



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 23 – Friday 6th March 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent (A)

It has been another full week at St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School. Our Year 4 pupils represented us superbly in their football match against Hampton Lakes Primary School, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. KS2 children marked Lent through a meaningful CAFOD supported day, reflecting on prayer, fasting and almsgiving in action. We also celebrated World Book Day with a strong focus on vocabulary development, with children exploring ambitious language to strengthen their reading and writing. Finally, a reminder that parents' meetings will take place next week – we look forward to discussing your child's progress with you. Have a great weekend everyone.

Lord, you are the living water; refresh our hearts this Lent and help us bring kindness and hope to those around us. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 4 (Yousafzai), Year 4 (Gandhi) and Year 6 (Rashford) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a pleasing 97.7%. 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 first half of the Summer Term.

Breakfast Club Survey – YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Your voice matters: You could win £100 by telling Ipsos (on behalf of The Department for Education) about your morning school run. St John Henry Newman Catholic VA Primary School has a unique opportunity to help design how free breakfast clubs will look for families across the country. Ipsos researchers want to hear from our parents to understand what the morning school run looks like for you – they need your help. Designed by parents, for parents. Ipsos have worked closely with parents to make sure this survey asks the right questions and doesn't take up too much of your time. You can help ensure the National Breakfast Club programme works for all parents.

- The ask: Complete a 10-minute survey [Click Here](#)
- The thank you: A chance to win a £100 voucher.
- Who: Everyone! Ipsos want to hear from you whether you currently use the breakfast club or not.

World Book Day (5th March 2026)

Well! What a fantastic World Book Day we all had yesterday! The children enjoyed a real focus on vocabulary throughout the day, taking part in a number of activities including quizzes, poetry analysis, creating a new outdoor play literacy provision and finishing off with a fantastic, whole school vocabulary parade! Thank you to all parents and carers who helped to contribute towards the children's creative costumes - they looked fantastic!!

Joint Catholic School Retreat Day

The Peterborough Catholic Schools Chaplaincy Teams joined together at St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School for a retreat day led by the Ignite team from the Diocese of East Anglia. The day offered time for reflection, prayer and collaboration, as the children explored the meaning of Lent. Working together, they developed a series of Lent-based worship sessions which they will now lead in their own schools, demonstrating creativity, faith and leadership in sharing the spirit of this holy season.

Year 4 Football

On Tuesday we had a football match against Hampton Lakes. It was our first ever match in Year 4 and our training the previous week had gone well. It took a little while for us to settle into the first half but eventually our pressure in the opposition's half paid off when David slotted home our first goal. Unfortunately, Hampton Lakes struck back just before halftime with a long-range effort. The second half was a very even contest and there was some excellent battling football by both teams. A free kick proved to be a winner for the opposition, despite our pressure and good chances in the latter part of the game. Our team showed great team spirit and their attitude reflected our school values throughout the game.

Well done to: Dexy, Albert, Abdul-Malik, David, Sara, Finley, John, Haider, Tireni and Dominik.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception has been a busy one! In Maths, we have been exploring length and height, using mathematical vocabulary such as *long and short* and *tall and short* to describe and compare. We continued our learning based on **We're Going on a Lion Hunt** in Literacy, focusing on writing simple sentences to retell the narrative. We have been working hard to use our phonics and 'Fred Fingers' to help us write by counting the number of sounds in each word. We also enjoyed playing the recorder for the very first time in Music! We have been working towards this for many weeks now, so it was very exciting. In PE, we worked in groups to create our own dances, using our learning from previous lessons. World Book Day was a real highlight this week! Our focus was on poems and nouns, and we especially enjoyed *The Morning Rush* by **John Foster**, which is all about waking up and getting ready for school. We took part in a whole-school parade, where we showed off our wonderful word costumes.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week we have been working hard on our Spring assessments in Maths, Reading and Writing. In History, we have continued learning about toys over the last 100 years, thinking about how they have changed and stayed the same over time. In Science, we have been learning about how we can care for our planet and the small things we can do to help protect it. On World Book Day on Thursday, we celebrated our love of reading and words by painting rocks with adjectives for our playground Poetry Rocks installation, decorating creative hats, and taking part in a word parade, proudly showing our creativity while celebrating vocabulary.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

This week, as always, has been very busy in Year 2! The children have worked really hard in their assessments in Maths, Reading and Spelling and Punctuation demonstrating what they have learnt so far this year. In History we have learnt about Bessie Coleman and her significance in the history of flight. We learnt what a historical source is and looked at a copy of Bessie's pilots' licence. In Science lessons we have started a new unit about humans. We carried out an investigation looking at the impact different types of exercise has on heart rate. The children were great at finding their pulse and recording their heart rate after a minute of exercise. This week we have begun rehearsing the music for our upcoming concert with Britten Sinfonia based on the book 'The Tale of the Whale'. This is an amazing and exciting opportunity for the children to work and perform with World class musicians! The highlight of our week has been World Book Day, we enjoyed a variety of activities including writing our own 'Cat' poem, hat making for the parade and a 'book splurge'.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week has been busy for year 3! With it being assessment week, the children have tried really hard in a range of different tests remembering much of their learning. In Maths we are currently looking at mass and comparing, with a focusing on balancing scales and understanding how to tell which items are heavier or lighter. In English writing we have planned and will be writing our letters to Mary Poppins using our formal language. In Science we have been looking at natural light sources with a focus on the sun as well as understanding what benefits we get from the sun as well as how to protect our bodies from the UV rays. In History we have been thinking about Roman settlements and understanding the legacy that was left behind, as well as the battles and invasions that happened during their reign and their empire.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

What a busy and exciting week we have had! As Parents' Evening is approaching, we have been carrying out assessments this week so that we are fully prepared to share your child's progress with you — we very much look forward to seeing you there. A real highlight this week was World Book Day! The children looked absolutely wonderful in their costumes, and it was a delight to see the creativity and individuality they each brought to the day. In Maths, the children have been working on ordering equivalent fractions on a number line, building on the fraction work we have been doing in recent weeks. In Science, we have begun our new unit on Electricity, and the children have enjoyed sorting everyday appliances into those that run on battery power and those that use mains electricity. In PE, we have continued to develop our Rugby skills, and the children are growing in confidence every week. We also had a fantastic opportunity this week to work with CAFOD, which is the official overseas aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, part of Caritas Internationalis.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

A very packed week in Year 5. Not only did we complete six assessment papers, but we also kept learning. In Maths, we learned more about comparing, ordering and rounding decimal numbers. In English, we began a new writing unit on a third-person cliffhanger narrative, looking at the features of this kind of text and refreshing our knowledge of writing direct speech. We were visited not only by our Brain Buddies team as usual, working on our "backpack" of skills to regulate our emotions, but also by CAFOD. And of course the highlight was World Book Day, when our classrooms and the whole school came to life in a blaze of colourful vocabulary costumes and hats. We are looking forward to seeing our "poetry rocks" in action soon!

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

This week has flown by with lots of events and activities all week. In English writing we have been preparing to write a non-chronological report about the circulatory system. This aligns with our new science unit and we will be using our scientific research for our reports next week. In Maths we have been revising our number knowledge with a focus on the 4 operations this week. We have been showing how efficient we can be when solving various calculations and applying our skills accurately. History has taken us to Asia where we have started a really interesting study of the Sikh empire and we began by constructing our own timeline to record important dates of events within this time period. On Thursday we had a blast with World Book Day activities and created some fantastic hats for the schoolbook parade! Year 6 was very creative and definitely looked the smartest!

Spring Term 2026 Diary

W.c 09-03-2026	No after school clubs – all week
10-3-2026	Parent Meetings
11-3-2026	Parent Meetings
20-3-2026	Big Lent Walk
25-3-2026	12.00pm Year 1 Parent Lunch
25-3-2026	Stations Liturgy
27-3-2026	1.30pm Last Day