



St John Henry Newman Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

Volume 7 – Friday 16th October 2026

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

It has been a busy and enjoyable week across the school. We welcomed parents to our Autumn Term Parents Meeting, celebrating the start of the term and sharing updates on school life. We also came together to celebrate Mass with Year 1 and Year 6. On the sporting front, our Year 5 and Year 6 girls represented the school with great energy and teamwork in the Netball fixtures. Next week, we look forward to welcoming you to our Harvest Celebrations. Wishing everyone a happy and restful weekend.

Lord, help us to serve others with generosity and kindness. May we be guided by your love in all that we do, sharing our gifts and time to build a caring and compassionate community. Amen.

Mr Cooper
Headteacher

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 (Gandhi) and Year 4 (Hawking) for both having 100% attendance this week – excellent job! Our overall school attendance this week was a very pleasing 97.8%. 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 ParentMail 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 Meetings 13th and 14th October 2026

This week, we welcomed parents from across the school to our Autumn Term Parents Meeting. It was a valuable opportunity to share updates on how the children have started the school year and the plans for the coming months. Thank you to all who attended for your engagement and thoughtful questions – your partnership is greatly appreciated.

Harvest Thursday 22nd October 2026

We look forward to celebrating Harvest with our school community on Thursday 22nd October. Reception and KS1 will gather at 9.30am and KS2 at 10.30am. Families are invited to bring donations of tins, pasta, sanitary products, and other non-perishable items to support those in need. Thank you for helping us share our blessings with others.

Reception Learning (Attenborough and Luther-King)

We've been having lots of fun with *Supertato* this week, using our knowledge of the story to draw all the naughty things the mischievous Evil Pea has been getting up to in zigzag books. We were also busy adding initial sounds to label our illustrations. In Maths, we've become subitising superstars! We've been practising recognising the numbers 1, 2 and 3 just by looking, rather than counting each object (which we now know is called subitising). We've also been exploring all the different ways we can show these numbers on our fingers. In the afternoons, we've been getting creative and crafty, colouring, cutting and sticking to make our very own combine harvester hats ready for our Harvest celebration next week! We've been practising our Harvest song too, and we can't wait to sing it to you!

Year 1 Learning (Armstrong and Chanel)

It has been another exciting week in Year 1, with the children continuing to develop their knowledge and skills across the curriculum. In English, we have been reading *We Are All Wonders* and recapping the story. The children discussed how Auggie might be feeling and explored different emotions, sharing their own ideas and answering questions about the story. We have also been learning how to follow and write instructions through our work on *How to Make a Jam Sandwich*. The children practised sequencing instructions using the words first, next, after that and finally. In Maths, we have been exploring number bonds to 10 and working through addition number sentences step by step. The children have also been using pictures and their fingers to help them add more and find missing parts in number sentences. In PE, we have been developing our jumping and skipping skills, focusing on improving our balance and coordination. In Science, we have been exploring the changes that happen during autumn, discussing what the weather feels like and what happens to the trees as the seasons change. In History, we have been creating memory boxes to represent things that are special to us and happy memories we would like to remember. The children have enjoyed sharing their ideas and reflecting on their own experiences. Well done, Year 1, for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 2 Learning (Hamilton and Lennon)

It has been a busy week in Year 2! We have been planning our Harvest poems, the children have had some great ideas and some have even included rhyming lines. In Maths we have made a great start to our Addition and Subtraction unit of learning. We have recapped our number bonds to 10 using ten frames and counters, and our bonds to 20. These will be of great use throughout the unit. In our reading lessons, we have read *The Princess and the Bowling Ball*, an adaptation of *The Princess and the Pea*. The children have answered questions by retrieving information from the text, and explaining why the Prince put the bowling ball under 100 mattresses. In Science, we learned about fish and birds, and their four needs for survival, and in Art this week, we have been looking at different textures and using language to describe them. We have been exploring different textures out in the playground and making rubbings of these which we used to create our own piece of art.

We are extremely excited about our school visit to Sacrewell Farm next Tuesday. Please can you make sure your child wears their school uniform and brings an appropriate coat and footwear for the weather.

Year 3 Learning (Frank and Gandhi)

Frank and Gandhi have had another busy and productive week! In Maths, we have been developing our addition skills, focusing on adding ones across a ten and tens across a hundred. In English, we have continued reading *Malala's Magic Pencil*, exploring how Malala hoped to make the world a better place. In Writing, we have been preparing our first-person narratives, practising subordinating conjunctions, creating plans and beginning our first drafts. In Geography, we enjoyed some hands-on fieldwork, exploring the school grounds to identify rocks and observe their different features. In Science, we have been learning about the importance of a balanced diet and how eating foods from the five main food groups helps us stay healthy. Well done, everyone, for another wonderful week of learning!

Year 4 Learning (Curie and Hawking)

The children have been working with great focus across all subjects. In Maths, we have been diving into our Addition and Subtraction unit, working through adding up to two 4-digit numbers without exchange, before progressing to additions involving one exchange and then more than one. In English Writing, the children have been developing their grammar skills further, exploring prepositional phrases and applying expanded noun phrases to add precision and detail to their writing. In English Reading, we have continued our journey with *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, reading Chapter 7 this week — the story is reaching an exciting stage and the children are keen to find out what happens next! In Science, we revisited and consolidated our learning on animal classification, putting our knowledge to the test through an engaging game using animal classification keys — a fun and effective way to reinforce what the children have learned. In Geography, we have been exploring how rainforests are changing and considering the impact this has on the people and wildlife who depend on them. We also looked at how CAFOD supports Indigenous Peoples, which encouraged some really thoughtful and compassionate discussion from the children. In PE, the children have been developing a range of movement skills — skipping, jumping, changing direction, and acceleration — building their coordination, agility, and fitness.

Next week's TTRS focus will be the 6 times table — a great one to practise over the week! Please continue to encourage your child to log on and play regularly.

Year 5 Learning (Owens and Shackleton)

Year 5 have had a hectic week! In writing lessons, they have drafted and edited their first person narrative, we are really looking forward to reading their completed stories! In Maths we have started a unit on multiplication and division and have been putting our times tables knowledge to good use by looking at multiples, common multiples, factors and common factors. The children have really enjoyed the new computing unit on programming the BBC Micro:bit! So far, they have 'tinkered' and then created a mini animation and a pedometer! In Science we conducted an experiment to investigate the effect of water resistance on different shapes. We discovered that the more streamlined a shape, the lower the water resistance. Finally, in reading lessons we are coming to the end of 'Odysseus', the children have really enjoyed it and are eager to know how the story concludes.



Year 6 Learning (Rashford and Biles)

Year 6 have been busy challenging themselves with reasoning problems in their Maths lessons this week; the children have been applying their strong arithmetic skills to a range of multi-step and abstract problems. In writing, we have continued to explore biographies – the children have enjoyed researching their inspirational person (Biles and Rashford). After carefully planning our biographies, we have started to write them, with a focus on layout and cohesion. We have also finalised our Science learning this week and have set up our experiment. We are really enjoying observing the mould growing on our bread! (Some of the pieces are covered in mould already!) Both classes have also started preparing for the Harvest Assembly next week – we hope to see you there!

AUTUMN Term 2026 Diary

21-10-2026	12.00pm Year 6 Parent Lunch
21-10-2026	12.30pm Year 6 Parents Meeting – Residential Visit
22-10-2026	9.30am Reception and KS1 Harvest Celebration
22-10-2026	10.30am KS2 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