



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 14 – Friday 15th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

It has been a lovely week in school this week! Our children have been putting the finishing touches to several Advent theme learning including their Christmas cards. We have also welcome two new members of staff; Mrs Bailey (Year 1 Teacher), Mrs Boulton (School Office), I am sure you will see lots of these over the coming months. Finally, Reception and Key Stage 1 shared their Nativity performances. The children did amazingly well and made everyone feel enormously proud. Have a good weekend and we look forward to seeing you for the final two days next week.

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 4 (Gandhi) for having 98.9% attendance this week. Our overall school attendance this week was a pleasing 97.5% Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Monday we are inviting all children to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper instead of their usual school jumper/cardigan. We ask that all other uniform items be worn as usual. Please note that there is no charge for this. If you have any questions, please speak with your child's class teacher.

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)

In Maths this week we have been learning all about squares and rectangles. We have been discussing their properties and looking at the similarities and differences between them. After our shape lessons, we have been busy in the classroom reinforcing our learning through activities such as using square and rectangular stickle bricks in the construction area, using shape viewfinders to go on a shape hunt in the classroom and by drawing around squares and rectangles to make our own shape artwork!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong)

This week in Armstrong Class we have finished our unit on the biographical book *Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin. The children have done fabulous diary entries based on Floella's experience on the boat and her hopes and dreams for her new life. In maths we recapped all of our learning this term in a fun quiz and worked in teams to solve problems. We also finished our computing unit based on algorithms.

Year 1 and 2 Learning (Chanel)

What a busy week Chanel class! Year 1 have been remarkably busy completing group quizzes in Maths testing their knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes. They have demonstrated a strong understanding of this Mathematical area. Year 2 have also continued their learning in this area and sorted a variety of 3D shapes into different groups based on their properties. The children have completed their final 'Hot Task' of the year - a Diary entry from the perspective of a young girl moving to England during the Windrush. The diary entries were exceptional and the best piece of writing to date! Every child should be enormously proud of their amazing efforts in the Nativity play. They have worked extremely hard and have shown great enthusiasm throughout!

Year 3 Learning (Yousafzai)

Year 3 have had a fun week of learning. We have written up our explanation text explaining how our robot's work. We have completed problem solving activities in maths. In guided reading we have looked at a newspaper article and learnt about the first landing on the moon. In science we completed 2 experiments one to test the hardness of rocks and the other to test if rocks would float or sink. We have focused on art during the afternoons. We have completed a range of tasks including exploring prehistoric art where we drew a native British animal, we then scaled this up on to larger paper and drew the same animal using charcoal and pastels. We have also made a prehistoric palette which looks like a prehistoric wall using a range of materials including couscous, lentils, and barley. We then painted these using paint we had made from flour, water, and a range of spices. To make our palette look like prehistoric art we painted on this to make it look like a cave wall.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi)

This week Year 4 have continued their reading unit on The Romans. They looked at the pages called 'Meet some people' which discussed the different ranks in Roman society and the Romano-British way of living. 'Come to dinner' highlighted some of the different food found in a kitchen back then and compared the typical diet of peasants to the wealthier. On Thursday, students learned about a part of their lifestyles in the bathhouses, titled 'Take a bath' and finished by seeing what clothing and makeup, both men and women typically wore in 'Dress to impress.'

Year 5 Learning (Frank)

We have been busy writing play scripts loosely based on A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Our play scripts are entertaining but also have a moral message about the spirit of Christmas. It has been enjoyable creating names of characters to go in our play scripts. We have also looked a version of A Christmas Carol in our guided reading and discussed the underlying messages which the book contains throughout. We related it to the message of Christmas in our own lives too.

Year 6 Learning (Pankhurst)

In English this week, the children have produced their final hot write of the term; an explanation text on how to look after a made-up animal. The have considered a range of features that we have explored to produce well thought-out double page spread. We have also this week, completed our final cross-country lesson where the children were challenged to run two laps of the school field consecutively - safe to say there were a few tired children!



Autumn Term 2023 Dates	
18-12-2023	Christmas Jumper Day
18-12-2023	Christmas Lunch
19-12-2023	1.30pm Last Day
Spring Term 2024 Dates	
3-1-2024	Training Day
4-1-2024	School Starts
5-1-2024	Epiphany Liturgy
29-1-2024	Mock SATs week (Year 6's only)
14-2-2024	Ash Wednesday
Half Term (Monday 19th February 2024 to Friday 23rd February 2024)	
2-3-2024	World Book Day (More Details to Follow)
5-3-2024	Parent Meetings
6-3-2024	Parent Meetings
27-3-2024	Stations Liturgy
28-3-2024	1.30pm Last Day