



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 12 – Friday 28th November 2025

First Sunday of Advent (A)

It has been a busy and exciting week across the school! Around 300 children enjoyed our Friends Association Movie Night, with eight films shown across classrooms, creating a wonderful evening and community spirit. Our preparations for Advent are well underway, with the launch of our Reverse Advent Calendar encouraging acts of kindness and generosity across the school. Also, a group of children have also been showing great skill and teamwork representing the school in a ten-pin bowling competition, making us very proud. It's been a week full of engagement, joy and preparing for the start of the Advent season. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Lord, as we begin Advent, help us to welcome your light with hope in our hearts. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to both Year 6 (Biles) and Year 2 (Hamilton) for both having 98.44% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a very pleasing 96.4% Our school target this year is 96.7%, 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 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 your pre-book to help us manage our preparations and provide an optimal experience for all participating children.

Reverse Advent Calendar 2025

Each morning, starting on Monday 24th November 2025, there will be an empty plastic box at the school gate, which if you are able to make a few small donations during Advent, they will be used once again to support the "Trussell Trust – Stop UK Hunger". Suggested food items are shown below. All our food donations will then be taken to our local Peterborough Food Bank.

Tea	Hot chocolate	Long life fruit Juice	UHT Milk
Tinned Meat	Instant Mash	Pasta Sauces	Tinned Fruit
Tinned Fish	Rice Pudding	Tinned Tomatoes	Tinned Soup
Tinned Beans	Pasta	Rice	Chocolate

Movie Night

Around 300 children enjoyed a fantastic Friends Association Movie Night, with eight films screened across classrooms. Excitement filled the school as children came together to share in the fun. A big thank you to all staff and volunteers for making this memorable evening possible!

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

It has been a busy week for us in Reception as we have continued to practice our Nativity. We are very excited to perform this to you all soon! Our literacy focus has been The Little Red Hen and we have been learning about the process of making flour. We have sequenced these events using previously taught vocabulary 'first', 'then' and 'next'. In our Maths we have been representing numbers to 5. We have enjoyed making our own number 4 Numberblock by placing 4 squares in different ways. We kept reminding our friends that we needed 4 squares, not more or less.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week in Year 1, we have been completing our Reading and Maths assessments. The children have been learning how to approach them carefully and have tried their absolute best to showcase everything they know. In Maths, we have also been exploring 3D shapes—identifying and naming them, talking about their features, and investigating which shapes roll and which can be stacked. In Computing, the children have been learning about devices that connect to the internet and how we use them in everyday life.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week in Maths the children have continued to work hard on adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, including calculations that cross a ten. We have finished our reading book 'Black and White' and concluded it by looking at how the 4 different stories are linked and if it is 1 book or 4 separate stories. In ICT we have started a new topic learning about algorithms and debugging. The children decomposed a simple program on scratch called 'dinosaur move' and then designed their own additions to the program. They had a go at writing their own algorithms for building a simple Lego model and negotiating a route through a maze. In Science the children have been testing which material would be most effective for an umbrella. They enjoyed carrying out a fair test to see if foil, felt, nylon or cling film would be most suitable.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

In Year 3 this week we have started a new writing topic based on explanation texts- within this we will be revisiting our learning from our Geography unit based on mountains and volcanoes. In Maths we have been continuing with our learning on multiplication and division by learning the 3, 4- and 8 times table. We will be using this in the coming weeks to build on different formal methods. In History we have been looking at what the bronze and stone age periods of time have in common and how people lived differently and evolved through the bronze age. In Science we have been conducting different experiments on rocks and testing their different properties- are they absorbent, do they scratch easily, are they porous? The children have really enjoyed investigating this.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

In English writing, the children completed their non- chronological drafts about Roman gods. In Maths, we have been revisiting and reinforcing our addition and subtraction skills, with an emphasis on solving word problems. In Science, the children explored the states of matter and their characteristics, deepening their understanding in this area. In Spanish, they practised speaking in short phrases to describe their travel plans. Additionally, both classes have completed several assessments in Maths and English to evaluate their progress Just a gentle reminder that next week will be our last swimming lesson.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

This week in Year 5, we have continued developing our knowledge of persuasive texts in both reading and writing lessons. We have been writing with techniques including parenthesis and modal verbs, and structuring paragraphs "Point – Evidence – Explain". In Maths, we have continued adding and subtracting fractions including mixed numbers. In Science, we have learned about the motion of the planets and the history of different conceptual models of the solar system, from Aristotle to Newton. In Computing we have discussed the dangers of online bullying, and in Geography have looked at what attractions are available in our local area. We have also completed several assessments in Maths and English.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

We have written a persuasive text asking for extra break time for Year 6. We used lots of persuasive writing features to get our points across and summed it all up in our letters to Miss Carroll – we hope she enjoys reading them and can give us a positive response. One of our texts from our whole class reading was all about the Tower of London and we learned all about how different kings and queens have used it over time. In Science, we planned and prepared an investigation to answer this question: 'Does voltage affect sound in buzzers within a circuit?' We will complete the investigation next week. History this week involved using information from a census to create big and small questions which would help us to find out more about the past. We focused on a girl in 1821 who worked in a factory and we were able to ask lots of questions from the small pieces of information we found in the 1825 census. We are still training in our cross country, and we were able to take some seconds off our previous times. We hope this continues over the next few weeks before a final run in December!

Autumn Term 2025 Diary

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
16-12-2025	Carol Singing at Serpentine Green (All Choir)
17-12-2025	Christmas Lunch
18-12-2025	Christmas Jumpers
19-12-2025	1.30pm Last Day