



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 23 – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year C)

This week has been an extremely busy with a number of important moments taking place in our school community. Our Year Group Pancake Races were a fantastic way to celebrate Shrove Tuesday! The children had a wonderful time flipping and racing with their pancakes, demonstrating great teamwork and enthusiasm. Thank you to all who cheered them on! On Wednesday, we gathered as a school community to celebrate Ash Wednesday Mass, marking the beginning of Lent. The children reflected on the importance of this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as we prepare our hearts for Easter. This week, we also welcomed parents for our Spring Term Parent Meetings. It was a valuable opportunity to discuss each child's progress and celebrate their achievements. Thank you to all parents for your support and engagement. Thursday brought the joy of World Book Day, with children bringing in their 'Book in Box' creations from home to celebrate their favourite book. The children also had a language rich day hearing texts being read in a number of languages, our classrooms were filled with creativity and a love for reading! Have a great weekend everyone.

**Lord, as we begin our Lenten journey, help us to trust in You and seek Your guidance. May we follow Christ's example, resisting temptation and growing in faith. Amen.**

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

Well done to Year 3 (Frank), Year 4 (Yousafzai) and Year 1 (Armstrong) for all having 100% attendance this week – WELL DONE! Our whole school attendance this week was a much improved 97.97% Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

#### **Pancake Races**

This week, to mark Shrove Tuesday, all children across StJHN took part in a series of Pancake races. The children really enjoyed taking part in these and competed with a lovely spirit.



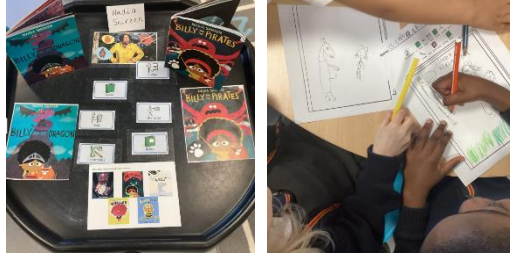
#### **World Book Day**

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day with a range of exciting activities that encouraged a love of reading. Children took part in a poetry recital, showcasing their confidence and creativity. They also brought in fantastic 'Book in a Box' projects from home, displaying their favourite stories in a unique and imaginative way. Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed numerous book-based activities, deepening their appreciation for literature. Thank you to everyone for your participation and support in making World Book Day such a success!



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

In Reception this week, we have continued our learning all about plants. We have been completing some observational drawings of what we can see and we will be planting our own seeds and beans very soon. We have continued to focus on Jasper's Beanstalk in literacy and have been writing sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. For World Book Day, we completed a book quiz in two teams, competing against each other. The Supertatoes won by one point! We then were looking at books by Nadia Shireen who is the author of Billy and the Beast. Lots of us remember reading some of her books when they are sent home in our bookbags. The Cow Who Fell to Earth is another one of her books that we got to listen to too. We then drew a picture of the front cover of our favourite school reading books to recommend them to a friend. What a busy week we have had!



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

This week in Writing, we have created a story map of Prince Cinders, planned and written a retell of this story. In Maths we have partitioned tens and ones up to 50, for example, 37 has 3 tens and 7 ones. In Geography we have been learning about the different countries that make up the UK, we also thought about what we would wear in each of the seasons. We discussed different types of weather that we can get in this country. In Art we created our own version of Clarice Cliff's 'Circle Tree' plate. We also had lots of fun taking part in pancake races on Shrove Tuesday and also taking part in World Book Day activities.

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

Year 2 have had a great week, with pancake races on Tuesday, and World Book Day on Thursday. The children have brought in some amazing 'Book in a Box' creations which have been displayed in school for all to see. The children took part in a quiz, wrote a book recommendation, answered questions about a short video, learned about author Jeanne Willis and read some of her books, which can now be taken home to share with you. The children have also been learning a poem which they have recited as a class to the rest of the school. In Writing, the children have completed their learning about informal letters and have written a letter to an imaginary pen pal using all the grammatical features they have learned so far in this academic year. In Maths, the children have been learning about length and height and have completed this unit of learning with a short quiz. In Design and Technology, the children have been learning about the different food groups and what should be included in their daily diet to keep healthy. They have designed a healthy meal and next week will be making a healthy wrap.

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

What a very busy week – in between all the events at school we have been preparing to write some letters in English. We focused on time conjunctions to use in our letters, and we wrote sentences with a range of them in the middle and the start of our sentences. We are up to Chapter 4 and 5 of Mary Poppins and enjoying the crazy things she, Jane and Michael are doing together! We enjoyed learning a Lewis Carroll poem 'The Crocodile' and performing in World Book Day assembly. In Maths, we have looked at scales and using grams and kilograms. We had to be very accurate when reading the scales and decide on what each interval are in each of the scales. In History, we are still exploring the Romans and looking at their impact on life in the UK. We are going to look at how they conquered and ruled for so long and their system of warfare and weapons. PE was fun this week as alongside ball skills in basketball, we are also learning cricket as the Spring sun begins to shine.

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

It has been a super busy week in Year 4, with many whole school events, parents evening meetings and lots of learning throughout the day as always too. Both classes did superbly during their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day Races, demonstrating brilliant teamwork, sportsmanship and excellent behaviour throughout. While each Y4 class waited their turn, they were great at cheering on and encouraging the pupils in the other class, which was lovely to see. Ash Wednesday Mass, saw most of our students being very reflective and respectful, taking the time to consider what this time of year means and preparing ourselves for Easter. In Maths, we have started learning about fractions, moving on to mixed numbers and more challenging numbers/questions as the week went on. The children have worked very hard at this and continued to apply a great amount of effort, even when sometimes finding it more challenging. In English writing, we have been finishing off our explanation text published pieces, linked to a problem and invention/solution of our choice. We have since moved on to recounts which will see us write a short piece about the Big Pancake Day event on Tuesday. In English reading, the class have been exploring texts linked to electricity which they have shown great interest in learning about. This will work nicely in supporting our knowledge of this topic area, as we soon begin to study this in Science and DT too. As reminded at parents evening, do make sure we continue to read at least 5 times a week and complete a minimum of 20mins TTRS time, to help us continue to develop and improve both our reading/writing, breadth of vocabulary and timetables/maths recall. Please ensure we also take the time to rest and enjoy our weekend as we prepare for our Spring Term assessments next week. Well done Year 4, keep going!

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

This week in Year 5, we have been developing our understanding of rounding decimals and beginning our learning on percentages in Maths. In English, we explored themes and imagery in poetry and *Black Beauty*, using this to plan and draft our own poems. Our Geography lessons focused on population changes, identifying densely and sparsely populated areas and discussing factors that influence where people live. In Science, we compared the life cycles of different animals, examining their similarities and differences. It has been a busy and engaging week of learning!

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

This week in Year 6, we have been busy with a variety of engaging activities across different subjects. In Writing, we began planning and drafting our formal speeches. Students focused on ensuring their vocabulary and punctuation were at a high standard and then participated in peer editing to further improve their work. In Maths, we explored position, direction, and shape, with a particular focus on circles. Students learned new concepts such as radius, diameter, and circumference, applying them in different tasks. As part of World Book Day, we immersed ourselves in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, where we studied and performed a poem from the play. The students worked on their pace, intonation, and expression to bring the words to life. It has been an exciting week, full of opportunities for learning and creativity!

**Spring Term 2025**

14-3-2024	1.30pm BIG Lent Walk
21-3-2025	12.00pm Year 4 Parent Lunch
2-4-2025	Stations Liturgy
4-4-2025	1.30pm Last Day