

St Paul's Catholic Primary School Newsletter 28

Friday 1st May 2026



Thought for the Week
"Our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life for ever more." (Pope St Gregory the Great)



GOSPEL

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 10:1–10), Jesus speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and calls them by name. It is a powerful reminder that each of us is known, loved, and guided by Him. In a busy world, His voice can sometimes be hard to hear, yet He invites us to listen closely and follow Him with trust. As a school community, may we be attentive to His call—showing care, kindness, and leadership to one another—so that all may experience the fullness of life He promises.



HEAD'S UP

For the newsletter this week we interviewed Freddie M and Ezra from St Philip.

During their maths groups they learnt about word problems. In computing, they made stories on scratch and after that they had English and they wrote a letter to Mr Robinson. In RE, they were doing a booklet about the Eucharist. In Science, they were also learning about magnets. During class maths they were learning about number lines.

That's it for this week. Come back for next week and we will be interviewing 2 children from St Matthew!



SPORTS DAY 22nd MAY

Over the next few weeks we are hoping that the weather will be kind to us so that we can advance our training and preparations for Sports' Day. Sports Day will take place on Friday 22nd May Junior events will take place in the morning, from 9.15am to 10.15am. Infant & Early Years events will be 10.45am to 11.45am with junior long distance and relays at 11.45 to 12.15pm. At 12.15pm parents are invited to bring a picnic lunch to share with their children on the field – don't forget folding chairs and blankets. Children whose parents are unable to join us for lunch will sit on the field with their lunchtime supervisor. Presentations will take place at 1.15pm to 1.30pm, children will then return to their classrooms to change, have afternoon registration and parents will then be able to take their children home. All parents, siblings, and grandparents are warmly invited to attend the entire Sports Day event. If your child will be going home with someone other than their parent or guardian, please ensure you inform the school office in advance.



100% Attendance for St Philip for week ending 24th April 2026

96.6% Whole School Attendance for week ending 24th April 2026 – Target 98%

Well Being

The following workshop this term:

- Supporting understanding of language in school age children on Monday 11th May 1.30pm-2.30pm

We will be jointly delivering Helping Children with Unclear Speech with our early years SLT colleagues from September 2026, however, parents are very welcome to attend the workshops that the Early Years team are running across the summer term. The workshop can be accessed using this link: [Early language development workshops | Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)



ECO TIPS

Opt for peat-free compost

Peatlands are important in fighting climate change as they absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere. For that reason, peat is best left where it is rather than being dug up for use in compost. Check compost is labelled 'peat-free' – a government ban on peat-based compost is due to come into force by the end of this year.

Gardening Tips for May

Prune spring shrubs, such as forsythia and chaenomeles, after flowering to keep them compact
Plant out dahlia tubers and cannas after all risk of frost has passed.

TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK

We are supporting approximately 40 households with food and household products. Many thanks for your very generous donations. This week we are short of weetabix, tinned hot dogs, corned beef/spam and meatballs, long life milk, sugar, toilet rolls and toothpaste. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Foodbank'. Many thanks.



MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE

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

Water Bottles

As the weather warms up, please remember to send a named water bottle in with your child each day.

Fish Tank

EYFS are looking for a fish tank to house stick insects. If anyone has one to donate, please contact the office.



Dates for your diary

MAY

Tues 5 th	PTA Wonka Week
Mon 11 th	KS2 SATs Week
Thurs 14 th	Mass for Feast of the Ascension 2pm
Sun 17 th	Children's Mass at St Joseph's
Tues 19 th	Whole School May Procession 11am
Wed 20 th	EYFS Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park
Thurs 21 st	International Day
Fri 22 nd	Sports Day
Mon 25 th	Half Term

JUNE

Tues 2 nd	Class Photos
Thurs 4 th	Corpus Christi Procession at Douai
Fri 12 th	Rise Theatre Performance
Mon 15 th	KS1 Trip to Bucklebury Farm
Mon 15 th	Yr5 Maths Masterclass @ River Academy
Fri 26 th	Mass for the Feast of St Peter and St Paul at 11am in school
Sun 28 th	Children's Mass at St Joseph's
Tues 30 th	UKS2 Production 2pm and 6.30pm

JULY

Tues 7 th	Yr5 Public Speaking Competition
Fri 10 th	Family Fun
Mon 13 th	Inter House Tournament
Fri 17 th	End of Term 1pm

Yr6 Dates for your diary

JUNE

Leavers Trip week of 1st June - day TBC

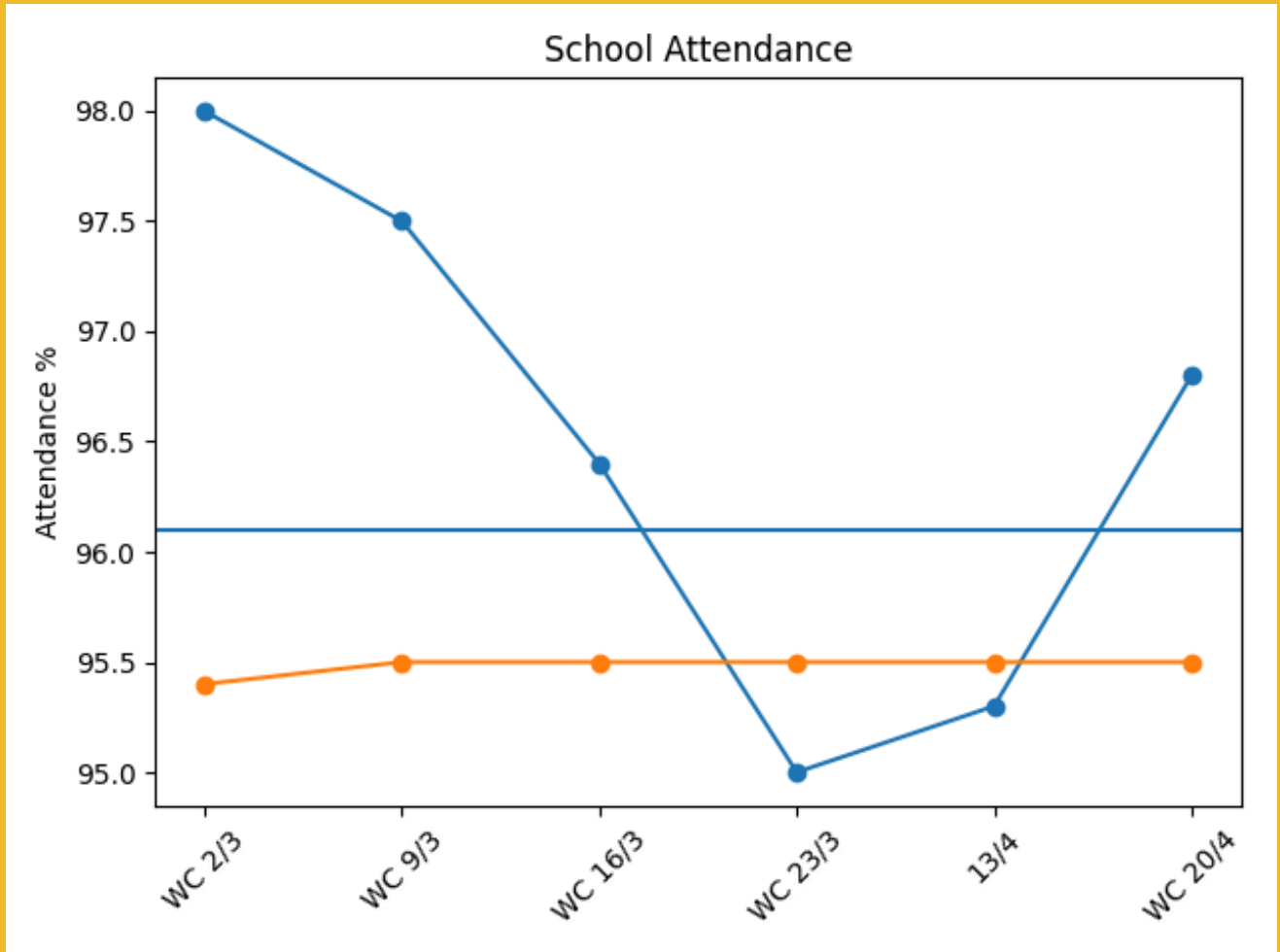
Tues 23 rd	Leavers Mass 11am Douai Abbey
Tues 30 th	UKS2 Production 2pm and 6.30pm

JULY

Mon 13 th	Staff v Pupils Rounders
Mon 13 th	Leavers Party
Tues 14 th	Leavers Mass 11am St Joseph's

HOUSE POINTS

Week Ending	St Anne	St Bernadette	St Brigid	St Margaret Clitherow	St Rose of Lima
24/4	585	441	200	310	361



While our overall attendance currently sits at 95.5%, we have seen encouraging improvements in the spring term. With 9 weeks remaining, achieving our original 96.1% target would require exceptionally high attendance each week. Our focus now is on finishing the year as strongly as possible, which will require sustained attendance of 97% or higher each week. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children are in school every day.



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United through Christ in Faith, Love and Learning



Are you a visionary educator ready to make a profound impact on children's learning journey?
St Paul's Catholic Primary School seeks a Full Time Class Teacher for a Fixed Term Contract (One Year) starting
September 2026

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO:

- Champions our Catholic mission with genuine passion and commitment
- Excels in creating transformational learning experiences for young minds
- Thrives on innovation, reflection, and continuous professional growth
- Sets the highest standards and inspires children to exceed them
- Builds powerful partnerships with families and our school community
- Brings energy, creativity, and pedagogical expertise to everything they do

WHAT WE OFFER YOU:

"Outstanding Catholic School in Overall Effectiveness and all aspects of learning" – Diocesan Section 48 Validation
"St Paul's has a strong community spirit, pupils enjoy coming to school...providing a calm, friendly and well-ordered environment where pupils make good progress in their learning." – Latest OFSTED Report

An Unparalleled Environment:

- Exceptional children who are eager to learn and grow
- Collaborative, supportive team of dedicated professionals
- Strong Catholic ethos that nurtures the whole child
- Strong professional development opportunities
- Supportive leadership committed to your success

READY TO JOIN OUR MISSION? Visits to the school are warmly welcomed

Application Deadline: Tuesday 12th May

Interview Date: Tuesday 19th May

How to Apply:

- Contact the school directly for your application pack
- Download online at: 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 from the successful candidate. Online search will be carried out as part of the due diligence on the shortlisted candidates.