



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School
Newsletter
Volume 19 – Friday 30th January 2026
Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Despite a very wet week, school life continued at its usual busy and positive pace. We were delighted to welcome Year 4 parents into school for a parent lunch, which was a lovely opportunity to celebrate our community. Alongside the Year 6 dodgeball event, we also gathered for a Year 2 and Year 4 Mass. This was a prayerful and reflective celebration led beautifully by the children and reminded us of the importance of coming together in faith and fellowship. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you all a very restful and enjoyable weekend.

Lord Jesus, help us to trust in Your love, even in times of difficulty. May we follow Your path with faith and courage. 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 you pre-book to help us manage our preparations and provide an optimal experience for all participating children. Booking is now available for the remainder of the Spring Term.

Census Week

Census Week Breakfast Club Census Week is happening next week (Monday 2nd February – Friday 6th February 2026) and we're excited to let you know that we will be serving a Special Menu to mark the occasion. We'd love to see as many children attend Breakfast Club as possible! As you may know, student attendance uptake on Census Week has a direct impact on our school's funding, so we really encourage you to take part if you can.

Dodgeball

This week our Year 6 pupils took part in an exciting dodgeball sporting event. Throughout the sessions, they worked hard to learn a range of key skills, including agility, throwing and dodging techniques. It was wonderful to see these skills applied so effectively across a series of competitive but friendly games.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have enjoyed a busy and exciting week of learning. In Literacy, we continued our work on Peace at Last, writing CCVC words such as drip and drop to describe sounds Mr Bear can hear, with some children writing sentences like "Drip, drop went the tap." In Maths, we explored capacity by counting and comparing using water and cups, as well as pom poms and pinecones. In Science, we learned about nocturnal animals and discussed why some animals are awake at night. We also enjoyed painting to music in Art, responding creatively to different sounds. In Music we have continued to practice finger positioning to prepare for future recorder playing.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week in English, we have been writing exclamation sentences and planning letters to write back to the crayons to persuade them not to quit, inspired by The Day the Crayons Quit. In Maths, we have been comparing numbers up to 20 and practising ordering them. In Science, we have been learning about the features of reptiles and comparing different groups of animals. In Geography, we have been exploring the different seasons and discussing how people can prepare for different types of weather throughout the year.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week in Maths we have continued learning about multiplication, we have started using the multiplication sign and drawing representations that match our multiplication number sentences. In writing lessons, we have gathered our ideas for our personification poems entitled 'The Rainbow' and will be writing and performing them next week. In reading lessons, we have started a new book 'Don't Touch My Hair' and learnt about African hair and the origins of different styles. In Science, we are continuing to record the progress of our bulbs and seeds growth in warm and cold environments and have looked at plastic and sustainability. Our 'Scratch Junior' topic has come to an end this week with the children programming a joke and story using animation and sound!

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

In Year 3 this week we have moved on to a new topic in Maths which is fractions; the children have been enjoying this learning so far! In Science we have started planning an experiment and discussed variables and how we can make it a fair test- they are very excited to do this next week. In Geography we have been learning more about life in the Antarctic and looking at the different elements that make life difficult there. The children were really interested to learn about the different vehicles, clothing and activities that people use to make it more comfortable for researchers to conduct different experiments. In P.E the children are doing well building their basketball skills and are starting to learn about to dribble and attack with control and accuracy.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

This week we've had another busy and exciting time in class! In Maths, the children have been learning how to divide two- and three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers using the short division (bus stop) method, and they're growing in confidence with this tricky skill. In Reading, we enjoyed diving into Chapter 6 of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, sharing ideas about the characters and what might happen next in the story. In Writing, the children completed the draft ending of their narratives and worked hard to make their stories come to a satisfying and interesting conclusion. In PE, we continued developing our fitness through a variety of fun activities that build stamina, strength, and coordination. In DT, the children have been busy designing and building stable pavilion structures. They explored how to choose the right materials, created frame structures to support weight, and experimented with different shapes to make their designs both strong and visually appealing.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

This week, we have begun a new writing unit focusing on informal letters. Drawing on our history learning, we will write a letter from Anne Boleyn to her cousin Katherine Howard, another future queen of Henry VIII. We have been learning about using suffixes to make verbs and the difference between essential and non-essential relative clauses. In Maths, we have returned to the topic of fractions and are learning about how to multiply fractions and mixed numbers, as well as finding fractions of amounts. In Science we have begun to learn about life cycles. We also had a visit from the RE team at St. John Fisher to lead Year 5 in a special RE workshop. We also welcomed the "Brain Buddies" team back again, and learned about how we can describe emotions, how they are manifested in our bodies, and began to discuss some strategies for how we can engage them.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

In PE this week we have been learning to pass in Netball using two hands and making sure our passes are quick and direct. There was lots of good teamwork and plenty of enthusiasm. After finishing our narrative writing, we began a unit of speech writing. We looked at some famous speeches and analysed and discussed what made them very effective speeches. Maths has proved to be very busy where we have looked at data handling, ratio and algebra all in one week. There was some excellent problem solving and rich mathematical discussions all week. Light was the focus in Science and we 'looked' at how we see. Annotating a diagram, we labelled all the essential parts of our eyes and then we discussed the role of each part which help us see each day. We are all looking forward to our busy week of Mock SATs coming up after the weekend!

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