



**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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026

## Weekly Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for bringing our St Joseph's family back together.

Thank you for new beginnings, new opportunities and the people who make our school special.

Help us to begin this year with kind hearts, helping hands and hopeful minds.

Give us courage when things feel difficult, patience when we make mistakes, and joy as we learn and grow together.

Following the example of St Joseph, help us to serve one another with love and to live out our mission each day:

**Fidelis in Servitio** – Faithful in Service.

Bless our children, staff and families, and guide us through the year ahead.

St Joseph, pray for us.

Amen.

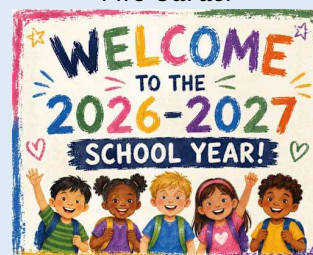


Dear Families,

What a wonderful first (albeit very short!) week back we have had at St Joseph's. We have been incredibly proud of the way our children have returned to school: full of enthusiasm, ready to learn and embracing their new classes, teachers and routines with such positivity. Despite a period of significant change, including the news that Mr Morton will not be returning to St Joseph's, there is a real sense of calm, purpose and happiness throughout our school. We feel **steady, strong and incredibly optimistic about the year ahead**. Our classrooms are already buzzing with purposeful learning, our curriculum continues to be rich and ambitious, and we are excited about the many opportunities for enrichment, creativity, sport, music and wider experiences that we have planned for our children this year.

Above all, St Joseph's continues to feel like what it has always been: a close, caring and ambitious school community where our children are at the heart of everything we do. We could not be prouder of the start they have made — here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Mrs Carder



## Mustard Seeds

*Miss Hartland*

Welcome to all my new little Mustard Seeds - you have been amazing this first week! It has been lovely to already see lots of new friendships forming, and routines being built.

Next week we will be beginning our 'Rhyme Time' which will support our future phonics learning - our first rhyme is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, *Once I Caught A Fish Alive!*

## Palms

*Miss Buckingham*

What a lovely fresh start we are having in Palms Class.

We have been loving welcoming each other back, reigniting friendships and meeting new friends too. We have explored our new classroom, finding our new carpet spots, table groups and where all of the busy learning areas are.

The children have begun thinking about God's Kingdom and what this looks like to them.



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I hope you have enjoyed your first week as part of the St Joseph's family, and I look forward to seeing you all again next week as we focus on naming & describing people who are familiar to us!

**Little  
Wandle  
Foundations**



### 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Once I Caught a Fish Alive

One, two, three, four, five,  
Once I caught a fish alive.  
Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,  
Then I let it go again.

Why did you let it go?  
Because it bit my finger so.  
Which finger did it bite?  
This little finger on the right.



We have also drawn our families and begun speaking about who is in our family.

I am so pleased with all of the children and their positive start at school this week. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and restful weekend before we see each other all again on Monday!



### Vines

*Miss Chatfield*

Welcome back to a new school year and to Vines Class! 🌱

We have had a lovely first week settling into our new classroom and getting to know one another. We have been learning where everything belongs, becoming familiar with our classroom routines, and beginning to build a happy, positive class community.

We are looking forward to next week, when we will begin our curriculum in full swing and get stuck into lots of exciting learning!

I am really looking forward to a fantastic year together and seeing all that the children achieve.

### Oaks

*Mrs Hamilton*

And we're back! I have been so excited to start this term and the children have already blown me away. We have already established our routines and expectations, and the children are showing incredibly positive mindsets. I am so lucky to have them all in my class!

This week we made sure we all knew how our days will look, how our classroom will work and where everything we need to be successful is in our learning spaces.

We have also spent time considering something new- the Learning Pit- into where we often fall when faced with new challenges. I set them a really tough challenge today to balance a water bottle between desks on a piece of paper and they employed our values (Positivity, Resilience, Adaptability, Independence, Self-Control and Empathy) which resulted in every single child moving from the "I can't" mentality, to the "I can't YET" and then eventually to the "I DID!" It was a really fun and insightful challenge and watching the teamwork and resilience within them all was wonderful!



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### Olives

*Mr Dillon*

What a wonderful first week we have had in Olives Class! Our new Year 3 and Year 4 children have settled brilliantly into their new routines and have made a fantastic start to the academic year. It has been lovely to see new friendships developing, children helping one another and everyone beginning to feel part of our Olives Class family.

### Meadows

*Mrs Cameron*

We are very proud of the children coming back to school with such enthusiasm, excitement and positivity. They are also looking so smart in their uniforms. Meadows class will be a place children can come to spend time with myself and Mrs Bright, working on lots of different skills but having fun at the same time.



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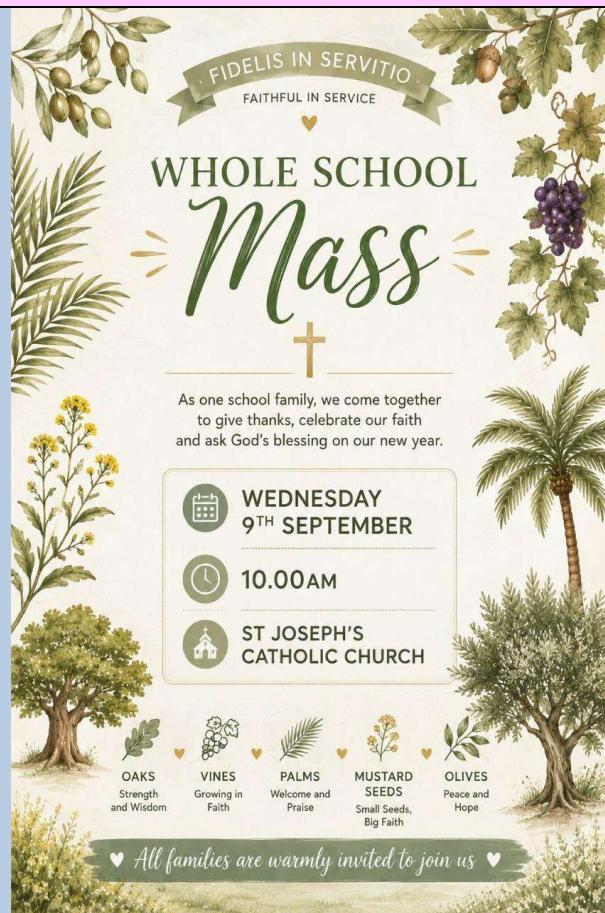
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This week, we have spent lots of time thinking about having a positive and growth mindset. We have talked about how learning is not always easy and that sometimes the things we find most challenging are the things that help our brains to grow the most.

The children explored the idea of The Learning Pit. We discussed how we might sometimes feel stuck, confused or frustrated when we are learning something new. Rather than giving up, we identified strategies that can help us to climb out of the Learning Pit. These included having another go, asking for help, talking to a friend, trying a different strategy, learning from our mistakes and remembering the power of the word "yet"!

We are very much looking forward to spending time with your children.

Have a lovely weekend.



### ✿ Our New Friday Celebration Assemblies ✿

Our Friday assemblies are looking a little different this year! Each week, one class will have the opportunity to share and celebrate their learning with the rest of the school and their families. From wonderful writing and maths to music, art, RE and science – anything goes!

Most importantly, we want our children to do the talking. Developing oracy, confidence and public speaking is an important priority for us, and these assemblies will give children regular opportunities to proudly explain and showcase their learning.

Families of the presenting class are warmly invited to join us. Our usual weekly awards will continue, with families contacted separately if their child is receiving an award.

#### Celebration Assembly Timetable

**5th September – All Classes**

**11th September – Oaks**

**18th September – Olives**

**25th September – Vines**

**2nd October – Palms**

**9th October – Mustard Seeds**

**16th October – Meadows**

We can't wait to welcome you in and celebrate the fantastic learning happening across St Joseph's!

#### Important Dates:

**Macmillan Coffee Morning : Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.45am**

**Prepare to be Proud : Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm**

#### Dates for School Masses on Wednesdays 10am

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



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### Attendance

**Mustard Seeds: 100%**

**Palms: 98%**

**Vines: 87%**

**Olives: 100%**

**Oaks: 94%**

### ✿ Staff Celebrations! ✿

We are incredibly proud of our talented and dedicated staff team at St Joseph's, and we would particularly like to celebrate some fantastic achievements from this year!

✿ **Mrs Cook** – for achieving her Early Educator qualification with Distinction!

✿ **Miss Wood** – for completing her Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship with Distinction!

✿ **Miss Buckingham** – for successfully completing her Early Career Teacher qualification!

✿ **Miss Chatfield** – for achieving her National Professional Qualification in Leading Primary Mathematics!

✿ **Mrs Wickens** – for successfully completing her National Award for SEND!

✿ **WOW!** ✿

A huge congratulations to you all. These achievements reflect an enormous amount of hard work, commitment and dedication alongside your roles in school.

We are incredibly lucky to have such knowledgeable and committed professionals as part of our St Joseph's family — and, most importantly, our children benefit every day from your expertise, enthusiasm and continued professional development.

**Well done, ladies — we are so proud of you!**

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.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Whole School**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Oaks**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Olives**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Oaks**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Olives**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Oaks**

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Olives**



### School Uniform

A short reminder that this is a transition period for our uniform change; whilst we are pleased that many families have chosen to start the new year in the renewed uniform, we are not expecting all to do so.

### September 2026

From the beginning of the Autumn Term 2026, we expect **all new uniform purchases** to be in line with the new uniform policy.

We appreciate that many families may already have existing items that are still in good condition. Therefore, during the 2026–2027 academic year, children may continue to wear existing uniform items alongside the new uniform while these are gradually replaced.

However, we do expect to see a **significant majority of children wearing the new uniform from September**, particularly where families are purchasing replacement items over the summer.



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### September 2027

Throughout the 2026–2027 academic year, we ask that any uniform items needing to be replaced are replaced with the new uniform specification.

### September 2028

From **September 2028**, the transition period will end and **all children will be expected to wear the new school uniform in full**. At this point, the new uniform policy will become fully established and all aspects of the uniform will be expected without exception.

Thank you for working with us to ensure that every child looks smart, feels proud and represents St Joseph's with confidence.

|        | Boys                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Girls                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Winter |     <p>           All -<br/>           Grey school trousers<br/>           Grey school jumper<br/>           Black socks<br/>           Black shoes<br/>           KS2 – White Long-sleeved shirt and tie<br/>           EYFS and KS1 – polo shirt         </p> |     <p>           All -<br/>           Grey school trousers or skirt<br/>           Grey school jumper<br/>           Black socks or tights<br/>           Black shoes<br/>           KS2 – White Long-sleeved shirt and tie<br/>           EYFS and KS1 – polo shirt         </p> |



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**St Joseph's**  
**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS!**

| MONDAY                                                      | TUESDAY                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Choir</b><br>KS2<br>with Miss Chatfield                  | <b>Art</b><br>with Mr Dillon                               | <b>Teatime CLUB</b><br>with Mrs Cameron and Mrs Wickens |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br><b>TABLE TENNIS</b><br>with Mrs Hamilton | <b>FRIDAY</b><br><b>GYMNASTICS</b><br>with Miss Buckingham | <b>COME, JOIN IN, HAVE FUN!</b>                         |

**PLACES ARE CAPPED AT 15 PLACES ONLY! THESE MUST BE BOOKED THROUGH PHONING THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

- Bookings must be made for the **WHOLE TERM** in advance.
- Bookings must be made at least a week in advance.
- First come, first serve!

**£5** COST: £5 FOR THE TERM

PAYMENTS TO BE MADE THROUGH SCHOOL GATEWAY.

**PREPARE TO BE Proud!**

You're invited to a special afternoon to celebrate the amazing learning happening every day at our school!

- VISIT YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM**  
See their learning environment and displays.
- LOOK THROUGH THEIR BOOKS**  
Celebrate progress, effort and achievements.
- SHARE IN THEIR SUCCESS**  
Celebrate the hard work, creativity and growth!
- BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY**  
Come together as families and be part of their learning journey.

**JOIN US ON**  
**FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**BETWEEN 2.30PM – 3.00PM**

We can't wait to show you just how wonderful your children are!

**FIDELIS IN SERVITIO**  
FAITHFUL IN SERVICE

**WHOLE SCHOOL Mass**

As one school family, we come together to give thanks, celebrate our faith and ask God's blessing on our new year.

**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**10.00AM**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**OAKS** Strength and Wisdom  
**VINES** Growing in Faith  
**PALMS** Welcome and Praise  
**MUSTARD SEEDS** Small Seeds, Big Faith  
**OLIVES** Peace and Hope

All families are warmly invited to join us