



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 21 – Friday 14th February 2025

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)

What a fantastic week it has been at St John Henry Newman! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Friends Association Non-Uniform Day today, your generosity will help fund exciting opportunities for our children. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils showcased their skills at the NFL Flag Tournament, demonstrating teamwork and determination. Well done to all who took part! Meanwhile, our talented Performing Art dancers shone on stage at the Cresset Theatre, delivering a wonderful performance full of energy and creativity. Year 3 also enjoyed a local walk, exploring our community and deepening their understanding of the local area. As we approach the half-term break, we encourage our children to rest and recharge, ready for the exciting learning ahead. Wishing you all a restful half-term!

Heavenly Father, help us to follow Your ways with open hearts. Teach us to love and serve others with kindness and humility. May we always seek Your wisdom in our daily lives. Amen

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 1 (Chanel) for having 96.7% attendance this week. With several illness' in school our overall school attendance this week was 93.1% Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

DfE Primary School Breakfast Club Scheme

Last week you will have received information about the DfE Primary School Breakfast Club Scheme. **Please complete the short questionnaire found in the original information or using the link below.** Your feedback is invaluable in helping us explore how we can make this DfE Scheme work effectively for the school community.

<https://forms.office.com/e/fDah4Y1K64>

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

In Reception, we have been retelling the story of 'We're Going on a Lion Hunt' using our story map and writing our own sentences about it. We have been working very hard and used finger spaces and full stops in our sentences. We have also enjoyed using the small world animals to act out the story and tell our friends all of the things we know about it. For Safer Internet Day 2025, we were learning all about how to keep ourselves safe online, how to spot a scam and what to do if something might be a scam as this was the theme of the day this year.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

Year 1 this week have made a moving book in DT. We had the opportunity to share these with others in the class. In Maths, we have started work on subtraction and looked at a range of methods to solve questions. In our reading lessons we finished reading the book 'Dogs don't do ballet'. In writing we have focused on using the suffixes -s, -es, -ed, -er and -est. In our science lesson, we compared and grouped animals. We have also started our art topic where we have been mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. Enjoy half term and we look forward to seeing you after the break.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week, Year 2 have been continuing their multiplication and division unit in Maths by learning about the 2 and 10-times-tables. They have been demonstrating their learning by writing number sentences using the multiplication and division symbols. We have started a new unit of learning in our writing lessons, learning about what an interview is. The children role-played interviews with their peers, asking and answering questions. The children have learned about using question marks and speech marks and will soon be posing questions to a special guest in school. Some of the pea seeds planted at Sacrewell Farm last week are beginning to shoot and the children have been watching them, as well as their bean plants carefully for further growth. We have also started a new history unit of learning, answering the big question about 'How did we learn to fly?' The children have been learning about significant people including the Wright brothers and Betsy Coleman and how their contribution to flight has led to current day travel. The children are excited for half-term; we hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable week, and look forward to welcoming them back on the 24th February.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Year 3, despite the damp weather and muddy conditions, we went on a local walk. As part of our Geography curriculum, we went out and observed the vegetation in the surrounding area of the school. We also looked closely at what the land is being used for and how this has changed over the recent modern era. We went on to do a comparison of what we observed locally with the Amazon rainforest. Interestingly, there were similarities but also some differences. In

English we wrote our 1st person narratives and then edited and improved them by adding exciting verbs, adjectives and adverbs. We are taking a copy home to tell our exciting stories at home. Fractions have been the focus in Maths, and we have been comparing and ordering their value this week. It has been a busy, but productive week, and we are looking forward to the half term break. Great effort Year 3!

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

It has been a very busy end to the term this week in Year 4. In English, we have been developing our knowledge of explanation texts. We have begun planning and developing our writing, to explain what the problem is, what our invention or gadget looks like and how it then solves the problem. On Tuesday, we spent some time learning about Internet Safety Day with discussions around how to stay safe online, ways to spot potential scams and what you should do when concerned or worried. Gandhi created some brilliant posters which will be placed on our classroom's 'Wow' work display board, before being taken home in the future. The classes have also really enjoyed finishing their computing unit on collaborative learning, which has seen them exploring ways in which we can work together using technology and specific programs. This culminated in the pupils working with a partner to design and create a small survey using Microsoft Forms and sharing it with the rest of the class. The students demonstrated great resilience and intuition while using the laptops, as they encountered different technological problems along the way but through great perseverance and teamwork, they overcame these together. Great job! Wishing all of Year 4 and their families a restful and enjoyable half term, ready for the lead up to Easter!

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

What an amazing final week of this half term! We put our writing skills to the test by writing detailed newspaper reports about the dramatic fire in *Black Beauty*, making sure to include lots of Year 5 grammar features. In History, we travelled back to Tudor times, exploring the fascinating reigns of the monarchs and how they ruled England. We learnt all about Henry VIII, his wives and how each one of them met their demise. We had some fantastic class discussion about how our feeling and thoughts about the monarch during the Tudor times. Meanwhile, in Science, we became investigators—experimenting with different thermal insulators to determine which one was the most effective and used evidence to support our findings and answers.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

This week in Year 6, we spent time reviewing our SATs papers, discussing mistakes, and reflecting on areas for improvement. In English reading, the children engaged in a collaborative, child-led discussion about an example paper, then reflected on their discussions and gave themselves feedback to improve next time. We also took part in a YMCA-led workshop focused on kindness and connecting with others, encouraging teamwork and empathy. It was a valuable week of reflection, discussion, and personal growth, helping the children develop both their academic skills and their understanding of positive relationships.

Spring Term 2025

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