



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 2 – Friday 11th September 2026

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

It has been another positive and purposeful week at St John Henry Newman. Our Year 6 pupils have begun their swimming lessons with great determination. Whilst our Reception children are now attending full time and have settled beautifully into school life, showing growing confidence as they learn and play together. I have been very impressed with how the children are showing great manners and kindness to one another with some simple yet important acts such as; holding the door open for each other, asking how their day is going and smiling at each other as they cross paths in the corridors. Finally, it has been wonderful to see the children continuing their calm and focused return, working hard and supporting one another. I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Lord Jesus, You teach us to forgive as You forgive us. Help us to be kind, patient, and merciful in all we do this week. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 (Gandhi) for having 100% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a very pleasing 97.9% 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.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been learning all about the story Elmer. We have introduced and explored new vocabulary, including the word herd, and have enjoyed finding out more about elephants. In Maths, we have been learning to match objects and then match objects to pictures. We have also started learning about making a 'set' and what this means. We have also been learning all about our school values, with a particular focus on using our 'Mindful Manners' by saying please and thank you and using kind hands and feet. We have settled into our school routines so well and have had a fantastic first week of being at school full-time! We are so proud of how well everyone has done.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

What a fantastic week in Year 1! The children have been busy learning and exploring across the curriculum. In Geography, they enjoyed fieldwork around the school grounds, identifying key features and creating maps together. In Reading, we explored similarities and differences between places through *Coming to England*. In Writing, the children have been sorting and using common and proper nouns and applying their phonics knowledge in their writing. In Maths, we have been representing numbers, finding one more and matching numerals to number names. In Science, we started learning about the human body and naming different body parts. In PE, the children explored balance, stability and landing safely, developing their control and body awareness through different movements. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, teamwork and curiosity throughout the week!

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

What a great week Year 2 has had! The children have really thrown themselves into their learning and have made a fantastic start to the term. In Maths, we have been learning about place value, focusing on tens and ones and exploring the different ways numbers can be represented and grouped. In Writing, we are preparing to write biographies linked to our class names. We have begun by revisiting how to build super sentences, reminding ourselves to use capital letters, full stops and coordinating conjunctions correctly. In Geography, we learnt a fantastic and catchy song to help us remember all of the continents. In Science, we have been exploring light and dark environments and investigating how plants grow in different conditions. We have planted our sunflower seeds and cannot wait to watch them grow over the coming weeks!

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

It has been a busy week in Frank and Gandhi Classes! In Maths, we have continued exploring place value, practising placing numbers accurately on number lines and beginning to count in hundreds. In English Writing, we are preparing to write biographies by exploring their key features, including subheadings and conjunctions. In Reading, we began exploring 'Voices in the Park.' The children were introduced to our key themes of empowerment, diversity and self-expression. We also explored the context of the story and discussed the meaning of perspective and point of view, thinking about how different characters may see and experience the same events in different ways.

In Science, we have been learning to identify and name some of the main bones in the human skeleton, and the children enjoyed working together to build their own paper skeletons. In Geography, we have started our exciting new learning about the layers of the Earth. Well done, Year 3, for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

Another fantastic week! In Maths, we have made a strong start on place value, with the children learning to represent and partition numbers to 1,000, plot numbers on a number line, and begin exploring thousands. In English Writing, our Biography unit is now fully underway! The children will be working towards writing their own biography of either Stephen Hawking or Marie Curie, and this week they have been exploring the key features of the genre, as well as learning how to use commas and fronted adverbials in their writing. In English Reading, we have made an exciting start on our new class book — The Firework-Maker's Daughter — and the children have already been captivated by its vivid characters and adventurous storyline. In Science, we have begun exploring the living world, looking at how animals are grouped and classified. In PE, the children have been developing their movement and balance skills, building coordination and body awareness in a fun and active way. Finally, in Spanish, we have embarked on an exciting new unit — Journey Around Latin America — where the children will be discovering the language, culture, and geography of this vibrant region of the world. A couple of important reminders as we settle into the new year. Please encourage your child to read at least five times a week at home — little and often makes an enormous difference to their progress and confidence.

We would also kindly ask that you continue to support your child with their times tables practice. As Year 4 pupils, they will be sitting the official Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) at the end of the year, so regular practice is key. We ask that all children complete a minimum of 21 games per week on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) — thank you so much for your support with this, it truly makes a difference.

Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

It's been a very busy first full week back in Year 5. In Maths lessons, we have been partitioning, reading and writing numbers up to 1,000,000. In writing lessons, we have been practising developing cohesion within our writing by including determiners, pronouns, conjunctions and adverbials. We have also looked at the features of a biography and what makes an effective introduction and conclusion. After making predictions and learning some background information about the ancient Greeks, we have begun to read Odysseus! This week in geography we have started looking at the Alps. After using atlases to plot them, we have used Google Earth to investigate some human and physical features of the Alps and looked at some interactive maps to learn about the climate zone and biome the Alps are in. In science we have learnt about air resistance and how the surface area of an object increases its air resistance.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

In Year 6 this week, both classes have been busy exploring their new writing unit: narratives including dialogue. The children enjoyed watching the animation, 'Road's End', which inspired many discussions around who the masked man was and some fabulous written sentences to describe his sinister character! In Maths, we have continued to tackle Place Value, with a focus on rounding and negative numbers. We also started our new class book, 'Holes', and everyone was very taken by it; this text has been our focus for reading lessons this week. Year 6 have also enjoyed their first swimming session on Friday which was lovely to see. Well done Year 6, for a busy week!

AUTUMN Term 2026 Diary

23-9-2026	4.30pm Welcome Ceremony for Reception and Year 6 Buddies
25-9-2026	Schools Mass in Norwich – Year 6 Rashford Class
25-9-2026	Languages Day
30-9-2026	12.00pm Year 2 Parents Lunch
9-10-2026	Feast of St John Henry Newman
13-10-2026	Parent Meetings
14-10-2026	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