



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School Newsletter Volume 1 – Friday 4th September 2026 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

Our first week back at St John Henry Newman has gone by in a flash! On Wednesday it was lovely to see so many new children and families enter the school and join us for their learning journeys. This week we have welcomed well over 70 new children across the school, and I have been so impressed with how the established children have supported and guided them. Our new Reception children have settled into life here very quickly and I know that Mrs Esposito, Miss Bates and Mrs Lopez have been extremely impressed. Finally, I would like to thank you all for how you welcomed our new staff this week. They have all said how at home you have made them feel each morning and afternoon. I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend.

'If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one' St Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 (Frank) for all having 99.7% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a pleasing 95.2% 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.

Allergy Safety Updates

You will have received messages from school this week regarding our updated allergy safety policies and procedures. These changes are designed to strengthen the way we manage allergies in school and, most importantly, help us keep all of our children safe. Please take the time to read the information carefully and ensure that you follow the updated expectations, particularly those relating to snacks and food brought into school from home. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we introduce these important changes. If you have any questions or are unsure about any of the new requirements, please contact the school office.

Literacy Village

We are delighted to introduce our fantastic new Literacy Village, which was installed over the summer and is already becoming a wonderful addition to our school environment. A huge thank you to Mr Babbs for all of his hard work, creativity and commitment in bringing this project to life. We would also like to thank the parents who generously gave up their time over the summer to support him with the installation and preparation. We are particularly grateful to our PTA and the Parish for their incredible generosity in funding several aspects of the Literacy Village. Their support has helped us create a truly special space for our children. The Literacy Village will provide our children with an exciting, engaging environment in which to develop their love of reading, explore stories and authors, and see literacy brought to life beyond the classroom.



Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

What a fabulous first few days we have had at school! We have been spending lots of time playing with and getting to know our new friends and teachers. We have explored our new school environment and have really enjoyed playing outside, with playdough and in the role-play home corner. This week we have been very brave and settled so well! We have been introduced to the 5 school values and have been learning how we can demonstrate these. Well done on a fantastic first week of school!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

It has been lovely to see all the children settle well into Year 1! We completed an activity all about ourselves and enjoyed sharing our favourite items with our friends. This week we have focused on the school values and have been trying hard to practice these within our learning. In Geography we used Google Earth to find where we live, we liked zooming in and seeing places in more detail. We used an aerial photo of our school and added a range of features we could see including school, field, road and trees. We thoroughly enjoyed learning all about our inspirational person that our class is named after. In Maths we have started our learning on place value within 10 and enjoyed sorting and counting objects. In writing we wrote a letter to our new class teacher and we were able to show our teachers the fabulous phonics knowledge we have as well as our beautiful letter formation. It has been a wonderful 3 days back at school, well done!

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

The children have made a fabulous start to Year 2! We have spent some time recalling our school values and classroom expectations and the children have been keen to practice these. We have been very impressed with their positive attitudes, behaviours and engagement in the tasks we have completed. The children have been very inquisitive about what they will be learning across our curriculum in Year 2 and the most popular questions were about where we will be going on our school trips. We have written welcome prayers for our new friends and letters to our teachers to introduce themselves and say what they are looking forward to in Year 2. The children were excited to learn more about their classroom namesakes (John Lennon and Lewis Hamilton) and they have completed short quizzes to recap some information learned back in July during the transition morning. There were lots of fantastic questions about their inspirational person and we will be researching some answers to these in the coming weeks.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

What a busy and exciting first three days we have had in Year 3! The children have settled in brilliantly, and we have spent lots of time getting to know one another, discussing our classroom expectations and thinking about what it means to be a proud member of Frank and Gandhi Class. In Maths, we have focused on presenting our work neatly and taking pride in our books. We have also made a great start to our Place Value unit, exploring different ways of representing numbers to 100. In English, the children completed their first piece of free writing – ‘A Letter to My New Teacher’ – which gave us a lovely opportunity to learn a little more about each of them. We have also introduced the Zones of Regulation, talking about different emotions, how our feelings can change throughout the day and strategies we can use to help us manage and regulate them. It has been a very positive start, and we are looking forward to a fantastic year of learning together in Year 3!

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

What a lovely start we have had to the new school year! This week, the children have enjoyed settling into their new classrooms, exploring the book corners and discovering the fresh selection of stories waiting for them. Time has been spent getting to know one another and reflecting carefully on the expectations that will help shape our learning throughout the year ahead. In English, we began exploring the fascinating lives of our class namesakes — Marie Curie and Stephen Hawking — whose inspiring stories and remarkable achievements will guide our upcoming unit on biography writing. The children also had the opportunity to show their creativity and thoughtfulness by writing informal letters to introduce themselves to their new teacher — a wonderful way to begin the year. In Maths, we have hit the ground running, revisiting and checking our times tables knowledge and arithmetic skills — a great way to shake off the summer rust and set ourselves up for the year ahead! It has been such a warm and positive start, and we are all very much looking forward to a brilliant year of learning together!

Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

Year 5 have made a brilliant start to the year. The children have quickly and calmly settled into their new routines and have already produced some very pleasing pieces of work. We have done several 'getting to know you' activities including drawing inner and outer self-portraits, writing letters about ourselves to the new class teachers and writing welcome prayers. We have started our new Maths unit, learning about Roman numerals up to 1000 and read the prologue of 'Odysseus', which we are studying in reading lessons. In Science we have started our unit on forces by looking at friction. In preparation for writing a biography on Owens and Shackleton in our writing lessons, we have carried out some paired research and practiced our note-taking skills.



Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

We have had a busy first week back at school, with both Biles and Rashford Class returning with an excellent attitude to learning; the children are settling into their new routines well. We have re-familiarised ourselves with the 5 school values and considered how we can demonstrate these as role models within the school. We have also spent time learning all about our inspirational person (Simone Biles and Marcus Rashford) and Year 6 have written letters to them to introduce themselves, which we will be sending! We have also started our Maths learning, exploring the place value of numbers up to 10,000,000 and the properties of decimal numbers. It has been a very busy week and we are very proud of Year 6!

AUTUMN Term 2026 Diary

7-9-2026	Reception in Full-Time
23-9-2026	4.30pm Welcome Ceremony for Reception and Year 6 Buddies
25-9-2026	Schools Mass in Norwich – Year 6 Biles Class
25-9-2026	Languages Day
30-9-2026	12.00pm Year 2 Parents Lunch
9-10-2026	Feast of St John Henry Newman
14-10-2026	Parent Meetings
15-10-2026	Parent Meetings
21-10-2026	12.00pm Year 6 Parent Lunch
22-10-2026	10.00am Harvest Celebration
26-10-2026 to 30-10-2026 (Half Term)	
9-11-2026	Anti-Bullying Week
17-11-2026	9.30am School Photos
18-11-2026	12.00pm Year 5 Parent Lunch
30-11-2026	Reverse Advent Calendar Starts
3-12-2026	6.00pm Peterborough Schools Carol Service
7-12-2026	Reception and Year 1 Nativity – Whole School
8-12-2026	2.00pm Nativity Year 1
9-12-2026	2.00pm Nativity Year 1
9-12-2026	5.00pm Advent Service
10-12-2026	2.00pm Nativity Reception
11-12-2026	2.00pm Nativity Reception
15-12-2026	10.00am Choir at Tesco
16-12-2026	Christmas Lunch
16-12-2026	Christmas Jumpers
17-12-2026	1.30pm Year 2 – Year 6 A Song for Christmas
18-12-2026	1.30pm Last Day