



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 4 – Friday 25th September 2026

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

This week has flown by, with so much happening. We were delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families in a special Welcome Ceremony. It was wonderful to see our Year 6 children acting as buddies, supporting the youngest members of our school family and helping them settle into their new environment. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such a positive occasion. Finally, at the time of writing, our Year 6 Rashford Class is representing our school at the Welcome Mass for all Catholic schools in Norwich. Look out next week for a full write up of this special event. Have a great weekend everyone.

Lord, help us to see others with love, to act with generosity, and to walk in your ways. May we always use our gifts to serve and support those around us. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 5 (Owens) for having 100% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a very pleasing 97.6%. 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 Ceremony

On Wednesday, we warmly welcomed our new Reception children and families with a special Welcome Ceremony. This important event, held in the school hall, brought together teachers, parents, and children as we introduced the youngest members of our school community. Led by our Reception teaching staff and Year 6 buddies, the ceremony included prayers and a blessing for the children as they begin their journey here at St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School.



Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have enjoyed reading *The Colour Monster Goes to School* and learning about four main emotions: happy, excited, sad and angry. We have been talking about how these emotions can feel and recognising them in ourselves and others. In Maths, we have been comparing amounts using the words more, fewer and the same. We learnt that lining objects up carefully makes it easier to compare and check the amounts. In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds n, p and g while continuing to recap the sounds we have already learnt. In Science, we recapped the names of different body parts and thought about what each part is used for. Both classes also had lots of fun making up our own lyrics to Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes – remembering all of our new lyrics was trickier than we thought! As part of our Art mark-making unit, we have also been exploring mark making with chalk in our reception garden. We are settling well into school life and are becoming more confident with our routines each day.

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

It has been another busy and enjoyable week in Year 1, with the children continuing to make progress across their learning. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of greater than, less than and equal to, using the correct mathematical language when comparing numbers. In English, we have been finishing our autobiographies, writing simple sentences and putting our ideas in order using First, Next and Finally. We have also begun exploring *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, enjoying the story and learning new vocabulary such as enormous and gobbled. In Art, it has been wonderful to see the children's creativity develop as they use different types of lines to create shapes and artwork. In Science, we have been focusing on our sense of sight and exploring how we use our eyes to see the world around us. PE has also been a great opportunity for the children to work cooperatively in teams, supporting one another and working together to complete different tasks.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

It has been a busy week in Year 2! In Maths, we have been consolidating our understanding of partitioning numbers up to 100 using part-part-whole models. We have also started exploring number lines and counting in intervals of 10, helping us to refresh our knowledge of the 10 times table. In Science, our plants continue to grow steadily, and we are excited to see that some of the buds have started to bloom. In Writing, we have been preparing for our biography hot write. We have learned about nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs linked to both Lewis Hamilton and John Lennon, which will help us create some fantastic sentences for our biographies. In Reading, we will be finishing our class text, *When the Rains Come*. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about life in Malawi through this wonderful story. In PE, we have been developing our running skills and exploring how our bodies move at different speeds.

Well done, Year 2, for all your hard work this week!

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

Gandhi and Frank have had a lovely, busy week of learning! In Maths, we practised placing numbers on number lines, looking carefully at the start and end points to help us work out where each number belongs. In English, the children have been finishing their biographies and getting ready for next week's hot write. We have enjoyed seeing how much their writing has developed. In Reading, we continued exploring the second voice in *Voices in the Park* and talked about how the same events can look different from another character's point of view. We also investigated different types of volcanoes and how they form in geography, while in science we compared the skeletons of different animals. Well done, everyone, for your hard work this week!

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

What a packed week it has been! In Maths, we have continued to deepen our understanding of numbers to 10,000, this week finding 1,10, 100 and 1,000 more or less than a given number, placing numbers on a number line, estimating positions, and comparing numbers. In Reading, we have continued to enjoy *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, exploring and analysing Chapter 3 and developing our ability to look closely at the author's choices. In Writing, drafting is now well underway as the children have begun writing their biographies of either Stephen Hawking or Marie Curie. In Spanish, we have brought our current topic to a close and the children should be proud of the progress they have made. In Geography, we have embarked on a fascinating new topic — Why Are Rainforests Important to Us? — which promises to be a rich and thought-provoking area of study. In Science, the children have been working with classification keys, using them to identify and group animals in a systematic way. In PE, the children have been developing their agility, focusing on how to change speed and direction effectively — learning to transfer their weight from side to side and turn their head, shoulders, and hips to face a new direction. This week's TTRS focus has been on the 2, 5, and 10 times tables — a great foundation for building fluency, so please do keep encouraging practice at home. Please continue to support your child with their times tables at home — regular practice really does make a significant difference, and the Multiplication Tables Check will be here before we know it.

Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

Year 5 have worked very hard this week. They have finished their biographies of Jesse Owens and Ernest Shackleton; their first 'Hot Write' of the year and begun a new writing unit, a 1st person narrative based on an Odysseus inspired adventure! In Maths we have been placing and identifying numbers up to 1,000,000 on a number line as well as ordering and comparing them. In Science the children really enjoyed carrying out an investigation to find out how the size of a parachute affects its air resistance. They worked collaboratively in groups to assemble their parachutes, launch them and record their findings. The children were especially good at ensuring the investigation was carried out fairly, keeping the controlled variables consistent. In Geography, following our work on the Austrian town of Innsbruck, we have researched the leisure activities available in our local area and plotted them on a map, creating our own 'key'. Finally, in Reading lessons the children have enjoyed reading about Odysseus meeting the character Circe and were great at explaining why they did or didn't trust Circe and Hermes.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Year 6 have completed their first Hot Write of the year this week; their narratives were carefully crafted and many included ambitious vocabulary - well done Year 6! In Maths, we started our new unit, Four Operations, and have focused on key arithmetic skills such as the addition and subtraction of large values and decimal numbers. In Geography, we have continued to consider where our energy comes from, and the children mapped out some key trade routes for fuels such as oil. Both classes also enjoyed making thoughtful and personalised cards for their Reception buddies. These cards were given to the Reception children as part of the Welcome Ceremony on Wednesday. On Friday, Rashford Class travelled to Norwich to take part in a School Mass. The children were excellent role models and respectful throughout.

AUTUMN Term 2026 Diary

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
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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