

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 17

Friday 23rd January 2026



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

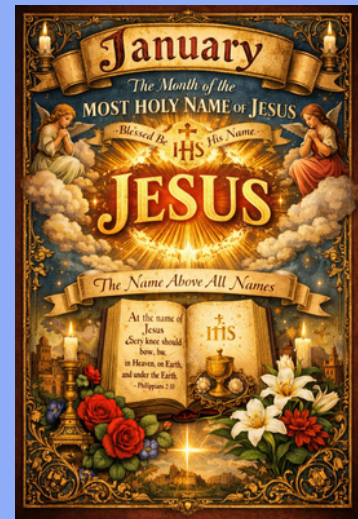
"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit"; thus our 'hope does not disappoint us' (Rom 5:5). This is the hope of Christian unity, which has its divine source in the Trinitarian unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."
(Pope St John Paul II, Ut unum sint, 8)

GOSPEL

In this week's Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus and says, "Behold, the Lamb of God." In our Celebration of the Word, we focused on two important words: Look and Follow. We are invited to look for Jesus in all those we meet – in kindness, forgiveness, and love – and to follow Him in the way we live each day. Just as John recognised Jesus and shared his joy, we too are called to recognise God at work in our lives and to follow His path with trust and courage.

This January, we focus on the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Through this beautiful poster and prayer, we invite our children to reflect on the power of Jesus' name – a name that brings hope, peace and love. May it inspire our community to speak His name with reverence and live His message each day.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for your holy name. Your name brings us hope, your name brings us peace, and your name brings us love. Help us to speak your name with respect, to follow your way with joy, and to share your love with everyone we meet. Jesus, we trust in you.
Amen



HEAD'S UP

Welcome to the newsletter. This week we interviewed Penelope and Ethan. They are going to tell us what they did this week.

On Monday, they had English and they learnt about diaries. They also made a diary entry and they wrote about their best day of school. After English, they did phonics and they learnt about syllables in a word. They also learnt about money in maths. During RE they studied The Parable of the Lost Sheep and for PE played a game called 'Doctor Dodgeball'. On Wednesday, they had computing and they are learning how to launch a rocket. After break, they had 'calming time' and they did 'box' breathing'.



99.2% Attendance for St John for week ending 16th January 2026

97% Whole School Attendance for week ending 16th January 2026 – Target 98%



TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK

We continue to support families and are operating, as usual, every week on Wednesdays and Fridays. This week we are short of long life milk whole and semi skimmed, hot dogs, peanut butter, baked beans, sugar, tinned potatoes, porridge, cooking oil, washing up liquid, toilet rolls, tinned mackerel squash and apple and orange juice. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Foodbank'. Thank you.. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Foodbank'. Thank you.

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS—Mon—Thurs 8.00—3.30pm, Fri 8.00—8.15 and 8.35—3.30pm

WELL BEING

To to stop being bored and start being bold - TED Talk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwQX8Bu_cyE

WEEKLY MASS

As there was no Mass on Wednesday 21st, St Simon's and St Bartholomew Class will be attending Mass on Wednesday 28th January at 9.30am at St Joseph's Church Parents and Families are welcome to join them.



SEMINARIAN OF THE MONTH - Francis Ezeani

Francis is studying at Allen Hall Seminary, London and is in his 5th year of seminary formation. Francis writes: 'Reflecting on my vocation story, I find myself deep in gratitude to God for his mercies and faithfulness. He has always been with me through the joyful moments and the painful, difficult ones. His love has been steadfast'. Francis asks that, in this new year, we would all consider offering a little prayer each month for more love in our world.



Dates for your diary

JANUARY

- Mon 26th Mass for the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul in School
- Tues 27th NSPCC Assembly
- Fri 30th Yr3/4 Girls Football at the Dome

FEBRUARY

- Mon 9th Children's Mental Health Week
- Mon 16th HALF TERM WEEK
- Tues 24th Poet in School (Coral Rumble)
Parents Evening 3.40 - 6.30pm
- Wed 25th Parents Evening 3.40 - 6.30pm

MARCH

- Sun 8th Children's Mass at St Joseph's
- Tues 17th Lenten Reflection 2pm & 6.30pm
- Thurs 19th Swimming Gala at Rivermead TBC
- Fri 20th Yr5/6 Football at The Dome
- Fri 27th End of Term - 1pm

APRIL

- Mon 13th Pupils return to school
- Thurs 23rd BHF Football/Netball tournament

HOUSE POINTS

Week Ending	St Anne	St Bernadette	St Brigid	St Margaret Clitherow	St Rose of Lima
16/01/2026	225	224	167	356	240

Are you an inspirational teaching assistant who is able to make an impact on the outcome of children's learning in our school?

Teaching Assistant

We are looking for an inspirational part time Teaching Assistant for 20 hours a week with a potential to increase, to join our dedicated and enthusiastic staff as soon as possible. Fixed term contract till 31st August 2026

We welcome applications from people of any faith.

The successful candidate will:

Be fully supportive of our Catholic ethos

Love working with young children

Be enthusiastic, imaginative, open and reflective

Have high expectations

Enjoy working in partnership with parents.

We can offer you:

An Outstanding Catholic School in "Overall Effectiveness and all aspects of learning" as judged in our Diocesan Section 48 Validation

Where:

"Leaders are highly ambitious for what they want all pupils to achieve in their time at School. Lessons are active and purposeful, while classrooms are calm. The staff are very happy to work at the school. This unity shines through and creates a very strong and inclusive learning environment for every pupil." according to the recent OFSTED report

Delightful and happy children

A caring and supportive ethos

A vibrant, stimulating, well-resourced environment.

Please come and visit us to see our lovely school and children.

Closing Date: Wednesday 11th February 2026 at Midday

Interviews: Monday 23rd February 2026

Applications considered on receipt, so please apply as soon as possible.

We reserve the right to close the vacancy early if a suitable candidate is found

For an application pack please contact the school office on office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk

Application packs are also available on line at

<http://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk>

St Paul's whole school community (all staff, governors, parents and volunteers working in the school) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

An Enhanced Criminal Records Disclosure will be sought alongside other checks from the successful candidate.