



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 12 – Friday 1st December 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

What another busy week in school we have had! The Nativity performances are coming together brilliantly, and children are getting increasingly excited to be able to perform this to you. Our Year 5 and 6 children have been thinking very scientifically this week and complete some great science experiments. Mrs Lopez, Miss Spaven, and I have had the pleasure of spending some time in Reading lessons this week and we have been really impressed with the levels of concentration and the detailed answers we saw. Next week brings the start of the season of Advent and with it, as a school, we will be preparing for the birth of Jesus. I hope you can join us for as many of our school events as possible over the coming weeks. Have a great weekend everyone.

Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus into the world to show us how to live. Help us to be ready when he comes. Help us to make all visitors feel welcome and cared for. Amen

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 5 (Frank) for having 96.9% attendance this week. Our overall school attendance this week was 96.5% Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

Nativity Ticket Booking

This year the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be delivering four Christmas Nativity performances. Families of children in these year groups will have received information on how to book a ticket for one of these performances. If you have any questions about these performances, please speak to the school office.

Parent and Child Questionnaire

Over the last few weeks, we have been gathering feedback from children and parents about life here at St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School. We are pleased to share with you all the results from these questionnaires.

Parent Feedback - [download.asp \(st-johnhenrynewman.org.uk\)](https://st-johnhenrynewman.org.uk/download.asp)

Child Feedback - [download.asp \(st-johnhenrynewman.org.uk\)](https://st-johnhenrynewman.org.uk/download.asp)

We are pleased with the feedback, and it has also provided us with some key areas to work on over the coming months.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2023

Each morning, starting on Monday 27th November 2023, there will be an empty plastic box at the school gate, which if you are able to make a few small donations during Advent, they will be used once again to support the “Trussell Trust – Stop UK Hunger”. Suggested food items are shown below. All our food donations will then be taken to our local Peterborough Food Bank.

Tea	Hot chocolate	Long life fruit Juice	UHT Milk
Tinned Meat	Instant Mash	Pasta Sauces	Tinned Fruit
Tinned Fish	Rice Pudding	Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Soup
Tinned Beans	Pasta	Rice	Chocolate

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

With the chilly winter weather towards the end of the week, we took the opportunity to explore the seasonal changes in our outdoor learning area. We were fascinated with the frost and the ice which covered our playground. We enjoyed feeling it melt underneath our gloves and using magnifying glasses to look even closer at the frosty crystals! We talked about the sun melting the ice outside and even bought some ice into the classroom too, watching it melt slowly in the heat of being inside. Fingers crossed for snow next!!



Year 1 Learning (Armstrong)

In Armstrong Class we have started our new book *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. This book focuses on a little girl coming to England as part of the Windrush Generation. The children have really engaged with this story and have really enjoyed talking about the journey that Floella took and relating this to their own experiences of journeys. We also uplevelled our sentence writing by having a real focus on using the word 'and' to connect different ideas. In maths we have started our unit on shape and have been looking at the names and properties of 2D shapes and have been finding and recording them in our environment. Can you find any 2D or 3D shapes around your house this weekend? We also finished our DT unit by evaluating our watermelon pizzas (they were scrummy!) and started our IT unit based on basic computer skills and algorithms.

Year 1 and 2 Learning (Chanel)

Both year groups started their new unit of work in Maths - all about shape! Year 1 had great fun exploring an array of 2D and 3D shapes. They made comparisons and even started describing their properties! Year 2 consolidated their previous knowledge and took a more in-depth look at their properties. They showed great determination and accuracy when using a ruler to draw shapes. In English we started our new book 'Coming to England' which tells the story of a little girl moving over during the Windrush. We uplevelled our sentences, using conjunctions such as (and, but, or) and made predictions based on the front cover of the book.

Year 3 Learning (Yousafzai)

In year 3 this week, we have written our non-chronological reports in writing. In maths we have continued our learning on multiplication and division and have focused on the 8 times tables. In reading we have looked at an example of an explanation text and answered questions on floods and droughts, this reminded us of our own experience of when the school flooded last year! In science we have found out what food waste is and how we can reduce it. During our topic work we have learnt Spanish this week. We can say hello, goodbye, how are you and response, what is your name, numbers 1-10, and colours in Spanish. We have enjoyed practising asking each other questions and responding in this language. We have also learnt the name of some cities within Spain and looked at pictures of food they like to eat.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi)

In D&T the class have now completed their work on electrical systems - torches. All of the groups continued the assembly of their torches, which they have now completed. This involved building the circuit, making the housing, putting it altogether and then designing some additional features or creative pieces to cover the housing with. Some groups chose to make handles, others opted for bubble wrap, brown paper or cardboard inside the housing, to protect their circuits or on the outside, to act as a cushion to protect the entirety of the product. Alternatively, a few chose to cover their reflective piece where the bulb sat with bubble wrap, to create a different effect – more like a lamp. There were great and varied designs on display, with some students getting very creative.

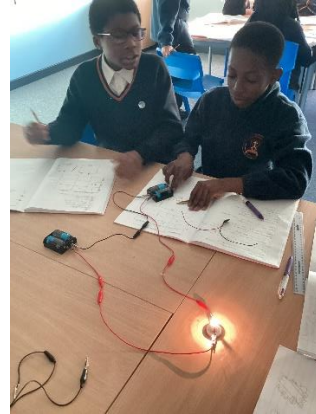
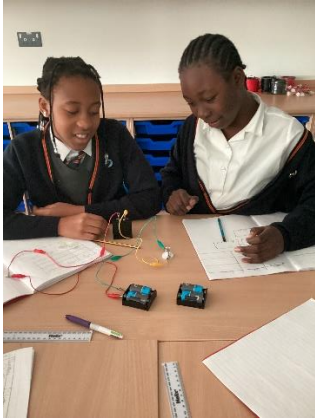


Year 5 Learning (Frank)

In Science Year 5 looked at how day and night in the world. We discussed how the world has time zones and why some places experience a day before other parts of the world. Using what we have learned, we answered some questions based on differing time zones. We also found out that Mr Pepper's family in New Zealand are 12 hours ahead and he must be careful what time he rings them, so he does not wake them up too early!

Year 6 Learning (Pankhurst)

This week, the children completed the investigation that they planned last week: How does voltage affect the brightness of a bulb. As part of this, we discussed the different variables within an investigation and how we can check the validity of a result. In English we are coming to the end of our playscript unit, we are the children have edited play scripts in include stage directions, acted out their scripts and have planned and drafted their own script to finish off next week.



Autumn Term 2023 Dates

5-12-2023	4.00pm Advent Service
5-12-2023	4.30pm School Carols
7-12-2023	6.00pm Peterborough Schools Carol Service
12-12-2023	2.00pm Nativity Reception
13-12-2023	2.00pm Nativity Reception
14-12-2023	2.00pm Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity
15-12-2023	2.00pm Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity
18-12-2023	Christmas Jumper Day
18-12-2023	Christmas Lunch
19-12-2023	1.30pm Last Day