



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School
Newsletter
Volume 21 – Friday 13th February 2026
Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

What a fantastic week it has been at St John Henry Newman! A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Friends Association Non-Uniform Day today, your generosity will help fund exciting opportunities for our children. Our Year 5 and 6 children competed in local football match and represented the school with their usual high standard! Year 2 have had a VERY busy week enjoying a local walk, exploring our community and deepening their understanding of the local area and they also visited Sacrewell Farm learning how animals are cared for and the important role farming plays for us all. Finally, as we approach the half-term break, we encourage our children to rest and recharge, ready for the exciting learning ahead. Wishing you all a restful half-term!

Heavenly Father, help us to follow Your ways with open hearts. Teach us to love and serve others with kindness and humility. May we always seek Your wisdom in our daily lives. Amen

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 4 (Ghandi), Year 5 (Hawking) and Year 6 (Rashford) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a pleasing 97.9%. 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)

Bookings for our Parent Meetings taking place on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March opened last week. 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. The booking window will remain open until Tuesday 3rd March. 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 enjoyed lots of exciting learning. In Literacy, we focused on writing CVC words and simple sentences using the tricky word *the*, based on the animals in *The Great Race*. In Maths, we explored the composition of 6, 7, and 8 by counting and comparing spots on ladybirds and using dominoes. Computing has been a big focus this week, as on Tuesday it was Safer Internet Day. We learned about AI, particularly voice assistants such as Alexa, and how to use these safely. We were also introduced to our digital cameras and enjoyed taking photographs of our friends while learning how to use them carefully and responsibly.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week in English, we learned how to spell words with the -er and -est suffixes and used them to compare nouns, before planning and writing our own retelling of *Dogs Don't Do Ballet*. In Maths, we learned how to subtract by taking away and by finding the difference, using practical methods to support our understanding. In Design & Technology, we planned and made our own slider games, exploring how moving mechanisms work, and in Science, we learned about omnivores and discovered that they eat both plants and other animals.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

Year 2 have had a brilliant week! On Tuesday, as part of our Geography learning, we went on a walk around our local area. The children spotted lots of birds, plants and trees, some even saw a deer! On Thursday we went on a trip to Sacrewell Farm. Here we consolidated some of our Science learning by looking at what seeds need to grow. We planted our own pea seeds and went on a hunt around the kitchen garden at Sacrewell identifying plants and trees. We then did a workshop on animals and their habitats where we explored the grounds for animals and made a 'habitat helper'. Some of the children spotted centipedes as well as lots of worms! We couldn't leave without a look around all the animals and a quick play in the 'Play Barn'. In English, our visit will be used to write a recount when we return from half term.



Year 2 Sacrewell Farm Trip

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Maths, the children have been exploring equivalent fractions using both number lines and bar models. They have been developing their understanding of how fractions can represent the same value in different ways and explaining their reasoning with confidence. In English, we have been writing our Hot Task - a first-person narrative based on 'The Iron Man'. The children have worked hard to include descriptive language, expanded noun phrases and dialogue to bring their stories to life. We have also been busy designing and building our own cardboard playgrounds, using 3D shapes and different techniques to join and strengthen structures. They've showed fantastic creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills. It has been a very productive half term – we deserve a well-earned break.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

What another wonderful week of learning! In Maths, we've been exploring fractions in depth – the children have been finding wholes, counting beyond 1, and partitioning mixed fractions. Our Poetry unit in Writing has been delightful as the children have been creating their own poems all about the seasons. In Science, we have focused on volume as we continue our Sound unit, with lots of hands-on exploration. In Reading, we're continuing our journey through The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. This week's chapter really highlighted the importance of sibling unity and taught us about the dangers of falling for shortcuts or empty promises – it sparked some great discussions! In Computing, the children have been working on an exciting challenge – creating variables to keep score in their games. They've learned to store words and numbers in variables and built working games that respond to user input. In PE, we're working hard on developing our stamina to build our fitness even further.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

In Maths this week, we have moved on from fractions to their near relations, decimals. The children have been revising their knowledge of tenths and hundredths as place value, and learning how to represent equivalent fractions as decimals. It has also been an exciting week in English. In Reading, we concluded our unit on Black Beauty with the children rehearsing and performing monologues from the text, focusing on expressive use of the voice, attention to emphasis and gesture. In Writing, we have begun a unit on poetry, learning about different poetic forms, rhyme and rhyme schemes, and figurative language including simile, metaphor and personification. We have completed our Science unit on life cycles and our history unit on the Tudors, and in Brain Buddies, the children learned more about the zones of regulation, and some of the different techniques available to help reach a better frame of mind.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Our final week of this half term has proved to be very busy and productive. We have continued to plan and draft a speech in English. We need to make the speech inspiring and rousing in order to get our points across. We have included lots of higher order vocabulary and punctuation to show our excellent writing skills. In reading this week, we went over our recent mock SATs papers and discussed various questions to help us understand how to score maximum marks in the future. Maths has been a selection of areas this week. We have looked at translations and reflections and then we looked at properties and features of circles including diameter, radius and circumference. We continued practising our skills in Tag rugby within PE this week and showed what we have learned in some mini games. We hope everyone has a very restful and safe half term.

Spring Term 2026 Diary

16-2-2026 to 20-2-2026 (Half Term)

25-2-2026	12.00pm Year 3 Parent Lunch
5-3-2026	World Book Day
W.c 09-03-2026	No Afterschool Clubs
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 Finish Last Day