



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School
Newsletter
Volume 24 – Friday 13th March 2026
Laetare Sunday (A)

It has been another busy and positive week in school. Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our parents' meetings; these conversations are always valuable in supporting the progress of our children. Children also took part in workshops with CAFOD, helping them reflect on caring for others and living out the values of Lent. In Reception, the children have thoroughly enjoyed writing linked to the story *We're Going on a Lion Hunt*, showing great enthusiasm as they used their phonics to write words and extended sentences. As we head into the weekend, we wish all mothers, grandmothers and those who care for us a very happy Mother's Day and hope families enjoy some special time together. Have a great weekend everyone.

Loving God, as we journey through Lent, fill our hearts with your light and joy, help us grow in kindness and love, and guide our families always. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 (Pankhurst) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was a pleasing 97.3%. 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.

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.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have continued writing simple sentences to retell the story of *We're Going on a Lion Hunt* in our Literacy lessons. In Maths, we have been continuing our learning about height by comparing the height of objects and our height compared to our friends. We have also been exploring time by using sand timers. We had great fun seeing how many activities we could do in one minute, including star jumps and throwing and catching a bean bag. In Music, we continued practising how to play the recorder, developing our confidence handling the instrument. Linking to our Science learning about plants, in Reading we have continued exploring non-fiction texts and have been learning about the different parts of a sunflower and how sunflowers grow.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

In Maths, we have been continuing our learning of numbers to 50, placing them on a number line, counting forwards and backwards, and partitioning them into tens and ones. In English, we have been learning about the prefix un-, as well as suffixes and plurals by adding -s and -es to words. We also sequenced the story of *Prince Cinders*, discussed our favourite parts, and began reading poems written by Allan Ahlberg. In History, we used what we have learned about how toys have changed over time to design our own toy for the future, showing some wonderful imagination. In Science, we have been learning about seasonal changes in spring and noticing the signs of the new season around us.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

In our Maths lessons we have been measuring in centimetres and metres, comparing length and height and ordering measures. The children were great at measuring accurately to the nearest centimetre and some children wanted to learn about millimetres! In Reading lessons, the children have revisited the story of Rosa Parks and discussed the importance of accepting the differences in other people. In writing, we have learnt how to use an apostrophe to show possession and will be using this new punctuation skill when writing a 1st person narrative based on our own continuation of the 'Journey' book we studied earlier in the year. The children have enjoyed learning about the historical significance of Neil Armstrong's voyage to the Moon and thought up some great questions about his achievement. The highlight of our week has been the first workshop with Britten Sinfonia to begin working on 'The Tale of the Whale'. We have been practising the singing and dancing and have all made a percussion instrument from junk to use in the performance!

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

In our Maths learning this week we have been looking at capacity and volume which has included the children reading scales and using their division skills; this would be a fantastic chance for children to practice their scale reading skills at home. In English writing we have been finishing our formal letter writing which the children have taken great pride in. In English reading we have been linking our science skills with our book and thinking about the fossilisation process as well as having discussions about how plants and animals have changed over time. In Science we have been learning about how our eyes see different objects with different light sources as well as doing a planting activity in honour of Science week. In History, we have been learning about the benefits as well as the drawbacks of having the romans invading different countries - we have been using our debate skills to be able to see both sides of the argument.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

We have had another productive and engaging week, and the children have been working hard. In Maths, our fractions unit continues, with this week's focus on adding and subtracting fractions from mixed numbers — a real step forward in their mathematical thinking. In Writing, playscript writing is now well underway, with the children channelling their creativity into crafting their own scripts, characters, and dialogue. In Geography, maps took centre stage this week as the children explored where our food comes from, tracing the journeys food makes around the world and calculating the distances it travels before reaching our plates. In PE, passing and movement were the order of the day, with the children developing their Rugby skills and learning how to travel effectively with the ball as a team. In Science this week, the children explored the components of an electrical circuit, drawing and labelling both open and closed circuits. In Reading, a range of non-fiction texts about Electricity has been capturing the children's curiosity, linking beautifully with their Science learning.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

This week has been full of exciting learning across the curriculum. For Science Week, we planted our own seeds and had some fantastic, curious conversations about what we think might grow and what plants need in order to thrive. In Geography, we explored the amazing Great Barrier Reef and looked more closely at why our oceans are so important for wildlife, ecosystems, and the health of our planet. This included conducting our own research and gathering information for a fact file. In English, we focused on improving our writing skills by exploring text cohesion and learning how different types of sentences can be used to build tension and drama in our work.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

In Science this week we looked at the circulatory system again, in particular the blood flow around the body. Using diagrams and activities, we learned that the heart pumps oxygenated blood to all parts of the body and brings back the deoxygenated blood the body has used. We are using this information to write our non-chronological reports and spent a lesson researching all about this interesting topic. Our focus was identifying high-quality, relevant information as we gathered material for our reports. We also came across some unusual and fascinating facts — for example, the average person has more than 60,000 miles of arteries, veins, and capillaries in their body! In Reading this week we have looked specifically at a poem and answered challenging questions about structure, language and meaning. Fractions were looked at in Maths this week and we revised how we add, subtract, divide and multiply fractions, Improper fractions mixed numbers and whole numbers. Its been a busy and productive week!

Spring Term 2026 Diary

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