



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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

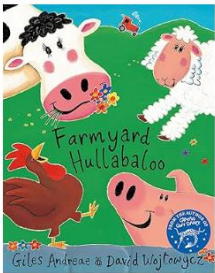
## Newsletter – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

A very warm welcome back to school as we begin the summer term. It has been wonderful to see the children return with smiling faces, full of energy and ready to learn. The classrooms and playgrounds are once again filled with life, laughter and a real sense of purpose as we continue our journey together as a school community, guided by our Catholic values.

As the days grow longer and we begin to enjoy signs of warmer weather, a reminder that spring can still bring a chilly wind, especially in the mornings. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather so they are comfortable throughout the school day. We would also like to thank families for their continued support with school uniform: children wearing shirts should continue to wear a tie, and school shoes should be worn each day, unless it is your child's PE day. Equally, if your child is wearing shoes/trainers with laces, please make sure that they are able to tie them themselves.

We look forward to a positive and productive term ahead, working together to support our children in all aspects of school life.

### Story Time at the Convent



Just as a reminder, these popular sessions will take place every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

The dates for the rest of the year are:

Friday 15th May

Friday 19th June

Friday 10th July



### Attendance

The numbers have reduced to 13 children on the Persistently Absent (PA) register, which is great, moving in the right direction. 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.

Further to the data from the DFE that I shared last term and analysing the IDSR (Inspection data summary report), our Year 1 cohort will be a key priority. We need to work with parents to improve the levels of attendance for some children because of the impact that this is having on individual children's learning.

1. Year 1 attendance was **92.4%**, lower than at least a quarter of similar schools.

## Sporting News

Lunchtime clubs are proving to be very popular, it is great to see such high engagement with the clubs that are on offer. The children go straight to the club for the first half of their lunch time and then have their lunch after that. The clubs that they are able to join are: Rounders, rugby, cricket, mini Olympics and football.

## Wildlife Quiz

Our Year 6's took part in the annual wildlife quiz last week and my goodness it was challenging! They competed against Hillsley, who beat our team by 3 points. The closeness in this gap is really impressive because during the competition the children shared that they have been attending a nature club set up to prepare them for the competition for the whole of this academic year. So a huge well done to our team who competed using their general knowledge!

## Playground developments

Mrs Ponting is continuing to work with the staff on the development of the areas for break and lunch time. We are really grateful to the PTA who have just agreed to fund a giant sand pit for the adventure zone which is part of the next phase for development along with adaptations to the storage of play equipment.

We are also in the process of commissioning signage for the zones – designed by the talented Miss Drury.

Just a reminder, the play equipment is not for use after school. We are really grateful to the children who find the odd thing that has been missed during tidy up time and return it to the storage area.

  
thank you  
for all you do

## PTA News

I would like to thank Jo Smee, who kindly supported St Dominic's church by organising and running a quiz at the fox in Coaley last week. Also, thanks goes to Claire Woldridge, who helped to sell raffle tickets and supported Jo on the night. The church hall is in need of repair and as with most things, the savings don't match the cost! The quiz was well supported and raised over £500 – an amazing achievement.

As the weather gets warmer, ice-creams will hopefully start to be sold. If you are able to help please do let the PTA know – it would be for about 15 minutes at the end of the day on a Friday. It would be lovely to see some new faces behind the freezer.

## Eco-Committee Litter Pick

Well done to all of the children who took part in the great May Spring Clean that was led by the Eco-Committee. A total of 32 bags of litter were collected, with Year 1 achieving the most. The amount collected per class are as follows:

Year 4	5
Year 3	7

Year 2 4  
Year 1 10  
Reception 6

I would like to congratulate the children for the impact they have had on the local environment, thank you Mrs Gassan for running the Eco-Committee and supporting them to organise this event and thank you to all of the parents who supported their children to take part! Please see the photographs on the back page of some of our brilliant litter pickers!

**Good for parents to know about our younger children....**

**WHAT IS ...?  
W SITTING**

W sitting is a floor position where a child sits on their bottom with their knees bent, feet out to the sides, and legs making a "W" shape. Many children move into this position because it feels easy, stable, and comfortable. It can make play feel simpler because their body does not have to work as hard to stay upright.

**WHY DO SOME CHILDREN SIT THIS WAY?**  
Children might w sit for stability, low muscle tone, or balance issues. It can simply feel easier and more secure during play.

**WHEN MIGHT IT BE WORTH NOTICING**  
Notice if it is most of the time, or if your child seems clumsy, tires easily, or avoids twisting and reaching.

**WHAT CAN PARENTS AND ADULTS DO?**  
Encourage other sitting positions, model good posture, and make it fun with different activities.

**WHEN SHOULD YOU SEEK MORE SUPPORT**  
Seek help if there is pain, delays in motor skills, or trouble with balance and coordination.

W sitting isn't always a problem, but noticing patterns and offering support can make a big difference.

©TheContentChild. For personal/professional use only. Not to be reproduced or altered without written permission.

## **Trips**

Two classes have been out on trips already this term. Year 2 went to Berkeley Castle and Year 5 went to the Holst museum in Cheltenham. Following parent feedback, these trips

have used coaches. I would like to thank the PTA once again – by supporting the trips and allocating £5 per child, they have brought the cost of the trips down. I would also like to thank the parents who have paid it forward as well – your generosity has enabled the trips to go ahead. Sadly, as these experiences are additional and used to enhance the curriculum there is no funding in a school budget to support them. We all know how much the children benefit from these enriching experiences, but without financial support from all parents, the trips will no longer be able to go ahead.

Trips for the other year groups are in progress, if you have not had a letter already for your child's class, watch out for the letter this term.

### **Books, Books, Books**

I would like to thank all of the parents who have donated books to the school using the Amazon wish list. We are in the process of adding book plates to the inside covers along with the messages that you wrote, which will be added and then they will be enjoyed in the classrooms. If you would like to have a look at the list and donate a book, please see the link here

Reception <https://amzn.eu/01dYQzLB>

Year 1 <https://amzn.eu/0aMD7f7G>

Year 2 <https://amzn.eu/0iYUmbXF>

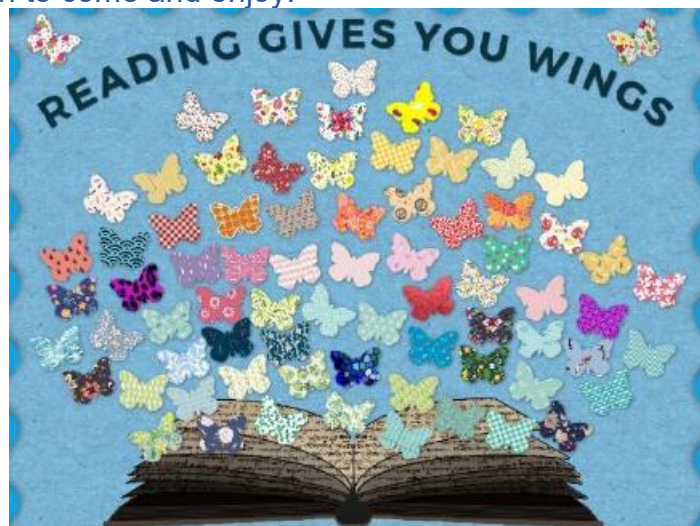
Year 3 <https://amzn.eu/0ePSQ6Sc>

Year 4 <https://amzn.eu/09Wx6uVH>

Year 5 <https://amzn.eu/04C26zX0>

Year 6 <https://amzn.eu/07cKHj3n>

Mrs Knight has been successful in securing some library support – she has a bookcase, a carpet, bean bags and excitingly 500 books!! I would like to thank Nona Rushton who has spent some time checking in and stamping books and to Mrs Pickering who has also done many. The exciting part is yet to come, organising the space and book to create a lovely space for the children to come and enjoy.



### **Parent Survey**

Thank you to all of the parents who took part in the survey before Easter. We are in the process of analysing the information that you shared and using this to inform future planning. If there is anything that needs immediate action, I will let you know. But, for now, I

would like to say we are delighted that 56 out of 59 parents (95%) who completed the survey would recommend our school. Thank you so much!

## All about family Gloucestershire

Please find the link to the Spring Issue of All About Family Gloucestershire, Inside, you will find useful advice on many topics, [www.allabout-family.co.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.allabout-family.co.uk/gloucestershire)



## 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.**

30<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5  
7<sup>th</sup> May – Year 3  
14<sup>th</sup> May – Year 2  
21<sup>st</sup> May – Year 1  
Half Term

4<sup>th</sup> June – Reception  
11<sup>th</sup> June – Year 5  
18<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 Leaver's Mass – Clifton Cathedral  
25<sup>th</sup> June – Year 4  
2<sup>nd</sup> July – Year 3  
9<sup>th</sup> July - Year 2  
16<sup>th</sup> July - Whole School Leaver's Mass



[April 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 reception:

Dear God,  
Thank you for our families. (Teddy)  
Thank you for your little act done with great love to make a big difference, like;  
Hanging the washing out (Grace)  
Helping us go to bed (Elara)  
For my goodnight kiss and cuddle (Niamh)  
Reading me a story (Oren)  
Letting me help put the washing in the tumble dryer. (Layla)  
Fore Daddy hugging me if I am sad (Noah)  
Taking care of me when I was a baby (Fearne)  
Mummy and Daddy helping me get past my scratchy cat. (Rosie)  
Praying to us, (Novie).  
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

# Dates for your



## May 2026

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Bank Holiday

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> - EYFS trip to Slimbridge  
Wetlands Centre

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> - Y3 trip to Chedworth  
Roman Villa

WB Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - KS2 SATs

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - Convent Story Time - AM

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - PTA Colour Run after  
school

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Y4 trip to We Are  
Curious

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Half Term 😊

## Summer Term 2 - June 2026

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - MAT INSET day

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Y6 Bikeability starts

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Class and leavers'  
photos

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Parent Forum 2pm -  
all welcome

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - New Parent's Evening  
EYFS

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Leavers Mass

WB 29<sup>th</sup> - Show week Y6 (Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>  
dress rehearsal, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Matinee, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Evening  
performance)

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> - EYFS Transition  
afternoon

WB 29<sup>th</sup> - Last week of teacher led  
clubs

## July 2026

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Transition afternoon  
(EYFS)

WB 6<sup>th</sup> - Health Week

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Sports Day

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> - Reports out to parents

WB 13<sup>th</sup> - Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Whole School picnic - Y6  
Make £5 Grow stalls

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Music concert

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Leavers mass 9.30am

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Schools out for summer -

**SCHOOL FINISHES AT  
1.30PM**

**SPRING CLEAN CHALLENGE**

**2026**

