



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School
Newsletter
Volume 20 – Friday 6th February 2026
Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

This week has been another busy and purposeful one across the school. We introduced our new monthly value of **Generosity**. This value will guide us in giving our time, our care and our talents freely to others in our words and actions throughout February and beyond. In the classrooms, Year 6 have worked hard during their practice SATs, approaching these assessments with focus and resilience, while Year 5 have been exploring life cycles in Science, developing a deeper understanding of how living things grow and change. Finally, a gentle reminder that bookings for Parents' Evening appointments are now open; further details can be found later in this newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

Lord God, thank You for the gifts You have given us. Help us to live generously, sharing our kindness, time and talents with others, even when it is difficult. Guide us to trust in Your love each day. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 1 (Chanel) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a pleasing 96.9%. 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. Booking is now available for the remainder of the Spring Term.

Parents Meeting (March 2026)

Hopefully you'll all be aware, that bookings for the upcoming Parents Evening went live this week. We delighted by the overwhelming response and the number of bookings already made. If you've not yet booked your appointment, there is still plenty of time to do so. You can make appointments via the ParentMail (Iris) app. Please click on 'Parents Evening' and follow the process to book your appointment. If you require any assistance with the booking process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been learning all about The Great Race and have had an introduction to Chinese New Year. We have enjoyed exploring the story and discovering why the years are named after animals. In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of the numbers 6, 7 and 8, focusing on finding one more and one less. As part of our Computing unit, we have been practising how well we can follow instructions and learning why this is important when using technology. We also enjoyed a creative session of painting to music, where we thought about how different sounds and rhythms made us feel. It has been a lovely week full of learning, creativity and enthusiasm!



Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week in English, the children wrote letters to Blue Crayon, taking on the role of Duncan. They used exclamation sentences to show empathy, explaining how they would help and encourage him. In Design & Technology, the children designed and made a sliding matching game, exploring how simple sliding mechanisms work. In Maths, we have been learning about number bonds to 20, as well as doubles and near doubles, using practical resources to support understanding. In Reading, we have been exploring the story Dogs Don't Do Ballet, thinking carefully about the characters and the message that it's okay to be different.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

Year 2 have had an incredibly busy week. We began the week by writing our poems about the rainbow, using progressive verbs and personification. The children showed real creative flair and a few even got their poems to rhyme. In Maths we have been working on division skills, first grouping and then sharing. In reading lessons, we welcomed a special visitor into school to talk about African hair. The children really enjoyed hearing about the different styles and ways African hair is looked after. In Design and Technology lessons we have been learning about what a balanced diet is, including the 5 food groups and foods that are within these groups. The children have designed their wraps ready to be made and then eaten and evaluated with their guest after half term!

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Maths, the children have been learning about fractions, recognising parts of a whole and understanding numerators and denominators. In Writing, we have been planning and beginning our first-person narratives based on *The Iron Man*, using descriptive language and "I" to write from his point of view. In Science, we have been exploring different types of soil and carrying out experiment to find out which soil is best for planting.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

This week has been packed with exciting learning! In English, we launched our new Poetry unit, exploring similes and alliteration to make our writing more creative and descriptive. In reading, we explored Chapter 7 together, and the children worked brilliantly on deciding whether different statements were true or false, finding evidence in the text to back up their answers. In Maths, we have completed our multiplication and division unit and are now moving into fractions, where children will develop their understanding of whole numbers, mixed numbers, and improper fractions. In DT, everyone has completed their fantastic pavilion designs and had a chance to evaluate their creations. In Science, we discovered how the ear works and learned that it's divided into three distinct parts. In PE lesson we continued to focus on developing fitness skills, and in Computing, the children are learning to debug and fix codes in Scratch programs.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

This week has seen us drafting, editing and completing our informal letters, using learning from our History unit on the Tudors. The letter is from Anne Boleyn, imprisoned before her death, to her cousin Katherine Howard. In Maths, we have completed the second stage of our learning on fractions, making fractions of an amount, finding the whole and using fractions as operations. In Science, we have been learning about the life cycles of different types of animal – mammals, amphibians, insects and birds – and noting the similarities and differences between them. Our Brain Buddies session focused on different parts of the brain, the survival brain (amygdala) and thinking brain (frontal cortex), and learning to recognise which is in charge. We have also continued to make good progress in swimming lessons.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

What a very busy but rewarding week in Year 6. It proved to be a very successful mock SATs week with everyone showing calmness, perseverance and drive in the tests each day. We especially enjoyed having a SATs breakfast each day which helped us with our concentration and rumbling tummies! In between tests, we looked at light travelling in a straight line within Science and discussed how shadows are formed including solar eclipses. In PE, we have been focusing on passing in netball and making space to receive passes. On Friday we completed a photography project using the ipads. We took photos of movement and then edited the photos to show different effects and accents within our photography. With all our efforts this week, we think we have definitely earned a good rest over this coming weekend.

Spring Term 2026 Diary

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