



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 31 – Friday 15th May 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

This week has been another busy and successful one across the school. We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 children who completed their SATs assessments. They approached the week with a calm and positive attitude and demonstrated all of the hard work they have put in throughout the year. Across the school, preparations for Sports Day have begun, with a number of year groups taking part in practice sessions and developing their teamwork, determination and sporting skills. In Year 4, children have been thoroughly enjoying their history learning on the Ancient Maya civilisation. They have explored fascinating aspects of Maya life, including their achievements, culture and beliefs, and have asked some excellent questions during their learning. Have a great weekend everyone.

Loving Father, Help us to live with joy, kindness and faith each day. Bless our families and school community this weekend. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 6 (Rashford) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 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 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.

SATs Week – Year 6

Huge congratulations to Year 6 for completing their Key Stage 2 Sats tests. Every child conducted themselves perfectly and showed incredibly levels of determination and resilience. They should be immensely proud of themselves; I know Miss Wardil and Mr Pepper are!!

Disco

Next week we look forward to the PTFA's third school Disco. The disco will be on Thursday 21 May and the times are split in two with Reception and KS1 partying from 4.30 PM - 5.30 PM and KS2 6PM - 7.30PM. Booking information can be found on Parent Mail or alternatively you can email the friends team on friends@stjhn.org.uk with any questions or queries.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in EYFS, we have been enjoying the story The Very Hungry Caterpillar and have been focusing on becoming familiar with the story and reimagining our own versions. In Maths, we explored subtraction by practically taking away amounts and representing this through pictures. We are becoming much more confident at this! We also challenged ourselves with problem-solving activities to find missing amounts in subtraction number sentences, as well as exploring the subtraction symbol. In RE, we spent lots of time junk modelling our own churches in small groups, which you can find out more about by reading The Friday Message.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week, we have continued our fantastic learning across the curriculum. In English reading, we learned more about minibeasts and finished the week by working in groups to organise a non-fiction text. We matched sub-headings to the correct paragraphs, chose suitable pictures, and decided on the best order for a non-chronological report. In Maths, we have been learning how to find a quarter of an object and a quarter of a quantity. In Science, we learned about deciduous trees and how they change across the seasons. In history, we explored two significant explorers: Christopher Columbus and Matthew Henson, thinking about who they were and what they achieved. A busy and brilliant week of learning!

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

Year 2 have had a great week. The highlight has been the 'DT Day' we had on Wednesday where the children learnt how to sew a running stitch and then used this skill to design and make a felt pouch. Lots of the children even went on to attach a button to their pouch! In writing lessons, the children planned their 3rd person story endings using all their ideas they had previously brainstormed, they will write this next week. In Maths we have continued our learning on fractions, understanding what unit and non-unit fractions are, recognising that $\frac{2}{4}$ is equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$ and finding $\frac{3}{4}$ of a shape.

In our computing lessons we have learnt about the International Space Station and explored inside it using iPads, we discovered where astronauts eat, sleep and exercise.



Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Year 3 we have been continuing with writing our instructions in English writing- this had also tied in with our Science learning where we have learnt about plants, nutrients and how water travels through the stem. In Maths we have been building on our time skills with using the 24 hour clock as well as applying time to word problems to work our duration. In Geography we have been comparing the local area to how it looked over 100 years ago and seeing what human features have stayed or changed over time- the children were amazed at how much Yaxley had grown! In P.E we have continued practising our athletic skills and team work ready for sports day next month.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

This week in Reading, we have continued our work with the playscript of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, exploring Scenes 2 and 3. The children have been using inference skills to interpret stage directions and carrying out character analysis — developing a real depth of understanding of the text. In Maths, our Money unit is progressing well, with the children learning to write money using decimals, convert between pounds and pence, and compare amounts of money with growing confidence. Also, the children completed their last unofficial Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) practice, and we are delighted to say that they did brilliantly. These results put the Year 4 cohort in a fantastic position ahead of the **official MTC** in just a few weeks' time — a real testament to the hard work and dedication the children have shown throughout the year.



In Writing, creativity has been at the heart of the week as the children planned their own narratives, developing their characters thoughtfully before drafting the opening and build-up paragraphs of their stories. In History, we have continued our exploration of the ancient Maya, with the children making further inferences about this remarkable civilisation from the remains of their cities. In PE, excitement is building as we have begun our preparations for Sports Day, with the children practising their sprinting and hurdling. In Art, the children have been developing their drawing skills, learning how to use tone to create a striking three-dimensional effect. In Science, we have begun exploring the human impact on habitats, encouraging the children to think carefully about the world around them and our responsibility to protect it.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

In Year 5 this week, we have finished writing up our explanation texts about the human life cycle, detailing the changes that occur at each stage. This links to our science learning, where we have continued to study life cycles of different animals, this week looking at the gestation periods of different mammals, presenting our findings as a bar chart. In reading, we have continued our poetry unit by reading Wordsworth's famous "Daffodils" and then making and performing our own composite work by linking fragments of three different poems around a new theme. Some very creative work here! In maths, we have been learning about position and direction, using co-ordinates correctly, translating points and shapes on a grid, and finding and using lines of symmetry. In History, we have discussed what "philosophy" means and looked at the impact of some different Ancient Greek philosophers.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

What a week it has been! Our focus has been on the SATs tests this week and we have been coming in early to enjoy a breakfast each day in preparation. Breakfast favourites have been the watermelon slices and the expertly buttered toast (thanks to Miss Lyons!) The afternoons have been a mixture of light revision (including a very amusing Unfair Quiz with Mr Cooper) and activities outside on the field. We also have been treated to a special treat each day from Abby in the kitchen which have proved to be extremely delicious! Although the tests were challenging, there was lots of support and kindness shown by everyone which ensured a smooth week. It all seemed worth it when we had some extra fun activities on Friday too! Well done Year 6 – we did it!!

SUMMER Term 2026 Diary	
18-5-2026	KS1 SATs Week
21-5-2026	School Disco
22-5-2026	Non-Uniform Day
25-5-2026 – 29-5-2026 (Half Term)	
1-6-2026	Training Day (School closed – students return on Tuesday 2 nd June)
3-6-2026	5.00pm Welcome Meeting (New Reception)
4-6-2026	Year 6 Residential
5-6-2026	Year 6 Residential
8-6-2026	Year 4 MTC
8-6-2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
16-6-2026	9.30am Class Photos
17-6-2026	1.45 Stay and Play Session 1 (New Reception)
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)
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