

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 21

Friday 27 February 2026



Thought for the Week

"Men in a totally planned world will find themselves unspeakably lonely. If they have completely lost sight of God, they will feel the whole horror of their poverty. Then they will discover the little flock of believers as something wholly new. They will discover it as a hope that is meant for them, an answer for which they have always been searching in secret." (Fr. Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) Radio Interview in 1969)



GOSPEL

In the Gospel of the Temptation of Jesus, we see a powerful example of choosing to do what God wants, even when it is difficult. Jesus is offered easy options – comfort, power and glory – but he stays faithful to his Father's will. This reminds us that following God is not always about doing what is easiest or most popular, but about doing what is right. In our school and in our families, we are called to make those same choices each day: to be kind, to be honest, to forgive and to serve. When we listen to God and trust him, we grow stronger in love and become the people he calls us to be.

HEAD'S UP

Hello welcome back to the Newsletter. Today we interviewed Skylar and Martha from St Barts and this is what they did this week.

They started off their week by having English and they were writing a story about a detective and after English they learnt about colours in French. After break they had maths and they were learning about 12 hour and 24 hour clocks. They also were learning about active and passive language in grammar. During RE they learnt about the start of Lent. Fr Henry also came into school to have Mass for Lent. In PE, they were practicing cricket (focusing on throwing and catching).

That's it for this week. Come back next week when we interview St Simon!



Eco Team Garden

The Eco Team are preparing to cultivate seeds for growing in our school garden this spring in an effort to learn more about how to grow vegetables and the environment and towards the end of the summer term taste the results of their hard work.

In the meantime Mr Hegarty and Eco Team would be grateful if adults in the community could donate any old SQUARE concrete paving slabs that they might have in their gardens, so that the team can make a pathway around the garden to help the children care for the vegetables without getting their feet dirty.

99% Attendance for St John for week ending 13th February 2026

95% Whole School Attendance for week ending 13th February 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 in need of tinned tomatoes, corned beef, ham, hot dogs, mackerel, squash, cooking oil, cereal, sugar, biscuits and fruit juice.

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

Mindfulness exercises



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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

CHARITY RAFFLE TICKETS

Year 6 pupils will be selling raffle tickets for the charity Easter raffle from Monday 9th March. Tickets will cost 20p each and staff will generously be providing prizes.

Please be aware that children will only be able to win a maximum of 2 Easter Eggs each. The draw will take place when we return from the Easter Holidays.



Dates for your diary

MARCH

- Thurs 5th World Book Day
- Sun 8th Children's Mass at St Joseph's
- Mon 16th Stations of the Cross
- Tues 17th Stations of the Cross
- Tues 17th Irish Dancing Performance to school
- Tues 17th Lenten Reflection 2pm & 6.30pm
- Thurs 19th Swimming Gala at Rivermead TBC
- Thurs 19th Mass for the Feast of St Joseph in school
- Fri 20th Yr5/6 Football at The Dome
- Fri 20th LKS2 Rain Forest Day
- Mon 23rd Yr6 Charity Day TBC
- Wed 25th Service of Reconciliation in school
- Fri 27th End of Term - 1pm

APRIL

- Mon 13th Pupils return to school
- Thurs 16th Wonka Week
- Thurs 23rd BHF Football/Netball tournament

MAY

- Mon 11th KS2 SATs Week
- Sun 17th Children's Mass at St Joseph's

February Gardening Tips

February is an ideal time to start school gardening in the UK by focusing on indoor seed sowing (tomatoes, chillies, sweet peas) and protecting outdoor plants with fleece. Key tasks include tidying beds, planning the growing season, and starting seeds on sunny windowsills or in a heated propagator.



WEEKLY MASS

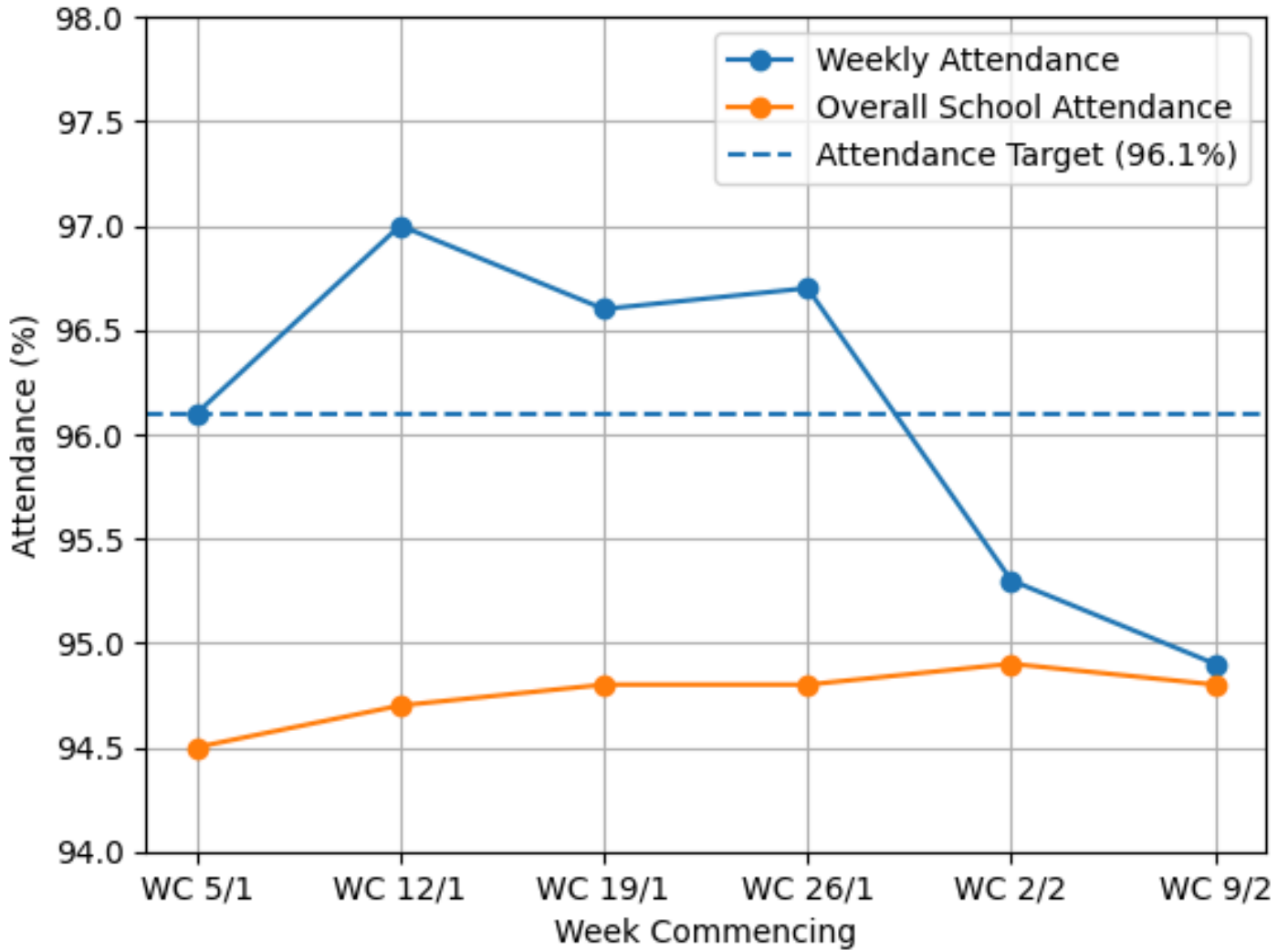
St Philip's Class will be attending Mass on Wednesday 4th March at 9.30am at St Joseph's Church. Parents and Families are welcome to join them.



HOUSE POINTS

Week Ending	St Anne	St Bernadette	St Brigid	St Margaret Clitherow	St Rose of Lima
13/02/2026	530	383	494	331	514

School Attendance Over Time



Seminarian of the Month

Adam Trzebinski

Adam is studying at Allen Hall Seminary, London. He writes: 'The fourth year of my formation began in Sept 2025. It is incredible how time flies and how much I have learned, participated in and experienced over the last few years.'

Adam had a pilgrimage to Harvington Hall where they saw the Priest holes. Adam says that this was a remarkable experience and a poignant reminder of the sacrifices both priests and lay people had to make to practice their faith.

