



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School Newsletter

## Volume 14 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Third Sunday of Advent (A)

It has been a very busy and joyful week in school as we continue our journey through Advent. We were delighted to welcome parents to the Year 1 and Reception Nativity performances, where the children confidently shared the story of Jesus' birth and reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas. Year 4 also enjoyed a special visit to the new theatre to watch a performance of The Snowman, which was a memorable experience and a wonderful opportunity to enjoy live theatre. On Wednesday, we gathered together as a whole school community for our joint Advent and Carol Service, a calm and prayerful moment to reflect during this busy season. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish all our families a restful and happy weekend.

**Loving God, as we rejoice during Advent, fill our hearts with joy and hope. Help us to prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus and to share your love with others. Amen.**

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

We have had a much more positive week for attendance which has been very pleasing to see. Well done to Reception (Attenborough) for having 99.11% attendance this week. Overall, our attendance was a much improved 94.5% 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 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

#### **Reception and Year 1 Nativities**

Our Reception and Year 1 classes brought the true spirit of Christmas to life with their wonderful Nativity performances. The children worked incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs, and actions, and their enthusiasm shone brightly on stage. Parents and staff were delighted by their confidence and heartwarming storytelling, which reminded everyone of the joy and meaning of the festive season. Thank you to the staff for their dedication and to families for their support. It was a truly magical celebration for all!

#### **Advent Service**

On Wednesday evening we marked the first week of Advent by leading an Advent and Carol Service for our school community. Our children and choir led a beautiful service consisting of prayers, readings, reflections and hymns.

Thank you to Mrs McEvoy for leading the children in this event.



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

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed performing our Nativity to you all – what an amazing job we did! This week we have also been learning about the Gingerbread man in Literacy. We know the story really well and have been acting it out with our story crate puppets. We all loved joining in with ‘run, run, as fast as you can, you can’t catch me, I’m the Gingerbread Man’. In Maths we have been exploring different ways to make 4 and 5 on a part-whole model using counters to show our understanding. This is developing our problem-solving skills as we were trying to think of all the ways possible to make both numbers.

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

This week we have been reading and listening to non-chronological reports, using our comprehension skills to answer questions and discuss key facts. In Science, we investigated different materials and talked about their properties. In Maths, we explored patterns using both 2-D and 3-D shapes. In Computing, we learned about how much time we should spend on technology and why it’s important to have a healthy balance.

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

Year 2 have had a great week! In Maths we have continued our shape topic by looking at lines of symmetry and sorting 2D shapes in various ways. We have been busy planning our narrative recount of the Aaron Becker picture book ‘Journey’ in writing lessons. In reading lessons, we have continued to read non-fiction texts about meerkats, focusing on retrieval, explanation and vocabulary questions. The highlight of the week was our Victorian Day on Tuesday. Lots of us came to school dressed as Victorian school children and experienced some of the aspects of Victorian school life. The boys and girls were taught separately and had lessons in arithmetic, calligraphy, sewing (for the girls) and woodwork (for the boys). We explored some Victorian artefacts that had been borrowed from Whittlesey Museum and in the afternoon welcomed 3 guests who talked about their school days in the 1950s.



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

In Year 3 this week we have been busy writing our draft of our explanation texts - the children have done amazing with this showing their learning of mountains and volcanoes from our Geography learning! In Maths we have been finishing off our multiplication and division unit and practising formal methods of doing both and fully understanding what it means to multiply or divide numbers. In History, we have been comparing the differences between houses and living in the stone age compared to the bronze age and how life had changed for people during that time. In our DT unit the children have been learning to cross stitch- the children have started creating such beautiful designs!

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

This week in Maths, we continued developing our understanding of perimeter by calculating the lengths of a variety of rectilinear shapes. The children are becoming increasingly confident in using their measuring and addition skills to solve these problems. In Writing, we moved into the planning stage of our upcoming debate about the Romans, exploring different viewpoints and gathering reasons to support each side. In Reading, we have been working with a range of texts to strengthen our oral reading skills. The children are practising how to use expression, pace, and tone to bring the text to life in different ways. In Science, we carried out a hands-on melting investigation, asking the question: *How does the temperature of water affect the time it takes for ice to melt?* Through this experiment, the children learned about the Scientific Method and the importance of conducting a fair test. Finally, on Tuesday we were treated to a magical performance of *The Snowman*, played beautifully by an orchestra of talented young musicians. The children were especially delighted to spot one of our own music teachers performing on stage!

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

This week, Year 5 have begun a new writing unit looking at play scripts. We will be writing a scene based on Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. We have begun by learning about the features of play scripts, how they are laid out, and the ways dialogue can be used to show character. In Maths, we have had a consolidation week, revising a number of topics including rounding, division by multiples of ten, square and cube numbers, and equivalent fractions. In our science unit on space we have learned about day and night on earth, and about the moon; in Geography, we have produced a tourist brochure for the Alps, summarising what we have learned about this region; and in computing, we have completed our unit on online safety.

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

Our penultimate week at school this term has been very busy with lots of quality writing in English. We completed our 'How to care for....' explanation texts on the animals we created. Some of our paragraphs were written in bullet points and we used lots of cohesion and higher order punctuation throughout our sentences. In Maths we completed our work on percentages with some very challenging word problems that required multiple steps. We then went on to look at 2D and 3D shapes – discussing properties and learning how to categorise them into groups based on their properties. In History, we looked at professions from the industrial period and were able to research all about what which sort of people applied for these professions using the census as our source. We ran our final time cross country trial in PE later this week and compared it to earlier times – there were some very pleasing results which showed how much we had improved our level of fitness in a short time!

**Autumn Term 2025 Diary**

15-12-2025	KS2 Ignite Advent Retreat – in school
16-12-2025	10.30 Choir Singing at Serpentine Green
17-12-2025	Christmas Lunch
18-12-2025	Christmas Jumpers
19-12-2025	1.30pm Last Day