



**St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School**  
**Newsletter**  
**Volume 16 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**Baptism of the Lord (A)**

We hope you had a joyful and restful Christmas break! It's wonderful to see all the children return to school full of energy and excitement for the new term. This week, we've focused on settling back into routines and starting the term in a calm and purposeful manner. In collective worship, we reflected on the Epiphany, considering how we can be a light for others in 2026. It's been heartwarming to see the children embrace these messages with enthusiasm and kindness. We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead filled with learning, growth and fun! Have a great weekend everyone.

*Jesus, as You led the Three Kings to You by the light of a star, please draw us ever closer to You by the light of Faith.*

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

**Attendance**

We've had a much more positive week for attendance which has been very pleasing to see. Well done to Year 1 (Armstrong) for having 97.5% attendance this week. 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 your pre-book to help us manage our preparations and provide an optimal experience for all participating children.

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

This week in Reception we have enjoyed our literacy work based on Oh Dear, Look What I Got!, joining in with repeated sections of the story and beginning to learn about rhyming words – which we found quite tricky but kept practising. In Maths, we continued our learning of numbers up to 5, with a special focus on zero and what zero really means. With the wintry weather, we explored ice and snow and learned about melting. We also talked about the New Year and worked together to create some exciting firework group artwork. Our Hyacinth shoots came home this week – please keep them indoors on a windowsill for now.

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

This week in Year 1, we have been enjoying our class text Mrs Armitage on Wheels in reading, where the children learned how Mrs Armitage kept adding more and more items to her bike and explored the meanings of the words excessive and exhausted, linking them carefully to the story. In Maths, we focused on counting up to 20 and representing numbers to 20 in different ways. In Science, the children learned about the parts of a plant and practised labelling them, and in computing they learned how to log on to a computer and use the mouse pad to drag and drop items confidently.

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

Year 2 have had a brilliant start to the Spring term. In Maths we have started a topic on money. The children have shown really good understanding of the different denominations of coins and notes and have been counting and adding a mixture of both. We have started our new book 'The three little wolves and the big bad pig' in reading lessons and predicted what we think will happen in the book, using clues from the front cover. In writing lessons, we have been working on using contractions and the conjunction 'because' ready for planning and writing a letter of thanks to our Victorian day guests. We have finished our computing topic on 'Algorithms and debugging' by looking at what abstraction is and creating a plan of the classroom using it.

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

What a fantastic start to the new year we have had in Year 3! In English the children have started reading the stone age boy which they will be basing their diary entries on. They've done really well remembering the grammar taught from last term. In Maths we've started a new topic based on length and perimeter and understanding how to convert between centimetres, millimetres and metres. In Science we have linked to our previous term's learning of rocks and have started learning about fossils and Mary Anning's discoveries of major dinosaurs in Dorset.

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

Welcome back everyone! It was wonderful to see the children settle back into school mode. In Maths, we explored factor pairs, practiced multiplying by 10 and by 100, and built confidence with number patterns. In writing, we focused on the features of a narrative and worked on drafting the ending of a story. In Geography, we discussed the importance of the rainforest and its impact on global ecosystems. In Science, we concluded our units on states of matter and the water cycle, and in PE we explored movement and fitness through fun, active activities. We're excited for another great term together!

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

We have had a very full beginning to the new term. In Maths we have returned to the topic of multiplication, and are learning to multiply two- and three-digit numbers by two-digit numbers. In English we have begun our new writing unit, which will link to our reading book, *Black Beauty*, by producing a report on the Victorian era. We have looked at structuring a non-chronological report, writing good paragraphs and using colons correctly. In History, we have begun learning about the Tudors in England, focusing on Henry VIII, his six wives, and particularly the death of Anne Boleyn. Children have been using sources critically and making inferences from them. In Science we have begun looking at the properties of materials including transparency, hardness and conductivity.

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

It has been so pleasing to witness the enthusiasm in Year 6 as we returned to classes this week. We continued in Maths with measures from last term and have been solving some very challenging word problems; using our knowledge of conversion between the metric measures of length, mass and capacity. In English we have begun a very excited (and somewhat scary!) piece of writing based on a very ancient poem called Beowulf. We are going to write a narrative with a cliffhanger ending and include vivid descriptions of the characters and the setting. If this week's writing is anything to go by, they will be incredibly exciting stories which we look forward to writing and reading. Our afternoons have been busy too in Year 6, as we have designed and created models of working playgrounds in DT. Our playgrounds needed to: have at least 4 apparatus, be safe to use, be very unique in design and have amenities such as bins and benches. The playgrounds that we made were amazing and really showed wonderful creativity. Well done Year 6 – a brilliant start to the Spring term!

**Spring Term 2026 Diary**

<b>28-1-2026</b>	12.00pm Year 4 Parent Lunch
<b>2-2-2026</b>	Mock SATs week (Year 6 only)
<b>12-2-2026</b>	Year 2 Visit to Sacrewell Farm
<b>16-2-2026 to 20-2-2026 (Half Term)</b>	
<b>25-2-2026</b>	12.00pm Year 3 Parent Lunch
<b>5-3-2026</b>	World Book Day
<b>10-3-2026</b>	Parent Meetings
<b>11-3-2026</b>	Parent Meetings
<b>25-3-2026</b>	12.00pm Year 1 Parent Lunch
<b>25-3-2026</b>	Stations Liturgy
<b>27-3-2026</b>	1.30pm Last Day