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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School

Newsletter

December 2018



Olqop Primary



@olqopprimary

A Fantastic Term!

Autumn term in school has been wonderful with the children experiencing so many opportunities, from visits, stoneage day and of course, the annual residential trip to Derwent Hill.

Y6 had an incredible time at Derwent Hill. They gorge-walked, mountain-climbed, canoed and encountered the "death swing" but especially popular, were the night time activities, including a walk in the dark! My thanks go to Mr Quinn, Miss Al-Saffar and to Miss Addison for giving their time so generously to escort the children on this life-changing adventure.

Y5 children visited London recently. For some, the day began with their first ever train journey. After transferring from Kings Cross to Westminster via coach, the children enjoyed a walking tour, taking in the sights of Buckingham Palace, The Mall, St James' Park, Horse Guards' Parade, Westminster Abbey, Parliament Square, Westminster Bridge and the London Eye. Some children were excited to visit Downing Street where they were able to have photographs taken outside of Number 10. We had a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster, including both the House of Lords and House of Commons. This truly was a remarkable and very rare opportunity to stand in the footsteps of so many famous politicians. Before taking part in a workshop informing us how laws are made, we visited Westminster Hall and walked in the footsteps of Henry VIII.

After tea in Pizza Express we boarded the train home. As always, our children were wonderful and it was a privilege to share this visit of a lifetime with them.

Y3 and Y4 children had a lovely time at the Peter Pan. Oh, yes they did! Kandinsky Class entertained the ladies of the Catholic Women's Guild at their Christmas party and Constable Class spent a pleasant afternoon in Gilwood Court singing with the residents.

We are delighted to name our latest "Rock Hero"! Maggie Cockburn can consistently answer multiplication questions in less than one second. Rock on Maggie!

Lower Key Stage 2 children have had lots of fun designing their own robots and Year 5 have made some fantastic Advent board games. Year 6 have begun the transition to secondary school and are having lessons from St Robert's staff.

Our special thanks go to the many volunteers and friends of the school who support all aspects of school life and give willingly of their time. We are very grateful to you as the "added extras" would not be possible without your assistance.

We are also thankful for the ongoing support our children are given with their homework and additional activities; children who are well-supported at home benefit greatly.

Thank you for your support with fundraising during the autumn term. Thanks to the matched funding offered to Barclays Bank employees we now are able to boost school funds to provide added extras. Well done everyone and a special thank you to Mr Hill, Mrs Domanech and Mrs Palfreyman. £491.65 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Care; £590.89 will be shared between Kiva and Children in Need; £201 was raised for school funds from Christmas jumper day and we are still counting the final amounts raised from the sale of tea towels and Christmas Fayre.

Advent Celebrations

Our Year 4 children celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation with friends from our other parish schools last week. The celebration was lovely and is another milestone on their journey to First Holy Communion. Thank you to our parish catechists for their ongoing support and to Mrs Fish, Miss Addison and Miss Mitchell for their help too. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Thank you for joining us for our nativity plays. It is always incredible to see the way in which our smallest children can proclaim the Good News in such a meaningful and thought-provoking way. Well done to everyone who took part and especially to the staff who have supported the children. Well done also to KS2 children and staff for leading our wonderful carol service and a special "well

done" to our soloists, musicians and readers.

Thank you to Kai Wright, Lola Worthy, Oliver Dymond, Benedict Bramley, James Mould, Joshua Middleton, Martha Templeton, Niamh Hanna, Philippa Allen, Bethany Kennedy-Lindo, Edie Tait, George Taylor, Jamie Parlett, Jerrald Lo, Olivia Hedley and Thomas Reid from Year 4 who supported the Penshaw Churches Together Carol Service, and also to all who took part in the Shiney Row outdoor nativity. We had lots of positive comments about the children's contribution and their impeccable behaviour. Well done children, we are so proud of you!

Superstars

Well done to our children who have been performing acts of kindness. Some children have spent pocket money on toys for less fortunate children, others have visited residential homes and a number of children have donated money to charity. Mya-Mae Allen had her hair cut and sent it to the Little Princess Foundation. I am so proud of our generous and kind pupils; thank you children for being such fantastic role models.

And Finally...

On behalf of all staff I would like to thank you for your kind gifts and cards. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy holiday and look forward to seeing the children back at school, refreshed and renewed, on Tuesday 8 January.



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Dates for Your Diary:

8 January School re-opens
1 February Number Day
15 February School closes for half term

Recommended Reading

EYFS: The Nativity
Fiona Watt, Rachel Wells
KS1: A Christmas Story
Brian Wildsmith
KS2: Refuge
Anne Booth, Sam Usher
Adults: A Christmas Carol
Charles Dickens

*the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over
the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every
greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with
clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make
us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to
our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus'
sake. Amen.
-- Robert Louis Stevenson*

Weekend Mass Times

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Sunday: 10am
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church
Sunday: 11am
6pm
St Bede's Church
Saturday: 5pm
Sunday: 8.30am
St John Boste Church
Sunday: 9.30am

Christmas MassTimes

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church
Christmas Eve: 7.30pm
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church
Christmas Eve: 5.30pm
Christmas Day: 10am
St Bede's Church
Christmas Eve: 5.30pm
Christmas Day: 8.30am
St John Boste Church
Christmas Eve: 7.30pm

Prayer for Christmas

*Loving God, Help us remember the
birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of
the angels,*