



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 18 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

This week we have welcomed several of our school governors. They were all incredibly impressed with the children's attitude and dedication that they showed towards their learning. Also, very well done to Year Six this week who have completed a full practice set of tests for their SATs later in the year. The children approached these with a real sense of determination and focus. Finally, Mr Pepper and Mrs Lopez have been spending some time this week looking at our PE learning across the school. They were extremely impressed with the knowledge and skills that the children had and how they were able to talk with confidence about their in and out of school PE learning. Have a great weekend everyone!

***May God, the Holy Spirit from whom alone the gift of faith can come, hear my humble prayer, and thus enable me to share with others the riches of my heritage of faith through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.***

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

Well done to Year 1 (Chanel) for having 100% attendance this week. Our overall school attendance this week was 96.3% Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

#### **Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)**

This week in Reception class we have been preparing to celebrate 'The Lunar New Year'. 2024 is the year of the dragon. We have learnt dragons are powerful creatures and even followed instructions to draw our own, ready for the Lunar New Year parades! We thought carefully about shape, size, and positional language as we drew. Look at our fantastic artwork below! We also learnt the New Year tradition of the 'Wishing Tree.' This event began hundreds of years ago in Hong Kong. People would travel to ancient banyan trees to make wishes. We wrote our own wishes on special lucky red paper. We will attach these wishes to the paper oranges we made by cutting around circles and decorating them with tissue paper. We will use colourful ribbons to hang on the tree in our classroom.

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

This week, Year 1 have been working hard at estimating on a number line to 20 in maths. We are so proud of our hard work in this and have achieved so much.

For our specialism, this week we have been doing an ICT/DT mix of 'Rocket to the Moon' where we have been working hard to plan, design and create our very own rocket! The children have been practising how to type, draw and label their designs on a laptop, using the programme 'Paint' - and they look awesome!



### **Year 2 Learning (Hamilton)**

In PE, this half term Hamilton class have been taking part in team building games. We have had great fun developing our communication and listening skills and have completed a range of 'Challenge Activities' to really get our brains thinking. This week, we had to work effectively as a team to move a hula hoop across the playground using only 2 skipping ropes. After a lot of discussions and trial runs all teams were successful!

In reading, we started our new Book 'Fantastic Mr Fox'. It was clear we have some future Oscar winners in our midst when we completed a hot seating task pretending to be the 3 Farmers Boggis, Bunce and Bean. We really got into character and used great expression to show how the Farmers feel about the clever Mr Fox.



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

In year 3 this week, we have finished reading Mary Poppins in our guided reading sessions, we enjoyed reading about the different adventures the children went on with her. In preparation for our narrative writing, we have focused on a range of sentences including simple, compound, and complex. To help with editing our own writing we have spent time learning how to edit a piece of text with errors in it. In maths we have been working out equivalent lengths of metres and centimetres as well as centimetres and millimetres. We have enjoyed measuring a range of items around the classroom. We have continued our geography unit on rainforests and have labelled the different layers and looked at what animals and plants live there. This week in science we have carried out a soil experiment, we ensured we completed a fair test. We investigated which soil absorbs the most water? We used 4 different soils for our investigation - sandy soil, clay soil, peat soil and chalky soil.



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

Year 4 have recently started their second art topic of the academic year – Painting & Mixed Media: Light and Dark. This has seen them explore painting techniques using tints and shades, by mixing white or black with another colour to produce different tones. They have then built on this, by using tints and shades to create a 3D effect when painting an object, while continuing to learn about further painting techniques.

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

This week has been busy in Maths as we have started a set of lessons focusing on fractions. We have been multiplying and dividing fractions by whole numbers and then finding fractions of amounts. We have looked at lots of examples and solve quite challenging problems involving fractions.

In guided reading we have looked closely at chapters 16 to 18 of *Black Beauty* and used our retrieval skills to answer questions within the text. We also looked at specific words in the text and explained their meaning using the context in which they appeared. This led to rich discussion about using context to find meanings in words in our reading each day.

We have also been writing and adapting paragraphs this week in the lead up to write a narrative piece based on *Black Beauty*. Each paragraph had a different focus e.g.: new character, some dialogue, new atmosphere etc.

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

It has been a busy week, this week for Year 6! Monday - Thursday morning, the children sat their Mock SATS, and we were really impressed with their attitude and focus on this. Hopefully experiencing this week as we have, means that the children will feel much more comfortable when their SATS come round in May.

#### **Parent Groups**

A few classes have parent/carer WhatsApp chat groups as an online space to seek support, ask questions, clarify, or give information. For those interested to join, please click on the applicable links:

Reception

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EsYGRLjf3ry3fdBPdC0O7U>

Year 1

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Dd1gG60RNXw8iRfjcpa49B>

Year 2

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/HnXKAXF2FLJHekeH9aunoM>

Year 3

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/ExOh0mSMXbi8haZszKdd6t>

Year 4

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hm7ypljTYp8B0LmNoYaRQf>

#### **Spring Term 2024 Dates**

14-2-2024	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
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Half Term (Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> 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