



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School Newsletter Volume 17 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 Secondary Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

We have continued to where we left off last week with another very calm, hardworking and purposeful week across the school. This week our after-school clubs have restarted with over 300 children attending our curriculum enrichment programme. From sports to creative arts, there's something for everyone across all year groups including Reception. These clubs are a wonderful opportunity for children to explore their interests and develop new skills outside the classroom. We have also seen our Year 6 children take part in a Healthy School Workshop educating them on making healthy choice around smoking and vaping. Have a great weekend everyone.

*Heavenly Father, may we always recognise Jesus, the Lamb of God, in our daily lives. Help us to follow Him faithfully and share His love with others. Amen*

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

### **Attendance**

Well done to both Luther-King (Reception) and Year 4 (Gandhi) for both having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a very pleasing 97.89%. 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.

### **Catch Your Breath Workshop (Year 6)**

Our Year 6 children took part in a 'Catch Your Breath' workshop, led by the Healthy Schools Team. The session supported the children's understanding of the risks associated with vaping and smoking, helping them to make informed and healthy choices.



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

This week in EYFS, we have been busy learning across all areas of the curriculum. In Literacy, we focused on sequencing, writing CVC words such as hat, and sentence writing linked to the story Oh Dear, Look What I Got! In Maths, we explored the concept of one less and the composition of numbers to 5, while developing our problem-solving skills by finding the odd one out and explaining our thinking. In Science, we investigated how ice changes, observing and talking about what happens as it melts. In PE, we were excited to start our new dance unit, exploring movement and rhythm.

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

This week in Year 1, we have been predicting what Mrs Armitage might add to her roller skates, just as she did with her bicycle, and using clues from the story to explain our ideas. In Maths, we have been focusing on the numbers 17, 18, 19 and 20, finding one more and one less within 20. In Science, we have been learning to identify mammals and birds. We also had a very exciting visit from the Police today. We had worked hard on preparing thoughtful questions to ask them during their visit and really enjoyed listening to their answers.



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

This week Year 2, as always, have been very busy! In writing lessons, we have completed our formal letters to thank the guests who came on Victorian Day. In Maths we have been very successfully calculating and comparing money and in Reading lessons we've really been enjoying our class reading book, 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig'. This week in Geography we have found landmarks such as the Pyramids and The Great Wall of China on a World map and made a map of our local area using a key and symbols. Finally, in Science we have set up our investigation to find out if bulbs and seeds will grow in a warm or cold environment, we will be recording the results over the next few weeks.

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

We have had a busy week in Year 3 with our learning! In Maths we have enjoyed comparing measurements and challenging our learning by doing equivalent lengths with centimetres, millimetres and metres. In English writing we have started writing our diary entries based on the stone age era. In English reading we have been thoroughly enjoying reading Mary Poppins and building up the story to how she will be using her magical ways in being a nanny. In Science we have finished our learning on fossils and started looking at different soil types- we remembered a lot from Year 2 which was amazing to see!

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

Another productive week in Year 4! In writing, the children are learning to use adverbs, conjunctions, and prepositions of time to organize events clearly in their narrative endings. In Maths, we focused on dividing by 10 and 100, building essential skills for working with larger numbers. In Reading, we started an exciting new book—The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe—which the children are already enjoying! Our Geography lessons have taken us deep into the rainforest, exploring who lives there, what the Amazon Rainforest is like, and how rainforests are changing around the world. In PE, we've been working to develop speed and strength through various activities. We had a special visitor from the City Council who delivered an engaging road safety workshop, and the children did a fantastic job presenting what they learned in an assembly for parents. Great work, Year 4!

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

We have been hard at work in Year 5 researching and planning our reports about the Victorian era, looking at topics including schooling, inventions, poverty and the role of horses, as well as Queen Victoria herself. This forms good contextual knowledge for reading *Black Beauty*, which we began this week, as well as developing our research and report writing skills. We are actually enjoying a double dose of British history at the moment, as our history unit continues with the Tudors, where we have learned about Elizabeth I and her use of royal progresses to tour her kingdom and make herself known. In Maths, we have further developed our skills in multiplication and division, beginning to use the short division method, and have also begun a weekly lesson focusing on problem solving skills (every Tuesday). In Science we continue to learn about the properties of materials, including conductivity of electricity, which we tested with simple circuits. We also, after a false start last week, finally began our swimming lessons!

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

Preparations have been underway in Year 6 to produce a fantastic narrative in English this week. We have been working on being very descriptive by using expanded noun phrases and then adding in extra prepositional and adverbial phrases as well. We also have really developed our use of dialogue in our writing to ensure our narratives are full of action and really engage our readers. Time has been the focus in Maths and we began by looking at calendars and solving problems that involved days, weeks, months and years. We went on to look at analogue, digital and 24-hour clocks and showed our understanding in a range of reasoning questions. Geography this week was all about the differing types of energy we have, and we created a timeline of energy use from the 1700s to present day. It was interesting how this has changed so much recently which led to some excellent discussion. We then went on to map the distribution of energy resources around the world using research and various data. A busy but really enjoyable week – well done Year 6!

### **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