



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 3 – Friday 18th September 2026

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

As we reach the end of our third week of the school year, it has been wonderful to see the children so settled and engaged in their learning. On Thursday, our Key Stage 2 pupils joined together for our Welcome Back Mass, giving thanks for the start of term and asking God's blessing for the months ahead. Our peripatetic music lessons are now in full swing, with over 120 children taking part! In classrooms, children have begun their first extended writing pieces, showing great creativity and pride in their work. Finally, our Year 6 pupils have also started their important role as Play Leaders, supporting younger children with care and maturity during lunchtime. Have a great weekend everyone.

Lord Jesus, help us to use our gifts well and keep You at the centre of our lives. 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 98.1%. 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 Parent Mail (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.

Welcome Back Mass

This week we gathered as a school community to celebrate the new term. KS2 joined together for a Welcome Back Mass, while KS1 marked the beginning of the year with a special liturgy. Both celebrations reminded us of God's presence with us throughout this school year.



Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been continuing our learning about Elmer. We have been sequencing three pictures from the story to help us retell the key events. This was sometimes tricky as we had to work hard to remember what happened next, but we persevered and did a fantastic job! In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds d, t and i, while continuing to recap m, a and s from last week. In Maths, we have been exploring sorting, grouping objects in different ways and then thinking of our own sorting rules using characteristics such as colour, size and shape. We found it particularly tricky to work out the sorting rule that someone else had used! In Science, we enjoyed singing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes to recap the names of different parts of our bodies. We have also been learning some important self-care skills, including how to use the toilet correctly and safely at school, such as remembering how to lock the door properly. It has been another busy week of learning and developing our independence!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

It has been a wonderful week in Year 1, with the children enjoying a range of activities and opportunities to share their ideas and experiences. In English, we have continued exploring the story *Coming to England*. The children have shared their own experiences and used their ideas to create sentences for their autobiographies. They have also recalled key events from the story, explored new vocabulary and synonyms, answered how, why and what questions, and discussed their feelings and experiences. In Maths, the children have been developing their understanding of one less through counting backwards and using number lines. In Art, they explored different types of lines, taking inspiration from Paul Klee. In Science, the children identified and labelled different parts of the human body.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

What an amazing week it has been in Year 2! We have been especially excited to see how our sunflowers have grown over the past week. We can now see the stems and buds developing. The sunflower that has been growing in the dark has become significantly taller than the one growing in the light. However, it is definitely not healthier. Rather than growing upright, it has become droopy and weak. This has helped us understand why plants need light to grow strong and healthy. In Reading, we have started our new class book, *When the Rains Come*. The children put their retrieval skills to the test for the first time in Year 2 and successfully answered questions about the text. In Writing, we have been practising using the present and past tense and exploring how regular and irregular verbs change. We even met our new friend, 'Ed'! Year 2 have been amazing at retelling events that have happened in the past using the correct past tense forms. In Maths, we have been consolidating our place value knowledge using part-whole models. We have used Base 10 equipment to partition numbers up to 100 and have shown a great understanding of how numbers can be broken down into tens and ones.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

It has been another busy week in Year 3! In Maths, we have been partitioning numbers up to 1000 and exploring different ways to partition numbers flexibly. In Reading, we continued 'Voices in the Park', exploring different perspectives and enjoying reading the First Voice. In Writing, we have been learning about fronted adverbials and have begun researching Anne Frank and Mahatma Gandhi in preparation for writing our biographies. In Science, we investigated the functions of the skeleton, while in Geography we discovered how mountains are formed. We have also been developing our drawing skills in Art. A fantastic week of learning in Frank and Gandhi!

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

Another brilliant week of learning. In Reading, we have dived into our new class book — *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* — reading Chapters 1 and 2 this week and already getting swept up in the adventure. In Maths, we have been stretching our number knowledge further, exploring how to represent, partition, and flexibly partition numbers to 10,000. In English Writing, we have been sharpening our skills ahead of our biography writing, recapping fronted adverbials, exploring how to write effective headlines and paragraphs, and beginning to plan our pieces. In Science, we have been deepening our understanding of the animal kingdom, learning about the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates and how living things are classified. In Spanish, the children have been learning the days of the week and exploring vocabulary around how we travel — building nicely on our Journey Around Latin America unit. In PE, the children have been developing their running technique, focusing on how to adjust their form and pace when running at different speeds. Please remember — reading at least five times a week and a minimum of 21 games on TTRS each week makes a real difference. Thank you for your continued support at home! As we look ahead to the Multiplication Tables Check at the end of the year, we would like to kindly remind all parents and carers to continue supporting their child with their times tables at home. Regular, short bursts of practice — whether on TTRS or simply reciting them together — will go a long way in building the confidence and fluency your child needs. Every little bit helps, and we are very grateful for your partnership.

Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

It's been another very busy week in Year 5. In Maths we have been learning about the power of 10, making numbers 10, 100 and 1,000 times larger. We have then moved on to adding 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000 and 100,000 to numbers and have finished the week partitioning numbers to 1,000,000! In Writing, the children have planned and drafted their biographies of Ernest Shackleton and Jesse Owens, making sure they use the cohesive devices taught. Our Science lesson involved planning for an experiment to be carried out next week, investigating the effect of surface area on the air resistance of a parachute. The highlight of the week has been our art day. Here the children learnt about how to create a sense of emotion, movement and depth in their sketching. They looked at artwork by artists Charlie Mackesy and Elizabeth Catlett for inspiration. They then learnt about the printing process and created their own printing block!



Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Both Year 6 classes have worked very hard this week. We have continued our writing in preparation for a narrative, using the animated film, 'Road's End'. This week, the children have been practising their dialogue skills, ensuring their punctuation and clauses are accurate. In Maths, we finished our unit on Place Value. This included multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000, alongside partitioning and ordering decimal values. Many groups have been problem-solving too, which has been lovely to see. In Science, we have started our unit on 'Living Things', and the children investigated what is both living and non-living. Our Geography learning has also started strong, with both classes considering the different forms of energy available – renewable and non-renewable – whilst considering which is the most efficient long-term. On Wednesday, we also had an opportunity to meet our Reception Buddies. It was wonderful to see so many Year 6s acting as such positive role models; they were incredibly warm and welcoming – well done Year 6!

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