



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 18 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

### Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

This week has been another busy and positive week at school. Year 5 have continued to make excellent progress with their swimming lessons, while both Year 5 and Year 6 have been developing their cycling skills through Bikeability sessions. Visitors from our Diocese commented on the calm and welcoming atmosphere throughout the school, which is a testament to the efforts of our staff and children. Finally, our new Year 6 play leaders have also been doing a fantastic job, leading lunchtime games with confidence and enthusiasm and encouraging all the children to engage with lunchtime games and sport. I wish you all an enjoyable and restful weekend.

**Lord, open our hearts to Your Word, that we may share Your love and hope with all. Help us to walk in Your light and serve others with joy. Amen.**

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

Well done to Year 3 (Pankhurst) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a pleasing 96.1%. 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.

#### **Bike-Ability (Year 5 and 6)**

Our Year 5 and 6 pupils have been taking part in Bikeability lessons this week, building confidence, improving cycling skills and developing a strong understanding of road safety. These sessions support independence, healthy lifestyles and safe travel within our community.



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

This week in Literacy, we have started to learn about Peace at Last. We have been busy drawing pictures in order to represent the different parts of the story. We have used new vocabulary such as 'uncomfortable' and 'leaky' to help us explain the events too. In Maths we started the week looking at the composition of 5 and using our previously taught sentence stems to orally rehearse them using our knowledge. We then moved on to recapping mass and how to find a balance using balance scales. As part of our Science, we have enjoyed exploring our ice tuff tray and have been using vocabulary such as 'melt', 'frozen', 'cold' and 'warm' to talk about our findings.

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

This week in Year 1, we have been reading *The Day the Crayons Quit*. The children have been wondering why the crayons might have quit by using clues from the front cover and blurb, as well as developing their understanding of the word *quit*. We also learned the new words *imagination* and *grudge*. In Science, we have been learning about fish, and in Geography we have been learning about weather patterns and how the weather can be measured. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm for their learning this week, sharing thoughtful ideas and building their knowledge across a range of subjects.

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

This week Year 2 have edited their formal letters, and we have started a new writing topic looking at the use of personification in poetry. We are working towards writing our own poems in a couple of weeks personifying different coloured items from the colours of the rainbow. In Maths we have begun a new topic on multiplication and division and have also had our first lesson focused on problem solving. In Science we are continuing to investigate if bulbs and seeds need warmth to grow. We have started a new Computing unit using Scratch Junior to use code to make animations, the children absolutely loved it!

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

This week in Year 3 we have been continuing their reading of Mary Poppins and finding some of the chapters really humorous! In English writing we have finished writing our diary entries up in neat and are starting on a narrative based around the book The Iron Man for inspiration. In Maths we have continued our learning on measurements and moved onto learning about perimeter- the children have been amazing at this! In Geography we are learning about Antarctica and this week we have been looking at the landscape of Antarctica as well as the human geography.

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

This week we have been busy across the curriculum. In Maths, the children worked on multiplying two- and three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers and began exploring division by dividing two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. In Geography, we examined the effects of deforestation and discussed the impact this has on indigenous communities around the world. In Writing, the children wrote their first draft of an ending to Ruin, focusing on developing atmosphere and clear resolution. During Reading, we explored Chapter 4 of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, sharing thoughts and making predictions about the story. In PE, we continued developing our fitness skills through a range of activities. We also started a new Science unit - Sound, where we began exploring what sound is and how it is made.

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

This week has brought us to the end of our Maths unit on multiplication and division. We have focused on problem solving, dividing with remainders and dividing efficiently. In English, as well as continuing to read *Black Beauty*, we have produced our non-chronological reports on the Victorian era, covering such topics as Queen Victoria herself, schools, inventions, poverty and horses in the Victorian era. In History, we have continued to look a couple of centuries earlier, focusing on personal inventories of Tudor citizens, and in Science, we have investigated the thermal insulating properties of different materials. This week also saw the first, introductory session of "Brain buddies", where we met the facilitators and learned a little about what the programme will cover over the next ten weeks.

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

In Maths, this week, we have been finding the mean of values within data. Looking at a range of examples, we have managed to solve lots of very challenging problems. In English we have written our first draft of our narrative writing which will end as a cliffhanger. We spent considerable time rereading and editing our work to ensure it was full of description and had a great mix of action, dialogue and suspense. Tag rugby continued in our PE lessons with ball skills and movement being the focus this week. We had to also dodge lots of rain but managed still stay outside for the whole lesson! We read and analysed a poem called The Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson in whole class reading and it was full of great poetic devices including personification. It was an enjoyable poem and there were lots to discuss and focus on in our study of it. We are showing real resilience and drive in our lead up to our mock SAT test and being very supportive of each other which a real credit to our Year 6 cohort!

**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