



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 25 – Friday 20th March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

It has been another busy week across the school. Our Reception children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Peterborough Museum, where they explored local history and took part in engaging, hands-on activities. Year 5 children had an exciting opportunity to participate in an NFL event, developing their teamwork skills and experiencing a new sport with great enthusiasm. Meanwhile, Year 2 have continued their workshops with Britten Sinfonia, building confidence and creativity through music. Across the school, children have also been taking part in daily Lent reflections, showing thoughtfulness and reverence as they journey through this important season in the Church's year. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend as we prepare for our final week of the Spring Term.

Loving God, help us to turn back to you this Lent. Give us the strength to choose what is right and to show love and mercy to others. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 1 (Armstrong), Year 5 (Hawking) and Year 6 (Rashford) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 96.3%. 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.

Stations of the Cross Service 25th March 2026

A gentle reminder that our Stations of the Cross Service will take place on Wednesday 25th March at 5.00pm at St Luke's Church. All families are very welcome to join us for this special time of prayer and reflection during Lent. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

NFL Event

A team of eight Year 5 and 6 pupils proudly represented the school at this week's NFL Flag Football tournament. After a challenging start in their opening match, the team quickly developed their skills and understanding of the game, going on to win their next three fixtures and scoring an impressive eight touchdowns. Their strong performance secured a second-place finish in the group, setting up a decisive final match against group leaders, Barnack, to determine the overall winners. In a closely contested and exciting game, the team gave an excellent account of themselves but were narrowly defeated 14–12. The children demonstrated fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the tournament, representing the school brilliantly. Well done to all involved.

Peterborough United Reading Visit

This week, we were delighted to welcome coaches from Peterborough United Football Club, who delivered an exciting football session for a group of our pupils. These children were randomly selected as a reward for their fantastic commitment to reading at home—consistently reading five nights or more each week. Their dedication truly paid off, and they thoroughly enjoyed this special experience! In addition, another group of 20 children were rewarded for their consistent reading with a free book, kindly provided by the National Literacy Trust. It's wonderful to see so many of our pupils developing such positive reading habits.

We are incredibly proud of all the children who are making reading a regular part of their routine. Keep up the good work!



St JF ROCKS!

This week, members of our Performing Arts Club from Years 4, 5 and 6 had the exciting opportunity to visit St John Fisher School to watch their original musical production, SJF Rocks!. The children were thoroughly entertained by the high-quality live music and impressive acting on display. It was a fantastic experience for our pupils to see a live performance and gain inspiration for their own creative work. We are very grateful for the experience and are already looking forward to returning the invitation to SJF students later in the year!

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception has been especially exciting as we went on our very first school trip to **Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery** to learn all about fossils and the Jurassic Sea. The children had a fantastic time making ammonites from clay, handling real artefacts and becoming palaeontologists for the day—it was a truly memorable experience! In Literacy, we have begun our new learning based on **Rosie's Walk**, where we have been building on our understanding of positional language. The children have drawn and annotated story maps to help sequence the events. In Maths, we have been focusing on the numbers 9 and 10, practising subitising (knowing how many without counting) and finding one more. It has been wonderful to see how much quicker and more confident the children are becoming. We have also continued our Science and Reading learning by planting sunflower seeds and look forward to watching them grow.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

It has been another busy and creative week of learning in our classrooms. In English Reading, we have continued exploring a range of poems, developing our understanding of their features, and learning new vocabulary including shrill, sneer and glum, discussing how these words connect to the poems we have read. In English Writing, we have been planning and writing our own diary entries about our day, thinking carefully about how to organise events in the order they happened. In Maths, we began learning about length and height, measuring using objects and centimetres. We also enjoyed working practically to solve a “broken trains” problem, using multilink cubes to explore the different possibilities for how two trains could be made from a fixed number of cubes. In Art, we started our Colour Splash unit, where we learned about primary colours and experimented with mixing them to create secondary colours. It has been wonderful to see the children showing curiosity, creativity and perseverance in their learning this week.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

It has been an incredibly busy week in Year 2. We began the week with our workshop with Britten Sinfonia. This week we were working on developing the layering of rhythmic patterns using body percussion and sounds! In writing lessons, we have been planning plots for our narratives and exploring exciting verbs, adjectives and adverbs that will fit with our ideas. In Maths we have finished our unit on length and height and lots of the children demonstrated they can accurately use a ruler to measure and draw lengths. In Science we have made seed ‘bombs’ as part of our Sustainability topic and have concluded our teeth brushing challenge with a practical lesson on how to brush your teeth. In our art lessons the children have been drawing artistic representations of their journeys to school, some of them began turning these pieces of art into 3D models.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

It's been a busy week in Year 3! In English writing we have started thinking about poetry and planning our ideas for writing Easter themed poetry next week. In Maths we have moved onto our second unit of fractions looking at adding and subtracting fractions. In History we have been thinking about why the Ancient Romans decided to invade and settle in Britain, as well as what different artefacts can tell us about the materials they had as well as how they lived their lives. In Science we have been learning about transparent, translucent and opaque materials and which ones make the best shadows ready for creating an experiment next week.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

Another productive and engaging week! In Writing, the children completed and published their very own playscripts — a wonderful achievement that they should be very proud of. In Maths, we have wrapped up our fractions unit and have made a start on a new unit on Decimals. In Science, the children enjoyed a fantastic hands-on session, bringing their circuit drawings to life by building their own circuits and investigating which materials make the best conductors. In Geography, the children got stuck into exploring food packaging, using it to discover where different foods are sourced from across various continents and calculating just how many miles each product has travelled to reach our shelves. In Reading, our non-fiction journey continued as the children explored a range of texts about Africa, building their knowledge and broadening their understanding of the world. In PE, the children developed their movement skills, focusing on how to dodge defenders effectively.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

Another full and busy week in Year 5. In Maths, we have completed our unit on decimal numbers and percentages, and moved on to geometry, beginning with perimeter. In English, we have planned and drafted our cliffhanger narratives, based on a picture prompt of a mysterious creature in a forest. Our study of the importance and health of the world's oceans has continued in Geography, looking at some of the various ways in which oceans are now in danger. In Science, we have considered the difference between reversible and irreversible changes, and how we know which is which. We also enjoyed the opportunity for various Lenten reflections during the week, culminating in the Big Lent Walk on Friday, and have continued to learn about our minds and emotions from our Brain Buddies visitors.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

This week has flown by with lots of great learning and events around and beyond school. In English, we have continued to work on our non-chronological report and we have focused on ensuring we use relevant and interesting information in our paragraphs. Using a wide range of Year 6 punctuation to really showcase our writing ability in this piece of work about the circulatory system. During PE this week we split into small teams and had games against each other. Competition was fierce but there was some excellent passing and support play from every team on show. Looking at angles in Maths this week proved challenging as we had to estimate and then measure all types of angles. We then revised all the rules around angles on a straight line and angles in triangles to solve some tough reasoning questions. Also over the last few weeks, Miss Spaven has been handing out stickers galore in her SPAG sessions in the afternoons. Good learning equals a sticker frenzy within Year 6 and the sessions have been lots of fun too!

Spring Term 2026 Diary

25-3-2026	12.00pm Year 1 Parent Lunch
25-3-2026	5.00pm Stations Service at St Lukes
27-3-2026	1.30pm Last Day (Early Finish)