



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Newsletter – Friday 20th March 2026



Learning for Peace

Thank you to all of the parents who were able to come along and join Mrs Carr and Year 5 in their Peace Makers circle yesterday. Year 5 were exemplary as usual. I would like to whole heartedly thank Mrs Carr for welcoming parents into her classroom to share her children's learning with them. We had some really positive feedback and points for us to consider too, so thank you. We hope that parents who came are able to use the language that you heard at home to support your child/ren to manage conflict there too.

Science Week



What a week the children had last week! I happened to be touring the school with a family and children from another local school and we saw some of the activities that our children were having great fun with, I asked the children about Science Week in their school and that didn't know about it! It was just a reminder to me of how lucky our children at St Joseph's are that we go over and beyond to enrich their curriculum and learning experiences with some incredible opportunities that are free.

I would like to say a huge thank you once again to Mrs Shipton and her colleagues who came in last week to do STEM worksheets across the school. The children all had such a great time, drew on their learning as well as learning much more! The added bonus this year was that the children got to keep their creations. Here is what one of the volunteers said after spending a day with one of our classes:

I was very impressed with how polite and well behaved the children were, to a point that I thought I'd bored them to sleep during the initial 10 minutes of the day, but on reflection I think they were just sitting quietly listening and soaking information in.

Once we got to the section with the risk assessment and a bit of interaction, they were very engaged and were quick to put their hands up to answer and ask relevant questions.

When we started building and testing the electrical circuit, they were quick to remember what they already had been taught and most of them managed to assemble and test their circuits.

There were some good learning moments regarding 'insulators and conductors' and some of the students had connected the crocodile clips to the plastic rather than the wire, this was great as it led to good conversations regarding fault finding and most of them found the issue and fixed it themselves. Personally, I find these little issues to be very rewarding in sessions like this as the students found a problem and, mostly independently, worked out how to fix it.

As the day progressed there were the usual bottlenecks with gluing but the students remained patient and helped each other rather than barging in. This is learning for us and something we can try and resolve next time (if we're invited back).

Overall, I thought the class were fantastic to work with, and this continued throughout the day right up until the end where a number came over and thanked us as we were leaving.

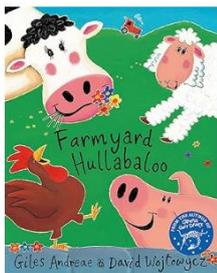
Thanks for hosting us, speaking for myself (although I'm sure the others would agree) I'd be more than happy to come back again next year.

If you haven't already seen it -here's the reel that staff made throughout the week – [Science Week Fun](#)

Mock trials

Our Year 6 came to school dressed ready to play their part last week for their Mock trials. Mrs Knight was so proud of them all as they battled it out against St Mary's school. She said that as a group they were so well prepared and even though they did not win their case, their performance was highly praised by the magistrate. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done Year 6 and thank you to the parents who provided transport enabling this enriching experience for the children to take place.

Story time at the convent



It was lovely to start the day with story time at the convent again. I would like to thank Nona Rushton for being the first volunteer to read, which is enabling this lovely event to keep going. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to join us too.

Now that it is back on the calendar, these sessions will take place every 3rd Friday of the month.

The dates for the rest of the year are:

- Friday 17th April
- Friday 15th May
- Friday 19th June
- Friday 10th July

House Singing Competition 2026



Seats are in the process of being allocated, thank you to all of the parents who have been quick with their responses to this event enabling the Admin Team to be as efficient as possible. Not having to chase and continually remind parents about deadlines makes a big difference to the efficiency of their working day.

For those of you who are able to come, we look forward to seeing you there!



Attendance

The numbers have reduced to 15 children on the Persistently Absent (PA) register, which is good news. As you know, when a child's attendance falls below 90% they are considered to be persistently absent from school. This will lead to gaps in their learning which will make it more challenging for them to make the best progress that they are able to make.

The DFE are providing all schools with termly reports where they compare our attendance data to similar schools and they have identified 3 areas where similar schools have achieved a higher attendance than us. They then set us targets from the data. See below for the targets....

If you can match their achievements in these areas, then your overall attendance rate would increase from **95.2%** to **96.5%**. This means the proportion of your pupils who are persistently absent would drop from **12.6%** to **7.4%**.

1. Year 1 attendance was **92.4%**, lower than at least a quarter of similar schools.
2. Year 6 attendance was **94.2%**, lower than at least a quarter of similar schools.
3. Attendance on Mondays was **94.4%**, lower than at least a quarter of similar schools.

This was our attendance last term

Graph alternative: table of weekly attendance for the first half of the spring term 2025 to 2026.

Week start date	St Joseph's attendance	Similar schools' median attendance
5 January	97.2%	95.5%
12 January	96.1%	95.9%
19 January	94.8%	94.6%
26 January	95.3%	94%
2 February	95.5%	94.9%

Week start date	St Joseph's attendance	Similar schools' median attendance
9 February	93.6%	94.7%

And this is where the targets come from

Absence by year group Table showing the percentage of pupils in each 5% absence band up to and above 50% absence in years 1 to 6. Results are based on pupils with 20 or more possible sessions in the current academic year, from the start of the academic year up to Monday 16 February 2026.

Overall absence band	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
less than 5%	36%	71%	80%	80%	62%	46%
5% to less than 10%	36%	17%	5%	13%	35%	38%
10% to less than 15%	23%	8%	15%	3%	0%	15%
15% to less than 20%	0%	4%	0%	3%	4%	0%
20% to less than 25%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
10% and above (persistently absent)	27%	13%	15%	7%	4%	15%

So, unless your child is really poorly, please do send them into school.

Sporting News



Congratulation to the Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 rugby teams who went to the tournaments over the last couple of weeks. I would especially like to thank Miss Gardiner for taking the children, without her, these events could not take place and also the parents who have supported with transport and supporting the event.

Congratulations to Edward Artz who was selected to run at the county cross country league. He did exceptionally well and has reported that the course was hard! Being selected to compete is a huge achievement in itself, so well done Ed!

We are in the process of organising swimming. Swimming will take place across the summer term. We have listened to your requests for a coach to swimming – it does increase the cost of this activity considerably. This year it is our intention to take children across KS2 who are unable to swim 25 meters. Miss Gardiner is still working on scenarios in an attempt to make the cost as low as possible.

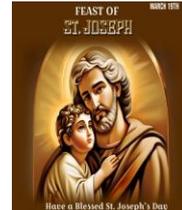
The clubs for the summer term will be coming out early next week. Do take a look and sign your child up – we'd love to see them there.

Staffing Update

We are delighted that Mrs Lewis and Ms Bennett have joined us. They have had some rigorous training and are now getting into the classroom all ready to go. Miss White has announced that she is expecting a baby, there are exciting times ahead for her and her fiancée. She has planned her due date to perfection and intends to be with us until the end of the academic year. We have some sad news about Mrs Blick, she will be leaving us at Easter to work in a nursery setting. We would like to thank her for all that she has done to help the children at St Joseph's while she has been her and wish her all the very best for the future.

St Joseph's Feast Day Mass

We celebrated our Parton Saint with a lovely Mass yesterday. The children sang beautifully, read well and Oren and Rosie from reception did a super job bringing up the offertory. The children were delighted with their celebratory Haribos. Thank you to all of the staff for the parts that they played to enabled the Mass to run so smoothly.



PTA News

♥ thank you ♥
for all you do

The Easter event is tomorrow Saturday 21st March 2-4pm. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help. If you are able to come along to support this event, we would be most grateful. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow afternoon!

All of the money raised goes to enhancing the learning experiences of all the children at St Joseph's. The PTA have recently bought walkie talkies for the lunchtime staff to support the smooth running of the zoned activities. Thank you for this resource that will support many of our children.





Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Parents are warmly welcome to join their child's class when it is their turn to go to Mass. Please let the Admin Team know if you are able to come.

Thursday 26th March – Reception

Friday 27th March – Stations of the Cross – 10.15am

EVERYONE WELCOME - PLEASE EMAIL THE ADMIN TEAM TO LET US KNOW



[March 2026](#)

Just a reminder that you are able to access and see the focus for our Liturgies through the Ten Ten monthly Parent Newsletter.



This week's prayer is from Elizabeth Year 5:

Dear Lord,
Thank you for everything that you give to me and others. You give kindness, Hope and Faith. You give peace and happiness in heart, soul and mind. You give families and friends, talents and hobbies. You give husbands, wives and children to Love. Finally, you give us our planet and life. Thank you for everything,
Amen



Dates for your



March 2026

Saturday 21st - PTA Easter event 2.00-4.00pm

Tuesday 24th - Y6 Skillzone trip PM

Thursday 26th - House Singing Competition PM

Friday 27th - Stations of the Cross 10.15am

Friday 27th - End of Term 1.30pm ☺

April 2026

Monday 13th - Term 5 - staff and children to attend

Wednesday 15th - Y6 team Wildlife Quiz (inhouse)

Friday 17th - Convent Story Time AM

Friday 17th - Swimming begins (more details to follow soon)

WB Monday 20th - Teacher led clubs begin

Monday 20th - Y5 trip

Monday 20th - Quiz at The Fox, Coaley in aid of St Dominics's Church Hall from 7pm (more details to follow)

Tuesday 21st - Y2 trip to Berkeley Castle

May 2026

Monday 4th - Bank Holiday

Friday 8th - EYFS trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Centre

Friday 8th - Y3 trip to Chedworth Roman Villa

WB Monday 11th - KS2 SATs

Friday 15th - Convent Story Time - AM

Friday 15th - PTA Colour Run after school