

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 19

Friday 6th February 2026



Thought for the Week

"A society is healthy and truly progresses only when it safeguards the sanctity of human life and works actively to promote it."
(Pope Leo XIV)



As we begin the Year of St Francis, the Beatitudes offer us a beautiful guide for our life together. In particular, "Blessed are the peacemakers" calls us to live as children of God by choosing kindness, forgiveness and understanding. St Francis of Assisi showed us that peace begins in the heart and is lived out through simple, loving actions each day. In our school community, peacemaking means listening carefully, resolving difficulties gently, and standing up for what is right. May we follow St Francis in becoming instruments of Christ's peace in our words and actions.

HEAD'S UP

This week, we interviewed Jeremina and Emily from St Matthew.

On Monday, they learnt about ratios in maths. In English they wrote about the rainforest. While they were learning RE they acted out different ways of scamming. On Tuesday, they had science and they learnt about the human skeleton. In French they were learning the names of fruits. Miss Bott has been reading St Matthew's class book called 'The Explorer' which is about lots of people getting lost in the rainforest.

Come back for next week and we will be interviewing St Barnabas!



In 2026, the Church marks the Year of St Francis, celebrating 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis is remembered for his deep love of God, his care for creation, his compassion for the poor, and his joyful commitment to living the Gospel. Throughout this special year, we will be reflecting on his life and example through prayer, worship, and learning, helping our children to grow as faithful, caring, and responsible followers of Christ.

99% Attendance for St Matthew for week ending 30th January 2026

96.7% Whole School Attendance for week ending 30th January 2026 - Target 98%

TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK

We continue to support families, with the number of requests increasing each week. This week we are short of coffee, squash, biscuits sweet and savoury, sugar, pasta sauce, fruit juice, rice pudding, tinned fruit, jam and long life whole milk.

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

Feeling anxious? Try [these](#) 5 minute techniques



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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

Parents' Evening bookings are now live on ParentMail. Please let the office know if you experience any difficulty or need assistance booking.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme this year is 'This is My Place', with a focus on belonging. All children will have a lesson around this theme at some point during the week. The main idea is that our mental health flourishes when we feel connected and valued. Having a strong sense of belonging can help children to feel more confident, develop resilience and have better self-esteem. Please talk to your children at home about this.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 10th February is Safer Internet Day. This year's theme is 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. The UK Safer Internet Centre has produced some 'Top Tips' for parents and carers which can be found here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers> and also for young people: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2026/top-tips-for-young-people>. In school, all classes will have a lesson on this topic during the week.

Dates for your diary

FEBRUARY

Fri 6th School Disco
 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

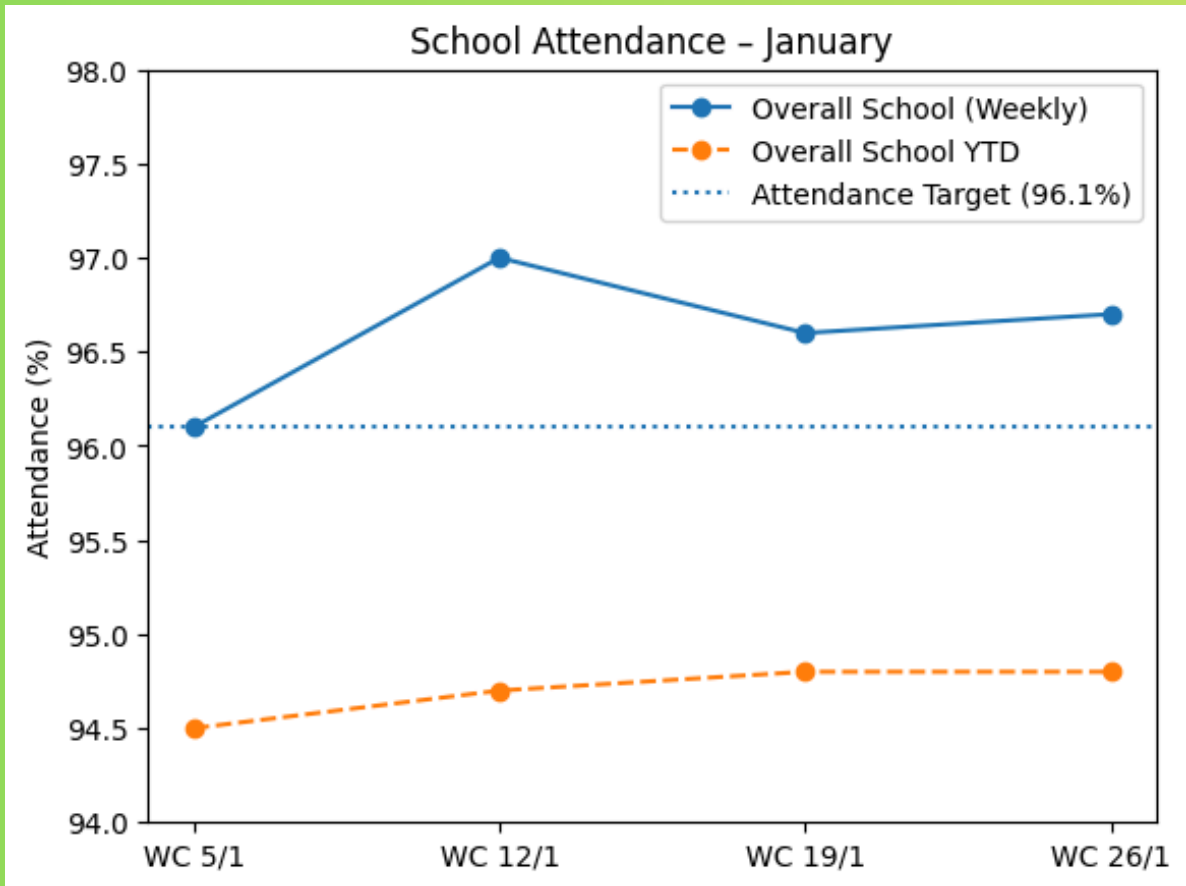
WEEKLY MASS

St Matthew's Class will be attending Mass on Wednesday 11th February at 9.30am at St Joseph's Church. Parents and Families are welcome to join them.



HOUSE POINTS

Week Ending	St Anne	St Bernadette	St Brigid	St Margaret Clitherow	St Rose of Lima
30/01/2026	441	433	479	727	760



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.