



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 37 – Friday 3rd July 2026

15th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

It has been another busy week in school as we move into the final few weeks of term. Our Year 6 children spent a day at their new secondary schools for their transition visits. It was lovely to hear their stories when they returned. Back in school, they've also been putting the final touches to their end-of-year production – we can't wait to see the results of all their hard work next week. Meanwhile, our new Reception children enjoyed their final "Stay and Play" session this week. It was wonderful to see them growing in confidence and forming early friendships. We look forward to welcoming them fully into our school community in September. I wish you all a great weekend.

Lord Jesus, You call us to bring peace and kindness to others. Help us to walk in your way, speak with your love, and serve with joyful hearts. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 6 (Rashford) for having 100% attendance this week. Overall, our school attendance was 96.5%. 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 you pre-book to help us manage our preparations and provide an optimal experience for all participating children. Booking is now open for the first half of the Autumn Term.

Newman Voices Podcast Has Launched!

We are delighted to announce that *Newman Voices*, our school podcast created and hosted by Year 6 pupils, has officially launched and is now available on Spotify!

New episodes will be released every Tuesday morning at 7:30am, bringing listeners interviews, school news, special guests and plenty of pupil voice from across St John Henry Newman School.

Why not give our very first episode a listen and hear our hosts introduce themselves and share their plans for the podcast? We would love your support, so please don't forget to follow our Spotify profile to be notified whenever a new episode is released.

 **Listen to ALL the episodes here-**

[Newman Voices | Podcast on Spotify](#)

We hope you enjoy listening to *Newman Voices* as much as our pupils enjoy creating it!



Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been recapping our learning about part-whole models in Maths. We were given one part and had to work out what the whole could be, and we were also challenged with part-whole models that had three parts! In Literacy, we continued our work on What the Ladybird Heard by reimagining what the different characters might say and writing our own sentences. We have been learning all about speech bubbles and speech marks! In Art, we have been learning how to manipulate clay and have created a plan for our own mini animal clay model, which we will be making next week. We practised shaping and joining materials using playdough first, as well as exploring manipulating balls of clay. We have also enjoyed spending time outside on the bikes and scooters in the slightly cooler weather. Finally, a huge well done to all the children for a fantastic Sports Day last week – we were so proud of their enthusiasm, effort and excellent sportsmanship!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

This week, we have been busy learning across the curriculum. In Maths, we have been learning about money by recognising and counting coins before using them to solve a range of practical problems. In Writing, we have continued developing our sentence writing by joining ideas using the conjunction 'and', applying this skill as we wrote a set of instructions for our new Reception children explaining how to get ready for school. In Reading, we explored three of **Aesop's fables**—*The Tortoise and the Hare*, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and *The Goose That Laid the Golden Eggs*. We discussed the events in each story, identified the moral and reflected on how these lessons can help us make good choices in our own lives. In Art, we have been exploring sculpture by creating tube towers and experimenting with paper strip structures, learning how to roll, bend, fold and arrange paper to create interesting three-dimensional shapes and sculptures.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

We have had an incredibly busy week in Year 2. In Maths we have started our final unit on time, recapping what we learnt in Year 1 and then moving on to telling the time to the nearest quarter of an hour. We have started our final poetry unit in writing lessons and have been coming up with rhyming ideas for our 'ode to Year 2', the children were very inventive! In reading we have started our final book; Roald Dahl's 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and during our first lesson we thought up questions we would like to ask the 3 farmers and then 'hot seated' them to find out why they are so mean and grumpy! In Art this week we have been exploring clay and made some animals and a thumb pot. We then looked at the artist Rachel Whiteread's work and drew inspiration for our design for a clay tile of a house.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Pankhurst)

This week in Year 3 we have started our final topic of Year 3 with looking at statistics, the children have so far shown an excellent understanding of pictograms and using their times tables to help. In English writing we have been building up to writing a diary entry based on the book Lucy's blue day which focuses on the range of emotions that people can feel which are completely normal; they've really resonated with Lucy having an annoying sibling! In History we have finished our learning on the Ancient Egyptians by looking at how the pharaohs were buried, what the Ancient Egyptians believed in terms of Gods, Goddesses and the afterlife; as well as understanding that there were three specific time periods. In computing the children have been applying their knowledge of networks and understanding how different gadgets and technologies work together.

Year 4 Learning (Gandhi and Yousafzai)



What a busy and exciting week it has been —In Science, we finally revealed the results of our tooth decay experiment, and the children were genuinely surprised! Many of us predicted that vinegar would cause the greatest damage to the eggshell — representing tooth enamel — but it was actually the orange juice that came out on top, leaving the egg with no shell at all. A fantastic lesson in the importance of scientific enquiry and never assuming the outcome! In Maths, we have wrapped up our Shape unit and made an exciting start on Statistics, where the children will be learning how to interpret charts and draw line graphs. In Reading, we have begun a brand new book — Norse Mythology — and the children have dived in with great enthusiasm, developing their contextual understanding of these ancient and captivating stories.

In Writing, drafting is now

underway as the children begin to put their instructional writing skills into practice. In a brilliant cross-curricular link with DT, the children used their instructions to bake biscuits — while one group was busy in the kitchen, the rest of the class were putting the finishing touches to their book covers. A true team effort all round! In Geography, we have been exploring how rivers are used by people and communities, developing a broader understanding of the vital role rivers play in everyday life.



As a reminder, our Year 4 trip to Ferry Meadows is taking place next week on Friday 10th July — we are very much looking forward to it! If you have not yet made your payment, could we kindly ask that you do so as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for your support, and we cannot wait to share what promises to be a fantastic day with the children.

Year 5 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

It is all go in Year 5 as we draw near to the end of the school year. We have begun another book in our reading lessons, *High Rise Mystery* by Sharna Jackson, getting a taste of the detective genre. In writing, we have begun our final unit, writing a letter of complaint in the persona of Elliot from *Who Let the Gods Out*; our learning has focused on the characteristics of a formal letter and writing with a formal tone. In Maths, we have concluded the unit on place value and begun working on addition and subtraction. In Science, we have planned an experiment which the children can complete at home if they wish, taking cuttings from different parts of the same plant (flower, leaf, stem and root), planting them in the same conditions and monitoring them over time to see which grows best. In Geography, we have discussed threats to deserts, and in Spanish, written about likes and dislikes in the third person. Finally, in Art we began learning about installation art and planning to create our own installation using PE equipment.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Year 6 resembled the Westend of London as we are preparing for the end of year performance. With staging, music and lighting all being set up, the shivers of excitement are beginning to appear, and we are looking forward to putting on a blockbuster show! We are bringing in costumes, and our spare classroom looks like Victorian Britain! We have also been writing an enjoyable and advisory letter to our 4-year-old selves. We remembered what it was like coming into school for the first time and what advice we would give ourselves if we were 4 again. On Wednesday most of us were at our new secondary schools which we all enjoyed and had lots to tell each other about when we came back. We are looking forward to our final two weeks at school and making sure we are positive and kind to each other and make it memorable for everyone.

SUMMER Term 2026 Diary

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	School Heritage Day – CANCELLED
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