



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 5 – Friday 2nd October 2026

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

This week has been another busy week. Year 2 and Year 5 gathered to celebrate Mass, focusing on our new monthly value of **Kindness**, a theme which will guide us in our words and actions throughout October and beyond. In Science, Year 1 have been exploring the senses, bringing their learning to life through hands-on activities. We were also delighted to welcome over 28 families to our first *Reception 2027 Open Session*, and it was lovely to celebrate our school with them. More 'Open Sessions' will take place throughout this term. Finally, a gentle reminder to all families that bookings for Parents' Evening appointments are now open – more information can be found later in this newsletter. Have a great weekend everyone.

Lord God, strengthen our faith, even when times feel uncertain. Help us to live out kindness in all that we do, trusting in Your guidance and love each day. Through Christ our Lord, 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 98.6%. Our school target this year is 97%, so let us keep working hard with our school attendance.

Breakfast Club

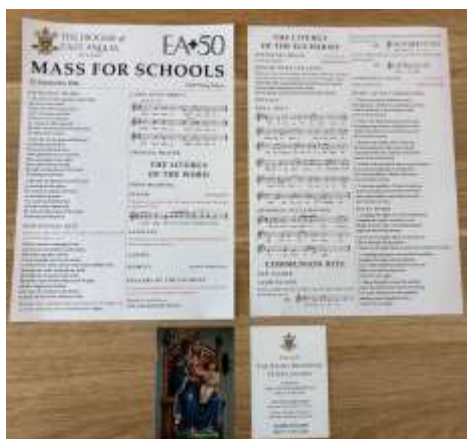
Our Breakfast Club runs daily from 8.10am. Booking is available via Parent Mail (Iris). The booking process runs exactly the same as our school meals booking system and is located within the 'Account' section of your Parent Mail account. The booking window will close 4 days before the booking is due 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.

Parent Meeting Bookings (13th and 14th October 2026)

Hopefully you'll all be aware, bookings for the upcoming Parents Evening went live on Friday 25th September 2026 at 6.00pm. We're delighted by the overwhelming response and the number of bookings already made. If you've not yet booked your appointment, there is still time to do so. You can make appointments via the Parent Mail (Iris) app. Please click on 'Parents Evening' and follow the process to book your appointment. If you require any assistance with the booking process, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Diocesan Schools Mass – Friday 25th September 2026

On Friday 25th September, our Year 6 Rashford Class had the privilege of representing St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School at the Diocesan Schools Mass. The Mass was a particularly special occasion as schools from across the Diocese gathered together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of East Anglia. Our children represented the school beautifully, joining in with the prayers, readings and singing, and showing great reverence throughout the celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to see the wider Catholic community to which we belong and to celebrate our shared faith with other schools across the Diocese.



Parent Lunch

It was wonderful to welcome over 60 parents and grandparents to our Year 2 Parent Lunch this week. The children were delighted to share lunchtime with their families, and it was lovely to see so many of you joining us. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such a special lunchtime for our Year 2 children. We look forward to welcoming more families to future parent lunches.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been enjoying the story *The Three Little Pigs*. We have started to sequence the story and have been using our Mighty Writer to organise events using *first*, *then* and *next*. We have also had lots of fun designing and building houses for the *Three Little Pigs*. In Art, we made our own stick houses, developing our creativity and construction skills. In Maths, we have been comparing size, mass and capacity. We have used balance scales to compare the mass of different objects and learnt that heavier objects make the scale go down, while lighter objects make it go up. In Science, we have been learning about farm animals and the different areas of a farm where they live, such as a *pen* and *coop*. We have been creating enclosed pens using wooden blocks for our small-world farm animals. In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds o, c and k, while continuing to recap the sounds we have already learnt. We have had another busy and exciting week of learning! Just a reminder that our **book change day is Monday**. Please remember to bring your child's reading book and reading record into school. Thank you for your continued support!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 1! This week, we have enjoyed reading *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, where the children worked together to discuss the story, sequence the key events using pictures and retell the story in the correct order. We also explored adjectives and how describing words can make our sentences more interesting. In Maths, we began learning about parts and wholes, using practical resources to explore how a whole can be made up of different parts. In Science, we explored sound and taste, including going on a sound walk around school to listen carefully to and identify different sounds in our environment. In PE, we developed our hopping and jumping skills, focusing on balance, coordination and control. In Art, we have been learning how to create different shades by changing the pressure we use with our pencils. We also explored using simple shapes to help us draw faces, thinking carefully about the placement and size of different features. The children have worked hard, shared their ideas and shown lots of enthusiasm for their learning this week.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

Year 2 has had a fantastic week! We completed our first Hot Task of the year and have been incredibly impressed with the perseverance shown by the children while writing their biographies. They worked hard to apply their learning and should be very proud of their efforts. In Maths, we have been exploring the concepts of more than, less than, and equal to. The children have taken to this brilliantly and already seem to be experts! In Reading, we have begun our exciting new class text, *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. This book is filled with funny twists on traditional fairy tales, and we are looking forward to discovering all of the unusual characters and stories throughout the term. In Computing, we have been learning about online safety and discussing what information is safe and unsafe to share online. The children also created their own secure passwords using a combination of capital letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols, helping them understand the importance of keeping personal information protected.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

It has been another busy and productive week in Year 3! In Maths, we are approaching the end of our Place Value unit and have been comparing numbers up to 1,000. The children particularly enjoyed using dice to create and compare their own numbers. In Reading, we have finished exploring *'Voices in the Park'*, while in Writing the children completed their hot task – a biography of Anne Frank – showing some fantastic ideas and taking great care with their presentation. In Geography, we considered the advantages and disadvantages of living near a volcano and discussed whether we would choose to live there. In Science, we explored whether all skeletons are the same and grouped different animal skeletons according to their features and structures.

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

Another busy week! In Maths, we have covered a great deal, ordering numbers to 10,000, exploring Roman numerals, and practising rounding to the nearest 10 and nearest 100. In Writing, the children have reached the end of their first assessed piece, a biography of either Stephen Hawking or Marie Curie. In Reading, our journey with *The Firework-Maker's Daughter* continues, with the children exploring Chapter 4 this week and continuing to develop their close reading skills. In Geography, we have been deepening our understanding of rainforests, this week focusing on the different layers of the rainforest and the unique characteristics of each. In PE, the children have been improving their technique and control when jumping, hopping, and landing — developing both their physical skill and their body awareness. In Science, we have turned our attention to the plant kingdom, exploring how plants are classified and grouped in a systematic way. This week's TTRS focus has been on the 3 times table — please do keep encouraging your child to practise at home, as every session makes a real difference. Please continue to support your child with their times tables — the Multiplication Tables Check will be here before we know it, and regular practice at home is key.

Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

This week in Year 5, we have finished our Maths unit on 'place value' by rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 and 100,000 and begun the next unit looking at 'addition and subtraction'. The children refreshed their column addition and subtraction methods and then used rounding to estimate answers before calculating. In writing lessons, we have worked on writing direct speech and varying the way sentences are started. This is in preparation for describing a setting during next week's lessons. Our Science lessons have involved drawing our conclusions from last week's parachute experiment. We concluded that increasing the surface area of the parachute increased the air resistance, therefore slowing down its descent. In PE this week the children have been continuing to work on building up their stamina, by working in teams to see if they can run faster than a ball being thrown around a coned area!

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

This week in Year 6, the children have continued to work hard in Maths; we have been busy securing our understanding of long multiplication and short division ready for our mock SATs tests next week. Arithmetic is a key focus in Year 6, and we are working hard on our time tables, including providing TTRS homework each week - this will help to improve the children's knowledge of times tables and build their confidence in so many areas of Maths! **At home, please do encourage your child to log in to TTRS weekly and complete tasks for at least 21 minutes.** In Writing lessons, we have started our new unit – a biography – where the classes will be writing about their inspirational person (Simone Biles/ Marcus Rashford). We have continued learning about renewable and non-renewable energy in Geography, considering the potential drawbacks and benefits of several different types. In Science, Year 6 created classification keys inspired by Carl Linnaeus. We have also focused heavily on handwriting this week; the children have been ensuring their writing is legible and all letters are formed correctly, especially when writing at length and speed.

AUTUMN Term 2026 Diary

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