



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 28 – Friday 24th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

It has been another busy and enriching week in school, with so much happening across all year groups. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Old Hurst Farm, where they had the opportunity to experience life on a working farm first-hand. The children were a credit to the school throughout the trip. Year 2 delighted families with their fantastic Britten Sinfonia performance. It was a joy to see their confidence, musicality and teamwork shine through, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they have put into preparing for this event. We have also seen children from Year 5 and Year 6 representing the school in an NFL flag football match against Hampton Vale. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship—well done to all involved. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. 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 6 (Rashford) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 97.7%. Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

NFL Flag Football

On Tuesday, a team from Year 5 and 6 competed against Hampton Vale in NFL Flag football. This is a relatively new sport for us as a school having only competed in two other related competitions in the past. Despite our inexperience and the fact that we had previously been defeated by Hampton Vale earlier in the year, we played extremely well. We eventually ran out winners 24 points to 20. The team was expertly coached by Mr Longden who had run a NFL Flag football club after school in the Spring term. Congratulations to the team for their success!

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.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in EYFS, we have had a very busy and exciting time across our learning. In Maths, we explored odd and even numbers by checking if there were any 'remaining' when sharing, before moving on to learning about 3D shapes including cones, cubes, cuboids, spheres, pyramids and cylinders. We also looked closely at their 2D faces and investigated which shapes can stack and which can roll. In Literacy, we began our new book *Jasper's Beanstalk*, learning the story and sequencing events by creating story maps. In Science, we continued our pushes and pulls unit by exploring magnets, hunting around the classroom to find which objects were magnetic and using the words 'attract' and 'repel' to describe what we observed. In DT, we investigated whether objects float or sink, making predictions before testing our ideas. On Wednesday, we also enjoyed watching the Britten Sinfonia Orchestra perform, which was very exciting. What a busy week we have had!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week has been full of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we have been learning to add equal groups, make arrays, and explore doubles and near doubles, building important foundations for multiplication. In English, we have been reading non-fiction texts about famous explorers such as Amelia Earhart, Neil Armstrong and Ibn Battuta, answering questions to show our understanding, while also focusing on capital letters for proper nouns and using time connectives in our writing. In Computing, we listened to *The Three Little Pigs* and programmed Bee-Bots to move to different characters, helping us develop our sequencing skills. We also enjoyed our first educational visit of the year to Johnson's of Old Hurst Zoo, where the children had a fantastic time exploring animals and bringing their learning to life. We are really proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by all the children this week—well done!

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

What a week Year 2 have had! The highlight of our week was our performance of 'The Tale of the Whale' with 6 musicians from Britten Sinfonia. The children sang the songs brilliantly and both classes performed their original compositions with their percussion instruments and voices; it really was a special experience!



In writing lessons, we have finished writing our hot task diaries about a day in our lives and lots of us have used contractions, a variety of conjunctions and apostrophes to show possession! We have finished our maths topic mass, capacity, volume and temperature this week with us looking at measuring volume in millilitres and litres and reading temperature. In reading lessons, the children really enjoyed performing Michael Rosen's poem 'Don't', they had great fun making up their own line for the poem. In science lessons we welcomed the arrival of our 5 baby caterpillars. We will be observing them closely over the next 4 weeks to enhance our learning about lifecycles.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week has been a very exciting in Year 3! In Science, we have been conducting experiments on plants and flowers to develop our understanding of their different purposes. In Geography, we have been learning about the differences about physical and human Geography and thinking about our local area and the different areas we could find on different maps. In English writing the children have started writing their narratives based on dreams, there has been some fantastic imagination from the children on their ideas! In English reading we have been building on our stories from African culture and developing our understanding of different vocabulary as well as the moral or teaching from each one. In Maths we have been focusing on money, with a new unit based on learning to tell the time starting next week. The children have made great progress in Maths with their money knowledge and have been fantastic at applying this to work problems.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

This week in Year 4, in Maths, we completed the first part of our Decimals unit and have now moved into the second part, where children are learning how to make a whole using tenths and hundredths. In English reading, we studied two poems — Dream Variation by Langston Hughes and Catch a Little Rhyme by Eve Merriam — analysing the theme, structure, and tone of each in preparation for a comparative piece. In English writing, children finished their drafts of an explanation text exploring how electricity and circuits work. In History, we explored three key questions: how Christianity came to Britain, whether King Alfred truly deserved the title 'the Great', and how Anglo-Saxon rule came to an end. In Science, children investigated the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy sources and considered ways we can all reduce our energy usage. Finally, in PE, children developed their ability to change direction and speed whilst dribbling. As the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) is fast approaching, we would greatly appreciate your continued support at home. Practising times tables little and often makes a significant difference — even five minutes a day can boost your child's confidence and fluency.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

Another full week in Year 5. We have continued with poetry in our reading unit, completing our study of "The Pobble Who Had No Toes" by Edward Lear, and moving on to "The Listeners" by Walter de la Mare. Children analysed and acted out this poem in groups. In writing, we have drafted, edited and published our instructional text, focusing on the school values. In maths, we have completed our unit on statistics and have moved on to geometry, where we are learning to classify and measure angles using degrees. In science, we have continued with the human life cycle, looking this week at infancy. We have also continued our history unit on the Ancient Greeks, learning about the gods the Greeks believed in and the sources that record this. In Computing, we have begun a unit learning about the Mars Rover "Perseverance" and how and why it relays data from the surface of the red planet.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

What a week in Year 6! It has been a week of focus and concentration as we gear up for the upcoming SATs assessments. In English we have been doing whole class reading of past test papers and honing our comprehension skills and test resilience. In writing we have continued our work on a persuasive text trying to convince Mr Cooper to let us have a day of fun in the park following the conclusion of the SATs. To help with the writing, we have been typing our drafts on the laptops and we will be given time to edit them using the online tools. We are writing formally to him and using lots of persuasive devices to sway his opinion. In Maths we have been looking at area, perimeter and volume with a focus on reasoning and problem solving. We have had to use our knowledge to solve some very challenging questions. The weather has been warm this week and we have begun our sports day preparation with some athletics events in PE. We competed in howler throwing, sack races, hurdles, target throw and egg and spoon racing. A busy but productive week all round!

SUMMER Term 2026 Diary	
29-4-2026	11.45am Reception Parent Lunch
4-5-2026	Bank Holiday
11-5-2026	KS2 SATs Week
18-5-2026	KS1 SATs Week
25-5-2026 – 29-5-2026 (Half Term)	
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