



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 13 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

We have had a wonderful week in school this week with the start of Advent. We held a joint Advent and Carol Service on Tuesday which was a beautiful service attended by many families. We also joined together with the other Peterborough Catholic School to have a joint schools Advent Carol Service. The choir represented the school brilliantly and it was an incredibly special moment for everyone who attended. Finally, this week has also seen all our classes begin their daily Advent Reflections. These have been carried out in a very prayerful and reflective manner and has led to all the children sharing how they are preparing during this Advent Season.

**Christ Jesus, as Christmas approaches, we look forward joyfully to your coming. Help us to prepare and be ready when you come. 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**

Thank you for taking the time to book your seats for your child's upcoming Nativity Performance. I am pleased to confirm that we have been able to accommodate ***all*** seating requests and you will be able to attend your child's Nativity performance on your selected day. We do also have a small number of spaces available for each performance, so if you require any additional seats, please contact the school office and we can add these to your booking.

***Please note that we will not be issuing physical tickets as we are aiming to reduce the amount of paper/card used in school.***

#### **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, 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)**

This week we have been busy learning in our new bakery role play area to support our learning about traditional tales The Little Red Hen and The Gingerbread Man! We have been using our knowledge of making bread and biscuits to pretend to make our own baked products alongside writing shopping lists and recipe instructions. We have enjoyed using the card reader and our knowledge of numbers to pay for the items too.

#### **Year 1 Learning (Armstrong)**

In Armstrong, this week we have continued reading *Coming to England*. We have started prepping for writing our diary entries by doing some hot seating activities about Floella's journey on the boat and writing some descriptive sentences. In maths we looked more closely at the properties of 3D shapes before doing some work on repeating patterns. We also continued our unit on Algorithms and did lots of different activities based on specific instructions and getting them in the right order.

### **Year 1 and 2 Learning (Chanel)**

What a super week in Chanel class! In English we looked in more detail at our class book 'Coming to England' and began planning our next 'Hot task' - a Diary entry from the perspective of Floella Benjamin. To help enrich our plan we have discussed exciting adjectives to describe the scenery in Trinidad and London. We also completed a 'Hot seating' task where we shared the thoughts and feelings Floella may have had about her journey to England. In Maths both year groups are continuing to learn all about Shape. Year 1 have focused on naming 3D shapes and identifying real life versions of these, for instance a tin of beans being a cylinder shape. Year 2 have found vertical lines of symmetry and gone on to identify the number of edges, faces and vertices different 3D shapes have. All the children have been working tirelessly to perfect their Nativity play and are extremely excited to share this with you next Thursday and Friday afternoon.

### **Year 3 Learning (Yousafzai)**

This week, year 3 have started to look at newspaper articles in guided reading as this will be the first genre, we focus on in our writing lessons during the spring term. In writing we have started our explanation text; we have created our own robot to help us with chores. We are writing a step-by-step guide of how to use our robot and what it does. We have continued working on our 3-, 4- and 8-times tables in maths lessons. In history we have learnt lots about what happened during the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age. We have tried to work out what different artifacts were and learnt about what trading is. We compared houses from the Stone Age and the Iron Age. In science we have started work on rocks and looked at different rocks and explored how we can group rocks.



### **Year 4 Learning (Gandhi)**

This week Year 4 have continued their reading unit on The Romans. They completed their lesson on the book's context, by looking at the timeline of the Roman Empire. This involved sorting the given events into the correct order, with a particular focus on those relating to the invasion and occupation of Britain (then known as Britannia). The comprehension lesson – titled: 'Land in Britain!' explored the initial invasion of the UK by the Romans and the Celtic people (Celts) that called the land home

### **Year 5 Learning (Frank)**

We have begun reading a Charles Dickens text called the Christmas Carol in English. To understand it in context, we compared Christmas in the Victorian era to a modern Christmas. Using part of the story we converted part of the story into a play using all the features of play scripts including character's speech and stage direction. We had a chance to act these short plays out using dialogue and stage direction.

### **Year 6 Learning (Pankhurst)**

In English, we have concluded our unit on playscripts and have started looking at explanation texts. During our reading lessons, we have looked at texts that give us information about the heart and have been able to identify key features within those. In Maths, we have rounded up our learning on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, and the children have made us proud with the progress they have made in their arithmetic practice.

### **Autumn Term 2023 Dates**

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

