



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 13 – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Second Sunday of Advent (A)

We have had a wonderful week in school this week with the start of Advent. We joined together with the other Peterborough Catholic School to have a joint schools Advent Carol Service. The choir represented the school brilliantly and it was an incredibly special moment for everyone who attended. Finally, this week has also seen all our classes begin their daily Advent Reflections. These have been carried out in a very prayerful and reflective manner and has led to all the children sharing how they are preparing during this Advent Season.

**Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus into the world to show us how to live. Help us to be ready when he comes.  
Help us to make all visitors feel welcome and cared for. Amen**

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

It has been a very challenging week this week for attendance with some nasty illnesses throughout the school, however well done to Year 6 (Biles) for having 95.93% attendance this week. 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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

#### **Peterborough Catholic Schools Carol Service**

On Thursday evening we joined with the other Peterborough Catholic schools for a beautiful, shared Carol Service, celebrating our faith and preparing our hearts for Christmas. A wonderful example of our communities coming together in joy and unity.



### **Panathlon tournament**

A team represented St John Henry Newman at the recent Panathlon which took place at Ormiston Bushfield Academy. It was a range of sporting events which required skills, tactics and teamwork and challenged all competitors. The team performed incredibly well and managed to win the silver medal position. They showed our school values in the way they competed and really enjoyed the experience. Well done to the team!

### **Catholic School Inspection**

We are pleased to share our first Catholic Schools Inspectorate report. The school was awarded 'Good' in all areas. In just three years we have transformed a standard DfE building into a thriving Catholic school community. Thank you to everyone for your support! Please click the following link to read the full report: -

[St John Henry Newman VA Primary School - Catholic School Inspection](#)

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

This week, our pupils have been working incredibly hard rehearsing for the Nativity play. They have been busy learning their lines, song lyrics and all the actions, and their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see! There is a real buzz of excitement as they prepare for their performance next week. We can't wait to share it with you.

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

It's been a busy and exciting week of learning! In Maths, the children have been exploring shapes — sorting 3D shapes into groups and identifying and organising different 2D shapes. In English, we have been drafting our Nativity retelling, using pictures and vocabulary to help us structure the beginning, middle and end of the story. In Science, we have been investigating different materials, thinking about what objects are made from and why. The children have enjoyed exploring, testing and describing materials using simple scientific language.

Well done, Year 1 — a fantastic week of learning!

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

Once again, we have been very busy in Year 3. In Maths we have started a new topic on shape. The children have been identifying different 2 and 3D shapes and have been looking at how many sides and vertices on various 2D shapes. In writing we have been learning about contractions and have begun to use them in our writing ready for our upcoming 'hot task'! We have continued reading about Meerkats in reading lessons and answering questions using retrieval, vocabulary and explanation skills. In History we have started looking at what schools were like in the Victorian times and comparing it to what schools are like in the present day. Next Tuesday we are looking forward to experiencing some aspects of the Victorian classroom and inviting some guests in to talk about their school days 70 years ago.

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

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 3! The children have been enjoying learning about food waste in Science and how we can combat it to help improve waste and support the environment. In Maths we are starting to move on to formal multiplication and division methods and using partitioning to help us to complete them. In English writing we have been looking at different grammar techniques ready to apply to our explanation text next week which will be explaining different aspects of mountain and volcano formations. In History we have been learning more about the bronze age and comparing it to how life was in the stone age and reflecting on how life had change when they had learned how to make bronze.

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

What a busy week we've had! In English writing, we finished publishing our non-chronological report on Roman Gods and began planning and writing a discussion text. Our discussion will focus on the question: "Did the Romans have a positive impact on the lives of people living in Britain?" We also continued to concentrate on non-fiction texts during our whole class reading. In Maths, we are consolidating our previous learning on addition and subtraction, solving word problems, calculating perimeter, multiplying two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, and finding fractions of amounts. In Spanish this week, we focused on the question "¿Cómo vas?" which means "How are you going?" We also identified and named different types of transport in Spanish and began writing about them. This week marked our last swimming session, and it was wonderful to see the children playing and enjoying themselves in the water without any fear. Starting next week, we will have PE on Mondays and Tuesdays.

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

In Year 5 this week, we have completed our first unit on fractions by working on subtracting them – but don't worry, there will be more fractions to come in the new year! We have also written our persuasive letters to Pandora, arguing as eloquently as possible that she should open the box Zeus gave her, and take her chances with the consequences. In reading, we have continued to look at non-fiction texts, specifically both fiction and non-fiction persuasive letters, dovetailing with our writing task. In our Science unit on the solar system, we have looked at planet Earth, what makes it unique and how it compares to other planets. In Geography, we discussed what activities our local area has to offer and located these on a map, and in computing, we learned about the possible effects of technology on our health, positive and negative. We have appreciated our daily reflections for the season of Advent and the mass on Thursday to mark this season.

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

What a special week as we began our Advent preparations in Year 6. We are all having an opportunity to organise and perform our daily reflections which have been extremely thought-filled and creative. In English, we have begun preparation to write an explanation text which we are looking forward to. We have continued to focus on Non-fiction texts in our whole class reading and practising how we can use highlighters to find important information as we read. In Maths, we are calculating percentages and finding efficient ways to find values and using our knowledge to solve challenging word problems. Spanish was fun this week as we created Cubism inspired images using our Spanish knowledge of colours and facial features. In PE, we are still practising our cross country running and trying to knock seconds of our times each week. We are also doing gymnastics are learning how to create holds and stretches and create a routine.

**Autumn Term 2025 Diary**

8-12-2025	Reception and Yr1 Nativity – Performed to 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