



# St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter

### Volume 27 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### Third Sunday of Easter

It has been a wonderful start to the new term, with all of our children returning after the Easter break with such positivity and enthusiasm. Every class has settled quickly back into their learning routines, and it has been a real joy to see such focus, determination, and readiness to learn across the school. Year 2 have been especially busy putting the finishing touches to their *Britten Sinfonia* performance, which they are very much looking forward to sharing with parents next week. We know it will be a fantastic celebration of their hard work and growing confidence. Meanwhile, Year 6 have shown great maturity and commitment as they continue preparing for their SATs in the coming weeks. Their attitude and effort have been excellent. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

***Lord Jesus, in this Easter season, walk with us as you did with your disciples, filling our hearts with peace and renewed hope. Amen.***

Mr Cooper  
Headteacher

#### **Attendance**

Well done to Year 1 (Chanel) for having 99.6% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 96.7%. 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 your pre-book to help us manage our preparations and provide an optimal experience for all participating children.

#### **Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)**

We have come back to school ready to learn which is fantastic! We have continued to build our learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we explored number bonds to 10 using both 2 and 3 parts; we also recapped our understanding of doubles. In Literacy, we have continued reading *Rosie's Walk* and focused on retelling the story from the perspective of the fox, using this to support our own narrative writing. In Science, we investigated pushes and pulls by exploring how toy cars travel down ramps with different surfaces, making predictions about whether the surface would make the car go faster or slower. In Geography, we created 'Nature Catchers' using items collected over the Easter break, discussing where the items were found, what they look like and how they feel. Well done for a great first week back!

#### **Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)**

It has been another busy and enjoyable week of learning in class, with the children showing great enthusiasm across all subjects. In English writing, we have been revising how to use the conjunction 'and' to join words and ideas together. We have also been exploring the suffixes *-ing*, *-er* and *-est*, helping us to describe actions and make comparisons in our writing. In Maths, we have started a new unit on multiplication and division. The children have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, as well as recognising equal groups. This is an important foundation that will support their understanding as we continue to build towards multiplication and division. In Computing, we have been using BeeBots to explore algorithms. The children have enjoyed planning, testing and debugging their instructions, developing their problem-solving and computational thinking skills. In Science, we have been learning about the different parts of plants and discussing how each part helps the plant to grow and stay healthy. We are really proud of how well the children have engaged with their learning this week and the effort they have shown—well done everyone.

#### **Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)**

It's been a very busy start to the summer term in Year 2. On Monday we had our last workshop with *Britten Sinfonia*. They were accompanied by their cellist, Ariana Kashefi, who showed the children how the cello produces sound and then played for them; it was a very special moment! In Maths lessons we have been learning about measuring mass in grams and kilograms and have started to learn about capacity and volume, exploring this through practical activities. We have finished our book 'William the Conqueror's Secret Diary' in reading lessons and in writing lessons have started working towards writing a personal diary entry, looking at the features of a diary. In Science we have furthered our knowledge about animals and their offspring and in Geography we have started a new topic on what it is like by the coast. The children did some great mapwork identifying the bodies of water around the UK and, using Google Earth, explored some famous coastal landmarks such as The Giant's Causeway and the Jurassic Coast.

### **Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)**

It's been a busy first week back at school for Year 3! We have started a new Science unit based on plants and the children have been learning the different purposes of each section (including photosynthesis). In Maths we have finished our unit on fractions and will be starting a new unit on money- this would be a great opportunity for children to get experience at home with real coins. In English reading we have started to read a book all about African tales and understanding the lessons to be learnt through each one; the children are really enjoying this! In Geography we have started to link to our previous learning in History, by looking at different settlements and the different types there are. It's been a fantastic first week!

### **Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)**

It's been a busy first week back at school for Year 4! This week in English Writing, the children focused on using fronted adverbials with correct punctuation and conducted research for an explanation text about electricity. In Maths, they practiced dividing two-digit numbers by 10 and explored expressing hundredths as both fractions and in decimals numbers. In Science, we concluded our electricity topic, reinforcing ideas about circuits, conductors, and insulators. In History, we started a new history topic on changes in Britain after the Anglo-Saxon invasion, focusing on who the Saxons and Scots were and what Anglo-Saxon settlements looked like. In English reading, we are exploring poetry, we will be looking at different features and types of poems in the upcoming lessons. In PE, we're developing attacking skills and learning how maintain possession of a football.

### **Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)**

A very full first week of Year 5's Summer Term. We have begun a number of new units across our different subjects. In Maths, we are looking at statistics – reading, interpreting and completing different representations of data including line graphs, tables, timetables, etc. In Reading, we will be focusing on poetry this half term and have begun by comparing the biographies of Walter de la Mare and Edward Lear and reading the poem “The Pobble with no toes”. In Writing, we are working on instructional texts, creating a set of instructions for how to follow the St. John Henry Newman school values. In Science, we will be studying the human life cycle and have begun with an overview of its different stages; in history, we are learning about the legacy of the Ancient Greeks; in Spanish, about different festivals in Spain, and related vocabulary; and in Computing, about the Mars Rover. We also had our final Brain Buddies session this week, reviewing the different skills we have learned over the past two months. All in all, a very packed first week back.

### **Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)**

A great start to an important term in Year 6. This week we have started writing a persuasive letter to convince Mr Cooper to let us have a Year 6 fun day at the park later in the term. Unfortunately, he is not very keen on the idea so we will have to be very ‘persuasive’ in our writing to convince him otherwise. In Reading this week we have been looking closely at past SATs papers and discussing how to answer questions efficiently and accurately to show our excellent comprehension skills. Maths has been revising work on shape and angles which proved challenging but enjoyable. We have been working on some difficult multi-step reasoning questions and by annotating our workings out and showing a logical way of solving them. In PE we completed the last of our football sessions from last term and began practising skills for the sports day in June. It has been great to enjoy the warmer weather of the summer term outside this week.

### **SUMMER Term 2026 Diary**

22-4-2026	Year 2 - Britten Sinfonia Concert 1.45pm
24-4-2026	Year 1 Trip to Johnsons of Old Hurst
29-4-2026	11.45am – 12.15pm Reception Parent Lunch
4-5-2026	Bank Holiday
11-5-2026	KS2 SATs Week
18-5-2026	KS1 SATs Week
<b>25-5-2026 – 29-5-2026 (Half Term)</b>	
1-6-2026	Training Day (Report Writing Day)
4-6-2026	5.00pm Welcome Meeting (New Reception)
8-6-2026	Year 4 MTC
8-6-2025	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
11-6-2026	Year 6 Residential
12-6-2026	Year 6 Residential
17-6-2026	1.45 Stay and Play Session 1 (New Reception)
18-6-2026	9.30am Class Photos
18-6-2026	1.30pm Expressive Arts Concert
19-6-2026	3.00pm Summer Fayre
23-6-2026	1.45pm Stay and Play Session 2a (New Reception)
24-6-2026	1.45pm Stay and Play Session 2b (New Reception)
24-6-2026	Report Deadline to be handed in

26-6-2026	Sports Day
1-7-2026	1.45pm Stay and Play Session 3 (New Reception)
2-7-2026	School Heritage Day
8-7-2026	2.00pm Year 6 Production
9-7-2026	5.30pm Year 6 Production
10-7-2026	Reports Out
13-7-2026	Year 6 Leavers Experience
14-7-2026	3.30pm Open Session for Reports
15-7-2026	9.30am Move Up Morning
16-7-2026	9.30am Leavers Mass
17-7-2026	1.30pm Last Day