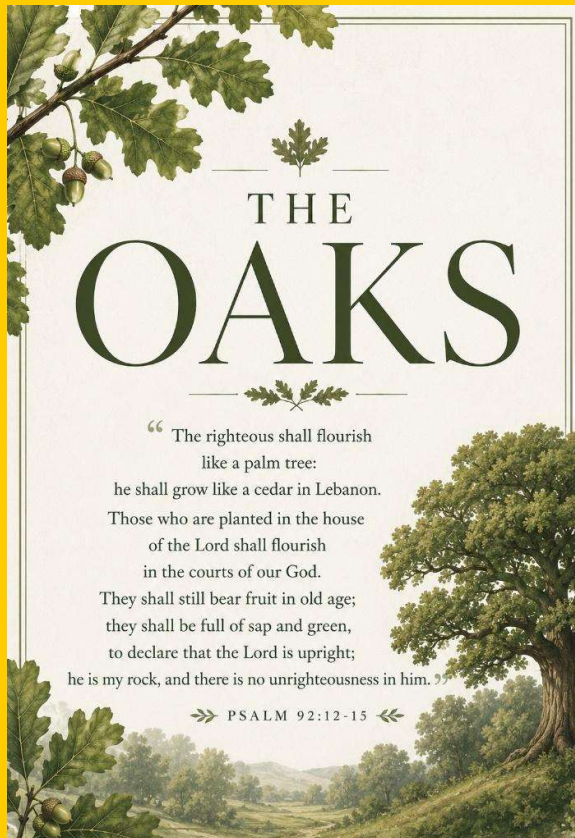
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Family day out in Oxfordshire

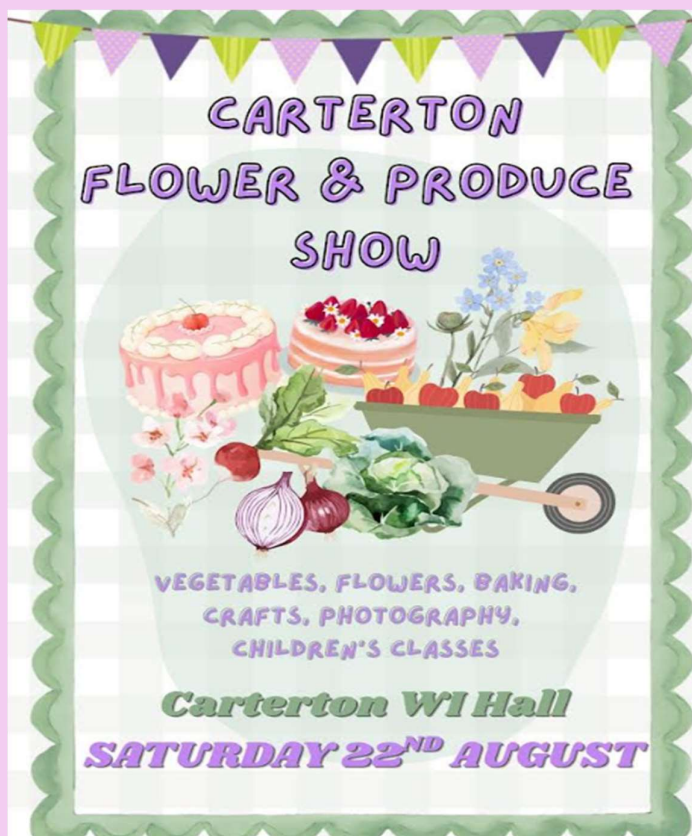
Take your child to [Crocodiles of the World](#) where you can see different crocodile species and learn all about them – you can even become a keeper for a day!

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.





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FOOTY KIDS

INFLATABLE FOOTBALL FUN

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

SUMMER HOLIDAYS! FOR AGES 4-12

Ducklington Sports Club, Aston Road, Ducklington, OX29 7US

Dates: Weds 22nd - Fri 24th Jul, Mon 27th - Thu 30th Jul

Tue 4th - Fri 7th Aug, Mon 10th - Thu 13th Aug,

Tue 18th - Fri 21st Aug, Mon 24th - Thu 27th Aug

Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm (drop off as early as 9am, pick up to 3pm)

Cost: £20/day 15% discount for bookings made 1 week prior start date

Daily Tournaments • Fun Games • Themed Days
Plenty of Fun • Lots of Smiles

All of our programmes are based around having lots of fun. No lines, drills or running around cones, instead games where all kids have a ball and are learning basic skills of football whilst having big smiles on their faces. Mini tournaments everyday. Coaches are qualified and DBS checked and are big kids at heart!



To register your child, please go to www.enrolmy.com/footy-kids



www.footykids.org



tomspeers@footykids.org



Footykids



or call and speak to Tom on 07940 070 082



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READ to the BEAT

Carterton Library: Summer Events Calendar

Fun with Fossils with the Oxford University Museum
of Natural History

Friday 31st July at 11am to 12pm

Travels with the Sweet Zombie Horse

Monday 3rd August at 2pm to 3pm

Abingdon & District Model Railway Display

Friday 7th and Saturday 8th

Francesca Gibbons Author Visit

Monday 10th August at 11am to 12pm*

Read to the Beat: Creative Writing Workshop with
Juli Frances Taylor

Thursday 13th August at 10:30am to 11:30am*

Witney Model & Collectors Club

Saturday 22nd August at 9:30am to 12pm

Lego Robots with RAF STEM Ambassadors

Tuesday 25th August at 10am to 12pm*

***Please note these sessions require booking. Call
01865 815125 or pop in to book.**



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The
Library
Oxfordshire



READ
to the
BEAT



...with a **FREE** children's reading challenge
at your local Oxfordshire library!

4 July to 5 September 2026

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: **Read to the Beat**
celebrates the joy of reading with a theme inspired by
music. Children can discover how books spark creativity
and imagination.



**Finish the challenge and get
your own medal and certificate!**

**Look out for fantastic new
books and activities at your
library!**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



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