



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Volume 19 – Friday 31st January 2025 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)

This week has been filled with exciting activities and learning opportunities for our children. Some Year 4 and Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic sports event at Jack Hunt, showcasing great teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Well done to all who took part! Year 1 had a special virtual visit from Miss Bates, live from Australia, who delivered an engaging talk about Koalas. The children loved learning about wildlife and asking lots of curious questions. Our school community also came together with Year 1 and Year 6 joining in a beautiful Mass. It was a wonderful opportunity for our older and younger pupils to worship together and reflect on God's love. We are also delighted to announce the launch of our new String Group! This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their musical talents. Have a great weekend everyone.

Lord Jesus, help us to trust in Your love, even in times of difficulty. May we follow Your path with faith and courage. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 5 (Hawking) for having 100% attendance this week. Our overall school attendance this week was 94.7% 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 celebrating Chinese New Year! First, we learnt all about the celebration and its importance in the Lunar calendar. As part of our literacy, we have been writing a wish for the wishing tree, as is done every Lunar new year by people who celebrate. We have had many opportunities to consolidate our learning in the provision including making Chinese dragon masks, making lanterns, writing Chinese numbers and using our role play Chinese restaurant. We also visited the DT room to cook a vegetable stir fry! We learned about the importance of food safety, practiced chopping and peeling and some of us even gave our stir fry a 10/10 rating!



Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week we have finished reading the story the day the crayons quit. We really enjoyed this story and listening to the different letters that the crayons wrote to Duncan. In writing we have started to look at features of a letter and looked at how to use exclamation marks. We finished our history topic on how toys have changes, we enjoyed looking at toys from the past as well as bringing our own teddies to school. In science we have been learning about animals, we were really lucky to have a teams call with Miss Bates (our reception teacher) who is currently in Australia looking after koalas. She shared lots of information about koalas with us and some of us got to ask her questions about these bears.



Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week in Year 2 we have started using the multiplication symbol in Maths and have been making arrays with manipulatives to show our calculations. We have started reading a new text – Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl, and the children have been preparing questions to ask the three farmers about how they feel about Mr Fox stealing their chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys. We have started a new unit in our writing lessons, learning about how to sequence events using adverbials of time, first, next, then and finally. We will be using the adverbials of time next week to write a recount of our visit to Sacrewell Farm. The beans shoots that are growing in the light are about 8cm tall so far, the beans growing in the dark are taller, but thinner and do not have the same green colour; they look very weak... we're not sure the beans would taste very nice if they do grow. We are very much looking forward to our visit to Sacrewell Farm next week!

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Maths we have been measuring and calculating perimeter. We have found the perimeter of a variety of shapes and learned how to use efficient methods to find it. We also have been using our length knowledge to solve lots of challenging problems. In English, we have been working on expanded noun phrases to help us with our description when we write. We have found lots of great adjectives and formed sentences to describe nouns. We will be using these a lot in our 1st person narrative writing next week. In Geography, we have started to learn about the 'lungs of the world' - the Amazon rainforest! We are going to look closely at aspects of this fascinating place. PE has been very competitive as we have been playing games of handball. It is a very fast game and we have had to learn how to be aware of space and be always ready to catch and pass the ball – even Mr Pepper has to be ready!

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

Year 4 have been spending a great deal of time on division in Maths over the past couple of weeks. This week has seen them consolidate that learning as many students found some of the associated principles rather tricky at first. Towards the end of the week, pupils are feeling much more confident about this area of maths now. In English, reading we have continued exploring the book – The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe. During Chapter 6 all of the children entered Narnia, only to discover that Mr Tumnus has disappeared, having been arrested by the evil witches Chief of Police. In English writing, both classes have begun planning and drafting their 3rd person narratives, ending the story to the short animation – Ruin. The students have also been very excitedly taking part in computing lessons. We have been learning how to use scratch and furthering our awareness of the different tools. Lastly, we also completed our science unit called States of Matter. We concluded the topic by learning about The Water Cycle, which a few students were already quite knowledgeable about. They were very interested to learn that the water they drink today had also once been drunk by the dinosaurs!

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

This week, we accomplished a lot across our subjects! In English, we completed our non-chronological reports and created fantastic double-page spreads showcasing all our knowledge about the Victorians. In reading, we continued exploring *Black Beauty*, deepening our understanding of the story and getting us prepared for our next English writing unit. In Science, we investigated electrical conductors, learning about materials that allow electricity to flow. In Art, we put our creativity to the test and created our own mix media portraits! Using the pictures we took last week, we experimented with cutting them up, layering pastels and paint, taking part of the photo away and drawing what we interpret. Meanwhile, in Maths, we began our Fractions B unit and demonstrated strong prior knowledge, setting a great foundation for the topic. It's been a productive and engaging week of learning!

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

This week, Year 6 have deepened their understanding of personification and expanded noun phrases, to help us write our personification poems about a forest. A wonderful example was "The ancient tree with spindly branches reached over the moss-covered field." In Maths, we have looked at area and perimeter and looked at how we could find missing lengths knowing other known facts and how to find the areas of triangles. In science we investigated opaque and transparent objects as part of our learning of light and shadow.

Spring Term 2025

3-2-2025

Mock SATs week (Year 6)

Half Term - Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

28-2-2025

12.00pm Year 5 Parent Lunch

4-3-2025

Parent Meetings

5-3-2025

Ash Wednesday

5-3-2025

Parent Meetings

6-3-2025

World Book Day

21-3-2025

12.00pm Year 4 Parent Lunch

2-4-2025

Stations Liturgy

4-4-2025

1.30pm Last Day