

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 18

Friday 30th January 2026



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*"Prefer absolutely nothing
to the Love of Christ"
(Rule of St Benedict)*

GOSPEL

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 4:12–23), Jesus calls His first disciples with the simple yet challenging words, "Follow me." They leave everything behind and choose to walk in His way. This same call is echoed in the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, which we celebrated with Mass this week. Paul's life was transformed when he encountered Jesus and chose to follow Him wholeheartedly. At St Paul's, we are reminded that Jesus continues to call each of us today – to follow Him in our words, our actions, and the way we love and serve one another each day.

HEAD'S UP

This week we interviewed Victor and Cara from St Philip.

This week they have had a meeting with Fr Henry and they also learnt Roman Numerals in maths. They had PE where they played jailball. They said it was really fun and they both love the game! They also did SPaG and they learning about co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions. During English they planned to write a story about the rainforest. For RE, they learnt about the 5 parts of the Liturgy.

That's it for this week's newsletter. Come back for next week and we will be interviewing St. Matthew!



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

100% Attendance for St John for week ending 22nd January 2026

96.6% Whole School Attendance for week ending 22nd 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 cooking oil, washing up liquid, coffee, rice pudding, baked beans, custard, spaghetti hoops and hot dogs.

Thank you for the generous donations we received this week. 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.

WELL BEING

Practical ways to manage doomscrolling
Please see attached PDF



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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

SCHOOL LUNCHES - If you order a school lunch for your child, particularly if they are in YrR, 1 or 2, and send them in with a packed lunch, kindly remember to cancel their ordered lunch. We have a large amount of food waste and school has to pay for any lunches ordered. Thank you.

WEEKLY MASS

St Barnabas Class will be attending Mass on Wednesday 4th February 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

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
Parents Evening 3.40 - 6.30pm

Wed 25th

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

MAY

Sun 17th Children's Mass at St Joseph's

HOUSE POINTS

Week Ending	St Anne	St Bernadette	St Brigid	St Margaret Clitherow	St Rose of Lima
22/01/2026	445	531	532	589	711

Vacancy

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.

