



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 3 – Friday 19th September 2025

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

As we reach the end of our third week of the school year, it has been wonderful to see the children so settled and engaged in their learning. On Thursday, our Key Stage 2 pupils joined together for our Welcome Back Mass, giving thanks for the start of term and asking God's blessing for the months ahead. Our peripatetic music lessons are now in full swing, with over 120 children taking part! This year, we are especially pleased to introduce new instruments, including brass and woodwind, broadening the opportunities for pupils to explore and enjoy music. In classrooms, children have begun their first extended writing pieces, showing great creativity and pride in their work. Finally, our Year 6 pupils have also started their important role as Play Leaders, supporting younger children with care and maturity during lunchtime. Have a great weekend everyone.

Lord Jesus, help us to use our gifts well and keep You at the centre of our lives. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 5 (Hawking) for having 100% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a pleasing 97.02%. Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs daily from 8.10am. Booking is available via ParentMail (Iris). The booking process runs exactly the same as our school meals booking system and is located within the 'Account' section of your Parent Mail account. The booking window will close 4 days before the booking is due to take place. It is imperative that you pre-book to help us manage our preparations and provide an optimal experience for all participating children.

Welcome Back Mass

This week we gathered as a school community to celebrate the new term. KS2 joined together for a Welcome Back Mass, while KS1 marked the beginning of the year with a special liturgy. Both celebrations reminded us of God's presence with us throughout this school year.



Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have continued our learning about Elmer by sequencing three pictures from the story. Sequencing is an important skill as it helps us to develop our understanding of story structure, recall, and ordering events. We have been sorting objects into groups in Maths and exploring how to work out the groups that others have sorted. This can be tricky at times! This week in Phonics, we have been learning the sounds **i, n, p, g, and o**, practising recognising them, saying them clearly, and writing them. In Science, we have been learning about the human body, identifying and naming different body parts. We labelled a giant human body outline to demonstrate our excellent knowledge. We have also been practising important skills such as following instructions, listening carefully, and being ready to learn. We also met our Year 6 buddies ahead of next week's Welcome Ceremony!



Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week we have continued our Maths learning on place value. We have been finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number within 10. In Writing we have focused our learning on verbs, we have found out that there are action verbs e.g. running, jumped and being verbs e.g. is, am and are. We have been practising writing sentences including a noun and a verb. In Science we have learnt about 1 of our 5 senses – sight. We completed an experiment to see if we could throw more bean bags in a hoop using both our eyes, 1 eye covered or both eyes covered. In Geography we took part in an enquiry question: What can we find in our school grounds? We worked in pairs with a clipboard and an aerial view of our school to see what features we could find outside and labelled these on our maps. After labelling a range of features we thought of symbols we could use for these features and created a key.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week we have been eagerly awaiting shoots to appear from the seeds we planted in our Science lessons. Thursday we were not disappointed, and we have two shoots from our pots in the sunlight, and one from the pots in the cupboard. We are keeping a diary of the growth and have drawn and described what we can see. In our Maths lessons we have been partitioning 2-digit numbers into tens and ones. We used our dienes to do this practically before answering some written questions. In our computing lessons, we have continued to discuss online safety, and the children all know to tell a trusted adult if they see something they do not like online. In our reading lesson we have read the first part of the text, When the Rains Come, and met the characters in the story. We have been answering questions about who the characters are and what has happened in the story so far.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Year 3 we have continued to build on our learning in Science by looking at the purpose of our bones- that we have them to protect, support or provide movement to our bodies. In English writing we have started writing our biographies about Anne Frank; the children are doing well with this and have great ideas of what to include. In Maths we are building on our place value knowledge with numbers up to 1000 by partitioning, finding patterns and answering word problems. In Geography we are really enjoying our topic on mountains and this week we looked at how different mountains are formed and the different types there are based on the tectonic plates.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

This week has been quite busy in class! In Maths, we have been working on partitioning numbers up to 10,000, estimating positions on number lines, and finding 1, 10, 100, and 1,000 more or less than a given number. In English, the children have been researching key facts about Malala Yousafzai and Mahatma Gandhi in preparation for writing biographies next week. In History, we are learning about what life was like for children in Victorian England and how Lord Shaftesbury contributed to improving their conditions. In Science, our focus has been on classifying animals, particularly vertebrates and invertebrates. In PE, we continue developing our movement skills through engaging and active sessions.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

This week in Year 5, we have continued to work on the biography form, writing our own biographies of our class figures Marie Curie and Stephen Hawking. We have continued to work on numbers to 1 million, including working with number lines and partitions of these numbers. In Science, we learned about air resistance as a particular form of friction, and demonstrated how there is more air resistance when objects have a larger surface area. In History, we continue to learn about the Mayan civilisation, this week discussing the challenges they faced farming and building in a rainforest environment, contrasting this with the different environment and practices of the Anglo-Saxons in medieval Britain. We have also begun learning vocabulary and phrases that would be used in a Spanish café.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

An excellent week in Year 6 began with looking at decimal numbers in Maths. Being able to compare them, order them and round them was the focus this week. We also looked at problem solving when decimal numbers are used in real life contexts such as money transactions. In English, we have really focused on descriptive writing and using our senses to help describe settings and characters. We wrote some incredibly creative paragraphs! During whole class reading, we read more chapters of Holes by Louis Sachar and we are enjoying the different strands of the story so far. Swimming on Tuesday was really enjoyable and we all managed to improve our water confidence. Year 6 have begun play-leading during lunchtimes and have proved to be showing great responsibility and maturity in their roles so far. We have also met our new buddies in reception class and are looking forward to the welcome ceremony with them next week. Let's keep up the great start!

Autumn Term 2025 Diary

24-9-2025	12.00pm Year 2 Parents Lunch
24-9-2025	4.30pm Welcome Ceremony – Year 6 and Reception Families only
26-9-2025	Schools Mass in Norwich – Selected Year 6s only
13-10-2025	No afterschool clubs – all week due to parent meetings
14-10-2025	Parent Meetings
15-10-2025	12.00pm Year 6 Parent Lunch
15-10-2025	Parent Meetings
23-10-2025	11.00am Harvest Celebration

27-10-2025 to 31-10-2025 (Half Term)

4-11-2025	9.30am School Photos
-----------	----------------------

10-11-2025	Anti-Bullying Week
12-11-2025	12.00pm Year 5 Parent Lunch
24-11-2025	Reverse Advent Calendar Starts
4-12-2025	6.00pm Peterborough Schools Carol Service
8-12-2025	Reception and Yr1 Nativity – Whole School
9-12-2025	2.00pm Nativity Reception
10-12-2025	2.00pm Nativity Reception
10-12-2025	5.00pm Advent Service
11-12-2025	2.00pm Nativity Year 1
12-12-2025	2.00pm Nativity Year 1
17-12-2025	Christmas Lunch
18-12-2025	Christmas Jumpers
19-12-2025	1.30pm Last Day