



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 29 – Friday 1st May 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

This week has been full of learning, faith, and hard work at St John Henry Newman! Our Year 6 pupils are showing great determination as they continue preparing for their upcoming SATs—well done for your hard work and focus. We were pleased to have Year 1 and Year 6 lead us in a reflective Mass; thank you for helping us grow in faith together. Year 3 enjoyed an exciting Solar Power workshop looking to explore how solar power works and the importance of this particularly for our school building. We are also thrilled to see such high engagement with our after-school clubs—an impressive 74% of pupils are taking part in activities that enrich their learning and build new skills. Enjoy the sunshine this bank holiday 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 Reception (Luther-King) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 97.1%. Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

Parent Lunches

This week we were delighted to host our final parent lunch of the year, welcoming our Reception families to join their children for lunch in school. It was a great opportunity to share an important part of the school day together. Across the year, an impressive **375 parents** from all year groups have taken part in our parent lunches. These occasions have been a real highlight, strengthening the partnership between home and school and giving families a valuable insight into daily life at school. Thank you to all the parents who have joined us.

Marathon Man!

Huge well done to Mr Longden for completing the London Marathon last weekend in an incredible 4hrs 52mins. A brilliant achievement, made even more special by raising money for Crohn's and Colitis.



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. Booking is now available for the remainder of the Summer Term.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in EYFS, we have continued to enjoy lots of exciting learning opportunities. In Maths, we explored more complex repeating patterns by first spotting the rule and then continuing the pattern independently. We also looked more deeply at numbers 11–20, learning how they are made up of 10 and some more. In Literacy, we continued our work on *Jasper's Beanstalk*, focusing on writing our own narratives based on the story. In Music, we used a range of instruments, such as drums and bells to create sounds and tell a story through music. On Wednesday, we also really enjoyed welcoming families for our parent lunch — it was lovely to share this special time together!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week has been full of exciting hands-on learning across the curriculum. In Design and Technology, we explored stable structures by constructing our own strong designs, including creating basketball hoops using straws and pipe cleaners. In Maths, we began our new unit on fractions, where we started to explore how wholes can be split into equal parts. In English, we continued developing our understanding of non-fiction texts while also writing recounts about our recent trip to Johnsons of Old Hurst, using our experiences to inspire our writing. It has been wonderful to see the children applying creativity, problem-solving and their growing writing skills so confidently.



Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

It's been a hectic week in Year 2! In writing lessons, we have edited our diary entries and have started working towards the planning and writing of a 3rd-person narrative. For this the children will be writing an ending for an animated clip they've been shown about a boy who gets stuck in a ball pit; they have already come up with some inventive ways of how he could escape! In Maths lessons we have started a new topic learning about fractions. The children were brilliant at recognising $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of shapes and working out $\frac{1}{2}$ of amounts. In Science lessons, we have continued to learn about the lifecycle of a butterfly with our observations of our growing caterpillars. This week they have tripled in size! We have begun to learn about monarchs in History lessons and the children have enjoyed learning about what happens at a coronation. Please remember to read and record in your child's reading journal.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Year 3, we have been learning to tell the time in Maths, focusing on reading time to the nearest 5 minutes and 1 minute. The children worked hard and showed great effort. In English, we have been revising and editing our third-person narratives. The children demonstrated excellent creativity and took pride in improving their writing. In Science, we have continued our topic on plants. We have planned an experiment investigating variables in plant growth, which we are looking forward to carrying out next week.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

This week in Year 4, we have been busy across all areas of the curriculum. In Mathematics, children have been working with decimals — partitioning them in different ways, comparing, and ordering them with increasing confidence and flexibility. In History, we launched an exciting new unit asking the question: How did the achievements of the ancient Maya impact their society and beyond? This week we focused on how the rainforest shaped and influenced daily life in ancient Mayan civilisation. In Science, we began a new unit on Habitats, exploring what makes a habitat suitable for living things and how animals and plants depend on their environment. In English Writing, children published their Hot Task before diving into a brand new unit, where they will be writing a third-person narrative complete with detailed character descriptions. In English Reading, we discovered a wonderful new poem — *The Water in the Glass You Are Holding Right Now* by Kate Wakeling — and children had the opportunity to perform poetry aloud together in class. In PE, children concentrated on passing the ball accurately using both sides of the foot. With the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) coming up shortly, now is a great time to make times tables practice a regular part of your child's routine at home. Games, apps such as Times Table Rockstars, or simply calling out questions on the way to school can all help build speed and confidence. Every little helps 😊

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

We have enjoyed exploring angles in Year 5 Maths this week: learning how to use protractors to measure and draw different angles, calculating missing angles around a point or on a straight line, and identifying different angles in shapes. In reading, we have continued our poetry unit with a comparison of the two poems studied so far, looking at their tone, mood, language and effects. In English Writing, we have begun a new unit on explanation texts, looking at their features and the use of the passive voice, and beginning to gather facts about our writing topic, the human life cycle. This is linked to our current learning in science, where this week we discussed adolescence and puberty. In Computing, we have completed our unit learning about binary code and how it can be used to send signals even as far as Mars, and in History, we have discussed the differences between Athens and Sparta and the kinds of government that existed in Ancient Greece.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Another busy week flew by as we continue our preparations for the SATs firmly in our thoughts. In whole class reading we have been looking at a range of texts and questions to really focus on improving our comprehension skills. We have started a new writing unit of work this week based on a really engaging picture book called Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne. It is a fantastic text that will help us really explore perspective, inner voice and writing narratively in 1st person. We are sure it will inspire some fabulously creative writing from everyone. Maths has seen us looking at algebra, measurement and ratio and ending our week with huge reasoning challenge on the Friday! PE was fun battling the wind outside as we practised some more athletics based events in preparation for sports day. Another productive and fruitful week achieved – well done Year 6!

SUMMER Term 2026 Diary

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