



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 6 – Friday 9th October 2026

27th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

This week has been full of energy across the school. Our Year 4 pupils took part in a fantastic dodgeball event, showing great teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout. Finally, today we came together as a school community to celebrate the Feast of St John Henry Newman, reflecting on his message “Heart speaks to Heart” and how we can live this out through our words and actions each day.

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Lord Jesus, open our hearts to your word and our lives to your call. Help us to trust in your goodness and to use our gifts to serve others. May we walk in faith, hope, and love this week. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 (Frank) for having 100% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a very pleasing 98.2%. 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. Booking is now available for the remainder of the Autumn Term.

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

Next week we look forward to welcoming all our families into school for our Parent Meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into their new class, celebrate their achievements so far, and talk about the next steps in their learning journey. Thank you in advance for taking the time to attend.

Feast of St John Henry Newman

Today we came together to celebrate the Feast of St John Henry Newman, our school’s patron saint. The children led a prayerful liturgy, reflecting on Newman’s message that “heart speaks to heart.” Throughout the day, each class took part in activities exploring how we can live out this message through kindness, friendship and faith. The children also enjoyed a special feast day treat — a lovely way to mark such an important day in our school community.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

This week in Reception, we have been exploring repeating patterns in Maths. We have practised copying and continuing patterns before creating our own using a range of resources. In English, we have continued our learning about *The Three Little Pigs*, sequencing the key events and labelling pictures using initial sounds, such as /p/ for pig. We have also been learning how to write simple CVC words, such as *mud*, using the sounds we know. In Phonics, we have learnt the sounds /u/, /b/ and /f/ while continuing to recap our previous sounds. In Science, we have been learning all about our five senses and thinking about how we use them to explore and understand the world around us. It has been another busy week of learning and discovering!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

It has been another exciting week in Year 1, with the children enjoying a range of learning experiences across the curriculum. In Reading, we have been reading *We Are All Wonders* and exploring key vocabulary such as wonder, ordinary and unique. The children enjoyed discussing the meaning of these words and sharing their own ideas. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of addition, being introduced to fact families and exploring number bonds within 10. The children have explored a range of number sentences using 10 and have been encouraged to explain their mathematical thinking. In History, we have been learning about what history is and exploring key vocabulary such as past, before and long ago. We also explored a timeline showing different stages of a person’s life, from birth to one year old. In PE, we have been developing our coordination and movement, practising different combinations of jumps and working on our balance and control. In Science, we have been exploring our senses of touch and smell. The children investigated how our skin can feel different textures, including rough, hard and smooth, and enjoyed smelling a range of different items, including fruit, coffee and vinegar. It has been wonderful to see the children engaging enthusiastically and sharing their ideas throughout the week.

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

It has been an exciting and busy week in Year 2. In our writing lessons, we started a new unit, learning about interviews. We wrote some questions for Father Jeffrey who visited us on Tuesday afternoon to conduct a mock Baptism to consolidate our RE learning. The children have since written his answers out and we will start to explore speech marks next week to add these into our work. In our reading lessons, we have been reading more of the text *The Stinky Cheese Man*. The children have been retrieving information from the text, and to show their understanding of vocabulary, they have been learning about synonyms where different words have similar or the same meanings. In Science, we have started a new unit, learning about animals. We recapped some of our year 1 learning about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores before looking at different mammals and why they are classified as such. The children are getting excited about our visit to Sacrewell Farm and are asking lots of questions about the animals that we will see there. In Maths, we have been skip counting our 10s, 5s, 2s and 3s this week. The children have spotted patterns with each and are gaining confidence with this. Next week, we will start learning addition and subtraction with numbers up to 100.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

Frank and Gandhi classes have had another busy and exciting week of learning! In Maths, we have been developing our addition and subtraction skills by applying number bonds and practising adding 1s, 10s and 100s. In English, we have started reading 'Malala's Magic Pencil' and explored the features of first-person narratives, practising dialogue writing and using expanded noun phrases to make our descriptions more interesting. In Geography, we have been learning about earthquakes and their impact on the world. In Science, we have begun our new topic, Nutrition and Diet, exploring different food groups and the importance of a balanced diet. Well done, everyone, for another fantastic week!

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

In Maths, we concluded our place value unit, completing our work on rounding to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000 before making an exciting start on our new unit — Addition and Subtraction. In English Writing, the children have been learning how to use and punctuate direct speech correctly, adding a new and important tool to their writing toolkit. In English Reading, we have been racing through *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, reading Chapters 5 and 6 this week — the story is really gathering pace and the children are thoroughly gripped! In Science, we have continued our classification work, this time focusing on how to classify animals using their characteristics. In Geography, we have been exploring the different layers of the rainforest in greater depth, building a vivid picture of this incredible habitat. In PE, the children have been developing their skipping with a rope. The highlight of the week, however, came last Friday, when we were treated to some very special visitors — animals from the rainforest! The children were absolutely thrilled, and it made for a truly unforgettable and enriching experience that brought their Geography learning to life in the most wonderful way.



Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

We have had a busy week in Year 5! In Maths the children have been continuing to work on their addition and subtraction skills by using inverse calculations to find missing numbers, comparing calculations, and solving multi-step word problems. Our writing lessons have involved creating atmosphere in setting descriptions and planning our next hot task; a 1st person narrative taking inspiration from the Odysseus story we are studying in reading lessons. The children have enjoyed coming up with some inventive plot lines for their stories and rich language to use to describe characters and settings. In Geography lessons the children used all the knowledge they have gained over the last few lessons to create a brochure about The Alps aimed at tourists. The children were great at recalling all the details about the climate, location and physical and human geography of the area. On Friday Year 5 enjoyed participating in the Feast of St John Henry Newman. They created a display by reflecting on how they could use their gifts to serve others.

Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Year 6 have worked amazingly hard in their mock SATs tests this week; we are incredibly proud of the children. All have shown excellent determination, perseverance and focus – well done Year 6! In Science, the children enjoyed planning and setting up their first enquiry. Excellent questions were generated, such as 'will wet bread become mouldy quicker?' and 'do light levels speed up or slow down the mould production process?'. Over the next few weeks, we will be using close observational skills to draw conclusions relating to our enquiries. In Geography, the children have continued learning about energy production, but with a focus on the USA this week – they were fascinated to know that, in America, 22 million barrels of oil is outputted **each day**! On Friday, both Year 6 classes enjoyed participating in the Feast of St John Henry Newman. There were some really thoughtful reflections throughout the day, alongside some beautiful legacy trees and prayers being created by the children.

AUTUMN Term 2026 Diary

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