



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 11th September 2026

Weekly Prayer

This weekend, we celebration Education Sunday.

Education Sunday is a special opportunity for us to thank God for the gift of education and to celebrate everyone who helps children to learn and flourish. As a Catholic school, it reminds us that education is about more than the things we learn in lessons – it is about growing in faith, serving others and using our God-given gifts to make a difference.

Our Prayer

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of education,
for our school, our families and our friends.

Thank you for everyone who teaches, guides and cares for us,
and for all the opportunities we have to learn and grow.

Help us to be curious when we learn,
brave when things are difficult,
kind to those around us,
and generous with the gifts you have given us.

May we use our learning to serve others
and make our world a better place.

Amen.

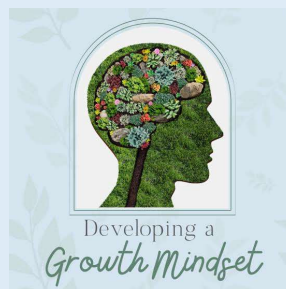


Dear Families,

A Wonderful Week at St Joseph's 🌱

Across the school, children have been exploring **growth mindset** and discovering the **Learning Pit** – understanding that challenge, mistakes and perseverance are all important parts of becoming successful learners. We also came together for a beautiful Whole School Mass, providing a special opportunity to pray, reflect and celebrate our faith as one school family. This week has also seen us launch our refreshed homework and reading expectations, including our exciting new Reading Raffle and creative class projects. These changes reflect our renewed ambition for every child at St Joseph's: high expectations, a love of learning and a strong partnership between home and school.

There is a real sense of excitement and purpose as we begin this new academic year, and we cannot wait to see our children continue to grow, flourish and proudly live out our mission, **Fidelis in Servitio – Faithful in Service**.



Mustard Seeds

Miss Hartland

What an incredibly busy week we have had in Mustard Seeds!

We have introduced Rhyme Time into our routine, and I'm so impressed to see the children already begin to count syllables, recognise rhyming words, and even identify different sounds!

In Maths we are exploring colour & colour-mixing- this weekend, you could challenge your children to a colour scavenger hunt!

Mustard Seeds have also been sharing what makes them special in a talent show after learning that God made us & loves us!

After learning about fire-safety last week, Mustard Seeds also experienced their first campfire during Forest School! We enjoyed sharing some garlic bread over the fire, and then explored the different parts of apples that we found on the

Palms

Miss Buckingham

What a busy and exciting first week back!

In Literacy we have been learning about Common and Proper Nouns, sorting, labelling and explaining the differences between them!

In Maths we have been using rekenreks to revisit numbers 1-20, we have been writing the numbers, and drawing dots to represent them pictorially too.

In RE we have started our Creation and Covenant learning, the children have learnt that God made the world over 6 days and rested on the 7th and that the creation story is within the Bible, in the book of Genesis.

The children made their own cardboard worlds to represent this learning. We also made our own promises to live out the Our Father prayer in our lives.

In Phonics, the year 1 children have been revisiting some Phase 3 sounds; ai, igh, ee, oo, oo, or and ur.

The reception children have been learning s,a,t!



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field, learning new vocabulary such as 'stem, leaf, core, seeds, flesh, skin.' I'm super proud of how resilient & positive we have been for our first full week of school - have a wonderful weekend! Maths champion: Archie Writing champion: Colin PRAISE award: Taya Gospel Values award: Eleanor	We have also enjoyed catching and kicking balls in our PE lessons, where we will unpick football skills this term! Finally, we have been enjoying predicting what might happen in the new Julia Donaldson story Gruffalo Granny, and what she might look like there have been some fantastic story predictions and some brilliant drawings too! I have loved teaching and seeing children enjoy so much excellent learning this week, they have all earned lots of stickers and dojo points and I am so proud of them! I look forward to another busy week next week too! Maths champion: Poppy Writing champion: Joshua PRAISE award: Grayson Gospel Values award: Willow
Vines <i>Miss Chatfield</i> In Literacy, we have been learning all about nouns and common nouns, and the children have worked hard to identify and use them in their writing. In Maths, we have been working hard on adding and subtracting multiples of ten. The children have been developing their confidence with these calculations and explaining their mathematical thinking. In RE, we have been learning about the different parts of the Bible and exploring why the Bible is so special and important to Christians. In Science, we became material detectives! We investigated different objects around our classroom and identified what materials they were made from. In History, we have been exploring how technology has developed to make writing easier. We looked at how we have moved from giant computers that were far too large to have in our homes, to being able to use technology such as an iPad and even our voices to help us write. During Phonics, we have been recapping some of our Phase 5 sounds, including 'ea', 'ay', 'a-e' and 'e' making the /ee/ sound, as in he. Please continue to practise these sounds and words at home. One of the highlights of our week was joining Julia Donaldson live on Zoom to hear all about her exciting new story, Gruffalo Granny! The children thoroughly enjoyed this special opportunity to hear from such a wonderful author. Homework Reminder: All children have their homework projects and spelling homework in their reading wallets. Our first spelling test will be next Friday, so please take some time to practise the words at home. Looking Ahead: We are very excited about our upcoming trip to the Oxford Science Centre! Please keep your eyes peeled for more information about the trip coming soon. Well done to everyone for another fantastic week of learning!	Oaks <i>Mrs Hamilton</i> A strong start to the year this week! We have hit the ground running and have already tackled a huge amount of learning! We started by looking at the power of YET, where I set the challenge of balancing a water bottle between two tables on a sheet of A4. Initially children declared they couldn't do it... but by challenging with the word YET and using their perseverance they all achieved the goal! In Literacy we have been identifying the different types of nouns, from common and proper through to collective, partitive and abstract. The children have a really firm grasp already which is exciting as it will help us so much in our learning and writing this year. In Maths we have been looking at tenths, calculating and understanding the concept in different forms- using analogies such as pizza and cake really helps them understand it! We have now started adding and subtracting using the tenths column. We are using manipulatives a lot more now to really embed our concepts. In RE we have looked at the stories of Moses and thought about how he felt during these times, when God called him to action. The children have really engaged with the stories and can retell them as well as explain how Moses' emotions will have fluctuated throughout. Our spelling rule is "ous" so do look out for opportunities to teach at home- signs around town etc! Linking to the real world and small drop feeds of learning work so well to embedding long term. Homework will be sent home each Friday and spelling tests will be Friday too. We will have a spelling rule as our focus and five statutory words.



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Maths champion: Nikole
Writing champion: Lili
PRAISE award: Rupert
Gospel Values award: Harriet



Maths champion: Nico
Writing champion: Lorenzo
PRAISE award: Aria
Gospel Values award: Jess

Olives *Mr Dillon*

What a wonderful week we have had in Olives Class! The new term is now well underway and it has been fantastic to see the children settling into their routines and approaching their learning with enthusiasm. We have lots of exciting new learning ahead of us this term.

In Maths, we have been developing our addition skills by learning how to cross 10. The children have been using different strategies and representations to help them understand this important skill.

In English, we have been exploring nouns. We have learned about common nouns, proper nouns and collective nouns, and the children are becoming more confident at identifying and using them correctly.

In RE, we have begun our new Creation and Covenant unit. We are exploring the story of Creation and thinking about God as Creator and the wonderful world He has given us.

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

Meadows *Mrs Cameron*

We have only been into Meadows a few times this week, but during the afternoons that we have, your fab children have played, explored, had wonderful chats and really showed great enthusiasm and resilience with all tasks.

We have carried on the learning about Creation, set by Miss Buckingham. We talked about what God created and drew pictures to show this. We also carried on discussing the prayer Our Father, talking about how we can fulfil the words of the prayer.

Have a great weekend.



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There has been a lot of information sent home about our new and ambitious expectations for Reading and Homework.

Just to summarise:

A reminder that all children are expected to read at home with their family at least three times each week, with reads logged on Class Dojo. Children completing their three weekly reads will earn extra Dojos and be automatically entered into our Friday Reading Raffle for the chance to win a special prize!

Homework is set each Friday and reviewed/tested the following Friday. This includes weekly spellings from Year 2 upwards (Year 1 from after Christmas), times tables practice and Times Tables Rock Stars for relevant year groups, and NumBots for Reception.

Each class will also complete a fun, creative six-week curriculum project.

Thank you for helping us build positive learning habits at home!

✿ 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! 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

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 25th September at 9.45am

Prepare to be Proud : Friday 16th October at 2.30pm

Attendance

Mustard Seeds:

Palms:

Vines:

Olives:

Oaks:

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

Wednesday 16th September – Oaks

Wednesday 23rd September – Olives

Wednesday 30th September – Oaks

Wednesday 7th October – Olives

Wednesday 14th October – Oaks

Wednesday 21st October – Olives



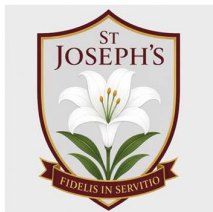
Homework Expectations

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to share our approach to homework at St Joseph's. This year, we are introducing a clear and consistent approach across the whole school, so that children and families know what to expect each week.

We recognise how precious family time is, and our intention is not to create unnecessary workload at home. Instead, homework will focus on short, purposeful opportunities to practise and consolidate the essential knowledge and skills children are learning in school.

I will be sending home a letter today, detailing our expectations for across the school, however your class teacher will send out the finer details for their specific class.

If you have any questions, please do ask the class teacher in the first instance.



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St Joseph's AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS!

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

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 16TH OCTOBER
BETWEEN 2.30PM – 3.00PM

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

What's on in Oxfordshire... and beyond!

As always, check Little Explorers for family activities in Oxfordshire - <https://littleexplorers.com/oxford-family-weekend-guide-oxford-open-doors-and-heritage-weekend/>

Saturday 12th September

* Oxford Open Doors: Weston Library family crafts, printing and storytime

As always, the Weston Library delivers with a packed day of family fun! Get creative with crafts, try a Victorian printing press, discover how library collections are photographed, and enjoy a fun **storytelling session** about pets with award-winning poet James Carter. Most activities are free and drop-in, with storytelling at 11.30am and 2pm for ages 4+.

Saturday 12th September 11am – 4pm Free No booking required – drop-in when you like [More info on Oxford Open Doors website.](#)

Oxford Open Doors: Free heritage bus rides

Hop aboard a free heritage bus ride around Oxford and see the city! Check out the timetable on the website below.

Saturday 12th September 11am – 4pm Free No booking required – drop-in when you like [More info on Oxford Open Doors website.](#)

Oxford Open Doors: Rewley Road Fire Station Open Day

A highlight! Meet the firefighters, take a look around the fire station and have a go on the equipment – including spraying a hose! This is defo a fave for my boys.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September 10am – 4pm Free No booking required – drop-in when you like [More info on Oxford Open Doors website.](#)

Oxford Open Doors: Sheldonian Theatre

One of Oxford's most spectacular historic buildings and a brilliant one for curious kids with its grand architecture, fascinating history and plenty of activities and interactive games. Climb to the top for unreal views of Oxford! We've been previously and loved it.

Saturday 12th September 10am – 4pm Free No booking required – drop-in when you like [More info on the Sheldonian website](#)