



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

Volume 17– Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)

This week, we celebrated a special milestone with our first weekly school Mass of the term, beautifully led by our Year 5 children and Fr Jeffrey. It was a joy for Year 3 and Year 5 to gather in prayer and reflection. I look forward to Year 2 and Year 4 leading their Mass next week.

Our after-school clubs have restarted and are buzzing with activity! From sports to creative arts, there's something for everyone. These clubs are a wonderful opportunity for children to explore their interests and develop new skills outside the classroom. In total we have had over 340 children attend our curriculum enrichment programme this week.

In the classroom, science learning is sparking curiosity across all year groups. From hands-on experiments to exciting discoveries, the children have really enjoyed starting their new Science topic. Have a great weekend everyone.

***Heavenly Father, may we always recognise Jesus, the Lamb of God, in our daily lives. Help us to follow Him faithfully and share His love with others. Amen.***

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

### **Attendance**

Well done to Year 6 (Biles), Year 4 (Gandhi) and Year 4 (Yousafzai) for all having 100% attendance this week – WOW!!! Our overall school attendance this week was 97.8% 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 we have been learning all about how ice changes in winter and why. We enjoyed investigating the ice by touching it and observing it throughout the day. In our literacy lessons, we have been thinking about the difference between hot and cold places and what items we would need to pack in a suitcase to visit either of them. We have been focussing on composition of numbers to 5 in maths, looking at how numbers are made up of smaller numbers. To help us show our understanding, we have been using the sentence stem '\_\_\_ is a part and \_\_\_ is a part. The whole is \_\_\_'. We have also enjoyed looking at toys from the past and present and the differences between them.



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

We have had a very busy week; we started the week by planting a seed to see if it will grow in winter this was part of our science learning. In maths we have been showing our understanding of numbers up to 20. We have been learning one more and one less than a given number. In our reading lessons we finished reading Mrs Armitage on wheels, we really enjoyed this book. We thought about what Mrs Armitage might add to her roller skates after we found that her bike went crash as she added too many things! In our writing lessons we have been learning all about question marks and when to use these. We got to write down questions to ask a friend. We have also learnt lots about being safe online during our computing lessons.

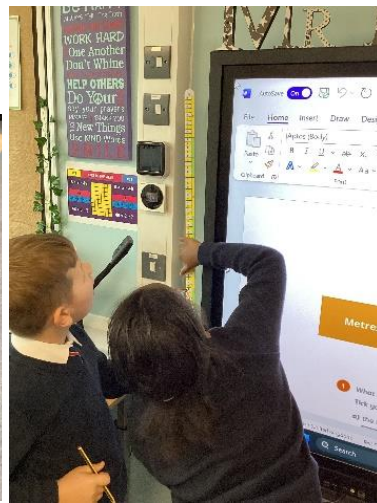


### **Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)**

In Year 2 this week, the children have been keen to get into school to check whether the bean seeds we planted in last week's science lesson have started to shoot. The children will be observing the bean seeds over the next few weeks, measuring and recording the growth. In our writing lessons, the children have been preparing for the hot task next week by learning to use noun phrases and writing in the first person, and they have planned to write their own adventure story. In maths, we have continued our learning all about money. The children have been calculating and comparing amounts of money. They have enjoyed making amounts with the money we have in the classroom. In our computing lessons, the children have been creating algorithms to retell the story of The Three Little Pigs. The children have had fun recording their own voices, choosing the right code, and we have enjoyed watching their final programmes.

### **Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)**

This week has flown by with lots of great learning in Year 3! In English we have been reading the first few chapters in 'The Iron Man' and looked at lots of really challenging words. We have also started our recount of the beginning of the story and tried to be very ambitious in using higher order adjectives and adverbs within our writing. We have also designed and drawn our own 'robots.' Maths has seen us focus on measurement and we have used metres, centimetres and millimetres to measure length. Using our rulers and metre sticks, we have learned how to measure accurately and we have explored the relationship between those units of measure. In PE we have further developed our newly taught skills in handball and we played some ball games to help us with our speedy throwing and catching. Saying greetings in Spanish is what we have been learning in some of the afternoons. We have created some finger puppets to greet each other in Spanish – it has been 'bien!'



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

Learning in Year 4 this week has been a very busy one which has flown by. We have started reading our new book called The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis which the children appear to be enjoying. We have continued to learn about features of 3<sup>rd</sup> person narratives, exploring expanded noun phrases to provide more detail in our stories and paint a more vivid picture for the reader. In Science, we completed an ice cube melting experiment to see the effects of hot and cold water on the rate at which the ice cube melts, which both classes really engaged with. This also helped us to practice our use of thermometers and stopwatches, including our ability to take accurate readings and recordings from each of them. Pupils have almost completed an entire unit on Spanish - Journey around Latin America as well; exploring the countries in Latin America and discovering how to say where you are going, when you are going and how you are getting there. This has seen them learning lots of country names, the days of the week and different modes of transport. We have been really impressed by how much effort they have all put into these lessons, joining in with pair/group work and whole class oral activities in order to improve their pronunciation of these new words. PE will see the children continue to take part in fitness-based activities and record their achievements, which will help them to measure the progress made throughout the term and increase their awareness of how to stay fit & healthy.

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

This week, we explored non-chronological reports in greater depth, conducting research to prepare for writing our own. We were so excited to learn all about the Victorian Era and came away knowing some incredibly interesting facts about the time period! In Maths, we focused on multiplying up to 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers and began applying this knowledge to solve worded problems. In Art, we took pictures of ourselves in different lighting and angles for our collage portrait! We even got to edit some of the photos on the iPads. Additionally, we read Black Beauty and started to develop a deeper understanding of the story and its themes.

**Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)**

Another busy week for Year 6! In our writing this week, we have explored the effects of varying our sentence lengths, looking at how mixing long and short sentences can help build tension. We have then applied this, along with our other Year 5 and 6 grammar features to draft our first Hot Write of the term. The children have been really engaged with this unit and we are excited to see what they have produced! In Maths we have looked at converting units of metric measure in a range of contextual situation. The children have worked through, and are beginning to show a good understanding of what a worded problem is asking of us, and the Maths that we need to use. In Science, we created our own wind turbines to end our unit of 'Renewable Energy'. The children needed to use a range of resources to create blades that would catch the wind. We had many successful contraptions!

**Spring Term 2025**

31-1-2025	12.00pm Year 6 Parent Lunch
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3-2-2025	Mock SATs week (Year 6)
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**Half Term - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

28-2-202	12.00pm Year 5 Parent Lunch
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4-3-2025	Parent Meetings
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5-3-2025	Ash Wednesday
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5-3-2025	Parent Meetings
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6-3-2025	World Book Day
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21-3-2025	12.00pm Year 4 Parent Lunch
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2-4-2025	Stations Liturgy
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4-4-2025	1.30pm Last Day
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