



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 24 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (Year C)

This week has been filled with exciting events and important visitors. Our Reception children had a wonderful trip to Peterborough Museum, where they explored history through hands-on exhibits and storytelling sessions. They returned full of enthusiasm and new knowledge! Our Year 6 football team represented the school brilliantly in their recent match, demonstrating great teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Well done to all the players!

We also welcomed Ofsted inspectors to our school this week for the very first time. The visit was a valuable opportunity to showcase the hard work and dedication of our staff and pupils. Thank you for your ongoing support throughout this process. Have a great weekend everyone.

*"Lord, help us to walk in your light, show kindness to others, and trust in Your guidance. Amen."*

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

Well done to Year 3 (Frank) and Year 4 (Gandhi) for both having 100% attendance this week – WELL DONE! Our whole school attendance this week was a much improved 97.33% Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

#### **Reception Visit to the Museum**

On Thursday in Reception we went on our very first school trip and visited Peterborough Museum to learn all about life 'Under the Jurassic Sea'. During our time there, we tried our hand at palaeontology: handling fossils and working together to identify which Jurassic Sea creature they were from. Some of us even got to dress up as Mary Anning, the famous fossil hunter. We also got to make our very own Ammonite and habitat out of clay which was one type of Jurassic creature we had been learning about. After eating our lunch, we got to have a look around the other areas of the museum which was very much enjoyed. It was a great day!



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

In Reception this week, we have continued our learning all about plants. We have planted our very own sunflowers and now must be very patient to see if they will grow! Linking to this, we have been learning all about bossy verbs and have been writing instructions about the process of planting a sunflower seed. In Maths, we continued our learning all about length and have been using mathematical language such as longer, shorter, longer than and shorter than to compare the length of different things. We have also been introduced to the concept of height and have really enjoyed building lots of different towers to compare.

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

It has been another busy week for us all in Year 1. In Maths, we just finished learning place value to 50, and everyone has amazed us with their understanding of it all. Their estimation skills have improved so much. In Reading and Writing, we are starting to look at poems. The giggles of all the children when listening to Michael Rosen's poem 'Chocolate Cake' were infectious. In Geography, we have finished learning about the seasons, countries, and capitals of the United Kingdom. Finally, as it is National Science Week, we did some under the sea yoga, learning how animals like starfish, jellyfish and clown fish can adapt and change to suit their environment.

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

What a busy week! Year 2 have been amazing during their assessments, taking them all in their stride and demonstrating their knowledge. We have started a new geography unit of learning about why our world is wonderful; we have been recapping Year 1 learning about continents and oceans and have been looking at human and physical features from around the world including the Statue of Liberty, the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Wall of China. We also started a new unit of learning in Maths – Mass, Capacity and Temperature. The children had great fun using the scales to comparing objects from around the class to identify which were heavier or lighter than others. The children used stem sentences to show what they had been learning, but soon moved on to using the greater than, less than and equals to mathematical symbols. They are looking forward to the Big Lent Walk this afternoon!

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

The week has flown by with lots of engaging learning in Year 3. In Maths we have continued our look into mass/capacity and we explored how we can measure in both grams and kilograms. We used scales and remembered the important fact that 1000grams is equal to 1kilogram! We then used this to compare weights, order weights and solve problems involving weights. In English, we are continuing to read Mary Poppins and enjoying the adventures whilst doing our guided reading alongside. This week we focused on how to summarise a chapter in 3 or 4 sentences. We also have been preparing to write a thank you letter based on Mary Poppins and ensuring we are writing in specific paragraphs. As it was National Science Week, we had a lesson on animal adaptations and explored how animals have changed in different ways to survive and thrive in their environments. It was fun and we also had the chance to explore other animals of our choice to find out how they had adapted. PE/Cricket was fun this week as we practised running between the wickets – we had to hit a ball as far as we could and then score runs before the fielders put the ball back on the cone. We scored lots of runs (but not as many as Mr Pepper!) A very productive and enriching week – Well done Year 3.

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

This week has been a particularly busy one for Year 4, with the continuation of our Lent reflections alongside usual learning, with pupils also undertaking their Spring Term Assessments. In Maths, we have continued learning about fractions, looking at both mixed numbers and improper fractions, before we move on to converting between them. In English, we are continuing to develop our writing skills and planning linked to a recount, in preparation for the drafting, editing and publishing of our Pancake Day Race pieces. This week has seen the classes move on to another specialism in Geography, with the topic title – Where does our food come from? We have been learning new vocabulary such as sustainability, reliability, distribution, import & export and food miles. The first lesson involved learning about biomes and where different ones are located across the world and the negative impact that the food industry can have on our planet through pollution/greenhouse gases, water consumption and food waste. In the second lesson, we looked at how chocolate is made and specifically the journey of a cocoa bean from plant (source) to the chocolate bars (product) that we pick off of the shelves to eat. On Thursday afternoon, we completed some fun off-topic activities in science linked to and in celebration of British Science Week. This year's theme is 'Change & Adapt' so we learnt about animal adaptations, with pupils completing some animal adaptation matching and sorting activities. This was followed by students beginning to create a British Science Week poster, with the best being selected by Mr Pepper (science lead) over the coming weeks and entered into a national competition which closes on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**. We have been particularly impressed with how well the vast majority of pupils across both classes, have conducted themselves during these tests. In addition, there have been some really insightful thoughts and reflections from many of our pupils during our peaceful reflection sessions, which has been really nice to see and hear.

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

This week has been a productive and rewarding one as we've worked hard and made ourselves proud as we've completed most of our spring tests. In RE, we've been exploring the themes of Lent, focusing on sin, repentance, and sacrifices. We also created our own prayers for the daily examen and explored how we can take time out of our day to ground and to connect with God. Additionally, in Geography we learned about population changes, specifically looking at birth rates, death rates, and what factors make a place good to live in. It's been a week of meaningful learning and personal growth!

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

This week in Year 6, we explored a range of subjects, deepening our knowledge and building important skills. In Geography, we began investigating different types of energy sources, both renewable and non-renewable. Working in groups, we researched and discussed the benefits and drawbacks of various energy sources, including coal, crude oil, and wind turbines. This allowed us to consider how energy impacts the environment and our daily lives. We then made links to our new English unit, where we will be creating a non-chronological report. After completing our motivational speeches, we are now focusing on structuring and presenting factual information effectively across a double-page spread. In Maths, we revisited our understanding of place value. Throughout the week, we focused on key areas that have previously been challenging, such as rounding numbers and multiplying decimals. Through a mix of practice exercises and problem-solving activities, we strengthened our confidence in these concepts. Overall, it has been a productive week, full of engaging discussions and opportunities to refine our skills across different subjects. We are looking forward to continuing our learning journey next week!

### **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