



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School
Newsletter
Volume 22 – Friday 27th February 2026
2nd Sunday of Lent (A)

As we begin the holy season of Lent, it has been a reflective and purposeful week across school. Each class has taken part in daily Lenten reflections. It has been lovely to see the children engaging so thoughtfully in this important season of the Church's year. On Thursday, our Key Stage 2 children took part in the Peterborough Dance Show. Their confidence, creativity and teamwork were evident throughout. The standard of performance was exceptional and all the adults involved were very proud of all the children involved. Also well done also to our Year 5 and Year 6 children who represented the school at the recent cross-country competition. To mark the end of our first week of Lent, Key Stage 2 gathered for Mass. It was a reflective celebration, helping us to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving during these forty days. I wish you all an enjoyable weekend.

Lord Jesus, Help us in this Lenten season to listen to your voice and to be changed by your love. Walk with us each day as we grow closer to you. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 (Pankhurst) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a pleasing 96.9%. 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.

World Book Day (5th March 2026)

The focus of World Book Day next Thursday is "Beautiful Vocabulary".

We're inviting the children to come dressed as a 'word' (for example: vibrant, athletic, heroic, artistic, fragile, mythical, fatigued — the list is endless!). There is absolutely no need to buy anything new; simple, creative ideas are perfect and we can't wait to see how the children bring their chosen words to life. Throughout the day, the children will be immersed in exploring rich vocabulary and playing with words and syntax, as well as enjoying stories, visiting the library and taking part in a range of poetry inspired activities, finishing with a beautiful vocabulary parade to admire one another's 'word' inspired costumes!

As part of our celebrations, we are also launching our new whole school "Poetry Rocks!" outdoor feature. We ask for each child to bring in a smooth rock, roughly the size of their palm, which they will write on during the day before adding it to our "Poetry Rocks!" garden where children will be able to create their own poems using the vocabulary on their rocks. At break time, we'll even be holding our very own Poetry Slam, giving children the chance to step up, share their words and celebrate the joy of poetry together!

Mini-Vinnie Visit

As we start the season of Lent, Mini Vinnies across the country are encouraged to notice loneliness, listen with care and start meaningful conversations. This week some of our Mini Vinnie team visited the residents of Hampton Grove Care Home to do just that - enjoying time playing games, colouring together and sharing the power of a smile.

Year 5 and 6 Football

On the week before half term, we travelled to and played a football match against Hampton Lakes. The pitch we played on was very muddy and wet but both teams used the ball well and played a very even game for the first half. Unfortunately, we made some defensive errors in the second half and Hampton Lakes ran out winners despite some late scoring from our strikers. We hope in the return fixture we can make improvements and avenge our defeat.

Well done to Jakub, Kian, Arvin, Dominykas, Jeremy, Chidera, Mete, Ksawier, Keano and Noah for their efforts and good sporting attitude.

St JHN Netball team

Mrs Gallieti and Mrs Sanzullo have been working hard each week in a Monday club developing our school netball team for the last two terms. This week we challenged Hampton Lakes to a match after school and they accepted. Despite their team having had more competitive game time, our St John Henry Newman team battled well and the game was very tight. It was close right up to the final quarter but they just managed to beat us by 1 point! Everyone played well and enjoyed the experience despite the loss. Great work and well done to: Emmanuella, Ariella, Zahra, Kaja, Amelija, Maria, Jeremy, Kian, Chimamanda and Firekayomi.

Cross-Country

This week we entered a team in the cross-country event held at Hampton Gardens Secondary School. The course was very long and tough to get around but perseverance and determination was shown by all competitors. Each runner was given points and a team total was collated across individual races and relay races. Our team showed such spirit, ending up 3rd overall and Jakub was the second fastest boy of the whole tournament just being pipped by 2 metres in the final sprint for the finishing line. Well done to: Kian, Joshua, James, Arvin, Edward, Cataleya, Elvira, Laila, Anna, Maria, Jakub and Ayra.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been enjoying our literacy work based on the story **We're Going on a Lion Hunt**. We have been learning new vocabulary and practising how to use it in context. Words we have learnt include mane, shaggy and swamp. As we had been learning more of the story, we drew and labelled story maps to retell the key events. In Maths, we have been learning about doubles, which has been quite tricky! To help us, we used our special, magical doubling pot to support our understanding. Please help us to spot doubles at home too, as extra practice really makes a difference. In Science, we linked our learning to our Literacy work by exploring the habitats and special features of different animals. We have also been developing our practical skills in Design and Technology, where the children have been learning how to sew. It has been another busy and exciting week!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week in Year 1, we have been learning how to count in tens up to 50 in Maths and have begun counting numbers accurately using tens and ones. In English Reading, we have started reading Prince Cinders, making predictions about what the story might be about, spotting similarities with Cinderella, and answering questions about the text. In English Writing, we have been introduced to diary entries, discussing their features and purpose, and learning how to organise our writing using time connectives such as first, then, next and last to link events clearly. We worked together to create sentences as a class before generating our own ideas using prompts to support us. In History, we have begun learning about toys from the past and how they are different from the toys we play with today.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week Year 2 have written their recounts about their visit to Sacrewell Farm. The children have had lots to remember; writing in past tense, chronological order, first person and using time words! In Maths we've finished our unit on multiplication and division. Lots of the children can find all the division and multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables and answer some word problems involving multiplication and division. In History, we have started a new topic on the history of flight. The children were fascinated to learn about Orville and Wilbur Wright and made cartoon strips of their lives and achievements. The highlight of this week has been making our healthy wraps, designed in DT lessons. We then invited guests in to taste and evaluate them and share a book; it was great to see so many people attend!



Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Year 3 the children have started a new unit in Maths based on measuring in mass and grams with some children linking this to experience of baking and measuring ingredients at home. In English reading we are combining different subjects by reading *Pebble in my pocket* which goes through time in History and links well to our previous learning on rocks, fossils and the layers of the earth; the children have enjoyed recalling their facts! In English writing we are preparing to write a letter linked to our book last term of *Mary Poppins*. In Science the children have started learning about light and understanding how light can be created by different objects but also how the eye processes and takes in light and sight.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

In Maths, this week we've been developing our understanding of fractions, with a focus on recognising and working with mixed numbers and improper fractions. In English, we have begun a new unit on playscripts, and children are familiarising themselves with the key features and conventions of this text type. In Geography, we are investigating the origins of the food we eat, exploring how different foods are produced and transported from around the world before reaching our tables. In PE, children have been developing their Rugby skills, concentrating on attacking strategies and moving effectively towards goal. In Science, we have successfully completed our unit on Sound and have now begun a new and exciting unit on Electricity. Children will be learning how electricity is used to transfer energy to power everyday appliances and will be identifying examples they encounter in daily life. In Reading, rather than focusing on a single text, children will be exploring a carefully selected range of non-fiction materials. Our first set of texts will complement our Science work on Electricity, before we move on to a series of texts about Africa.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

A busy first week back in Year 5. In Maths, we have continued to learn about decimal numbers, moving on to thousandths as fractions, decimals and on the place value chart. We have also begun to order and compare decimal numbers, and continued to work on our problem solving skills. In English reading, we have begun a new unit on information texts; we will read a number of texts about states of matter, bolstering previous learning in Science as well as non-fiction comprehension skills. In English writing, we have written our poems on the theme of Black Beauty, incorporating rhyme, metaphor and personification. In Science, we have begun a unit on reversible and irreversible changes, beginning with a practical investigation of dissolving. In Geography, we have begun to learn about the world's oceans, looking particularly this week at their importance for trade.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

What a great week of learning! We have hit the ground running in Year 6 and this half term will be very productive if this week is a benchmark for our attitude and efforts. In English we have been editing and improving our speech writing which we had begun before the half term break. We then went on to complete our speeches and orate them to the class – some very powerful and persuasive language meant they were a huge success. Maths has been revising some of the number work we looked at in the Autumn term including place value, rounding numbers and multiplying and dividing by multiples of 10. In PE we began a new unit of football where we will focus on skills and teamwork. Eventually we will have a mini tournament similar to the Champions League! Whole class reading has been very focused this week with a look at some specific retrieval questions and how to find information quickly and answer efficiently. Well done Year 6 for a very purposeful week!

Spring Term 2026 Diary

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

5-3-2026	World Book Day
5-3-2026	Nationwide School Uniforms Pop-Up Shop From 2.45pm
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