



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 32 – Friday 22nd May 2026

Pentecost Sunday of Easter

We have come to the end of yet another busy half-term. All our children have achieved so much over the last 6 weeks, and they can be immensely proud of the effort they have put into their learning. This week we have had several visitors into school and every one of them have commented on the warmth they have felt being in our school - this is from the staff, children and families. I hope you all have a restful half-term break as we have a remarkably busy final few weeks when we return.

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed is thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 2 (Hamilton) for having 97.6% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 95.7%. 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. Booking is now available for the remainder of the Summer Term. We're also running a special menu during the week commencing 08-06-2026 to celebrate Census Week, and we'd be delighted to see as many students as possible to join us.

SATs Week – Year 2

Our Year 2 children completed their optional SATs this week and we are incredibly proud of them all. The children approached the assessments with great resilience and determination, showing just how much progress they have made this year. They should all feel very proud of their hard work and positive attitudes throughout the week.
Well done, Year 2!

Tag Rugby

On Wednesday, we went to Peterborough Rugby Club and played Tag rugby against some other Peterborough schools. Two teams from St John Henry Newman took part and applied themselves very well. Both teams winning the majority of the matches played and scoring some excellent team tries in most games. It was great to test our ability against other teams and our practices at lunchtimes definitely paid off. Well done to Arvin, Harry, Sydney, James, Ini, Ora, Cataleya, Chidera, Joshua, Mete, Kandice, Muna, Chimamanda, Ayah, Abdullah, Boudi, Jayden.



Disco

Thank you to everyone who helped make our school disco on Thursday a fantastic success! Organised by our amazing Friends Association, the event was fun for all the children. A huge thank you to the Friends team for their hard work in planning and running the event, and to the parents and school adults who gave their time to supervise and support on the night. Events like this help build our school community and create lasting memories for our children — we couldn't do it without you!

First Aid training

On Wednesday, the Year 6 cohort attended a First Aid workshop in school. They discussed possible situations where First Aid might be required and how that it can be extremely vital in making sure people are helped and cared for properly. The workshop was very practical and we all had a chance to use different apparatus which mirrored real-life situations. We all picked up lots of new skills that could be life-saving in the future.



Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been busy continuing our work on *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by writing our own versions of the story. In Maths, we explored sharing into equal and unequal groups, explaining why groups were equal or not equal using mathematical language. In PE, we practised our running skills on the track in preparation for Sports Day and worked hard to improve our speed and stamina. In DT, we learnt about different types of boats, including rowing boats, cruise ships and kayaks, before designing and making our own boats out of paper. We showed huge perseverance and determination while creating them!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week we have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we have been learning about position and direction, using language such as left, right, forwards, backwards, above and below. This linked brilliantly with our Geography work, where we created sketch maps of our local area using symbols and aerial photographs. In English, we have continued studying the story of *Lila and the Secret of Rain*, while also practising spelling words with the prefix *un-* and learning to use capital letters correctly for the days of the week. In Science, we explored evergreen trees and learned how they stay green throughout the year. We are very proud of how hard the children have worked and the enthusiasm they have shown in all of their learning this week!

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

Year 2 have had an incredibly busy week. They have taken their KS1 SAT tests this week, the children all stayed very calm, and we were very proud of how hard they worked! In Maths we have finished our topic on fractions and have worked out $\frac{3}{4}$ of amounts and whole fractions. In writing lessons, the children have written their story ending in 3rd person, there were some very inventive ways used to describe how their character escaped the very deep ball pit! In Science we have reached a very exciting stage in our butterfly lifecycle observation, the butterflies have emerged from their pupa and we have released them. We have finished the week by finishing our computing topic. The children had a go at inputting data into excel using laptops.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

It has been another exciting and busy week in Year 3! In English reading we have started reading revolting rhymes by Roald Dahl, the children are enjoying the change in the traditional fairytales. In Maths we are continuing with our learning on time- the children have been working hard to understand the 24 hour clock and practising their skills in reading the time. In design and technology we have been using our skills to build castles and make a range of nets in building turrets. In English writing we have started looking at non-chronological reports which the children will be choosing a part of African to research for their final piece.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)

What a busy and productive week it has been! In Maths, the children have been applying their money knowledge in real and practical contexts, calculating with money and tackling a range of problem-solving challenges. In English Writing, the children planned and wrote a third-person narrative, incorporating strong character descriptions and they completed their hot task, giving them the opportunity to showcase everything they have learned throughout the unit independently. In English Reading, we have moved on to Scene 6 of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, with the children focusing closely on character description and developing their ability to analyse how characters are portrayed through language. In Science, we have begun an exciting new unit on Digestion, sparking plenty of curiosity and interesting questions from the children about how the human body works. In History, our Maya topic has taken a fascinating turn this week as the children explored the importance of cacao to the ancient Maya and began to investigate the factors that led to the decline of their great cities. In PE, preparations for Sports Day are continuing in earnest, with the children working hard and showing great enthusiasm and team spirit. Please continue to support your child with their TTRS practice at home ahead of the upcoming assessments — it really does make a difference. Thank you, as always for your support.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

There has been a lot to fit in in Year 5's final week of the half-term. We have returned to the subject of decimal numbers in Maths, focusing on addition and subtraction. In reading, we have begun the new book that we will continue to study in the next half-term, *Who Let the Gods Out* by Maz Evans. Our writing this week has been devoted to planning, drafting, writing and then delivering a class debate on the topic: "Should children have their own mobile phones before secondary school?" This saw a good range of arguments put forth on both sides of the question, with children pretty evenly split on which side they chose to take. We have also concluded our half-termly units of study in other subjects including History (summing up the legacy of the Ancient Greeks), Science (life cycles – the relationship between lifespan and gestation period) and Spanish (correcting errors and expressing likes and dislikes). A particular highlight this week was a workshop with a visiting artist who led the whole of Year 5 in making a collaborative artwork. Drawing on his Caribbean heritage and how he shows it in his own artwork, he demonstrated how letters and numbers can be embedded into art made from everyday objects to tell a story about the work's creators. This was an exciting and stimulating afternoon that the children engaged in with enthusiasm.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

This week has remained full and busy, despite the conclusion of SATs week. We have been writing in 1st person in English and learning to include thoughts and direct speech within our writing. Some excellent pieces of writing have resulted from Year 6's focus and effort! In Science we have looked at variation within species and looked at lots of examples across the animal kingdom as well as humans. We will go on to look at inheritance, characteristics and adaptations. PE was fun this week playing tennis on the grass. It felt like Wimbledon with some great shots and plenty of high-quality serving. (Just needed strawberries and cream!) Auditions are taking place for the upcoming Year 6 performance, and it has been exciting singing and dancing in preparation. On Thursday, we had a Jubilee Mass and were joined by St Thomas More and Sacred Heart schools. After Mass we had a special treat from Abby in the kitchen and spent some time playing with the other schools outside.

SUMMER Term 2026 Diary**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