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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

February 2016



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Welcome Mrs Maher

It seems incredible that Mrs Maher only joined us four weeks ago as she has already become a well-loved and valued member of the team. She has been teaching in all classes and has enjoyed getting to know our pupils. Please keep her in your prayers as she settles into our community.

Thank you for your kind concerns for Mrs Burn. She continues to make a steady recovery; please remember her in your prayers too.

Patience is a Virtue!

As you are well aware, our building work is now well underway. This work has been at the planning stage for a very long time and major hurdles have needed to be overcome in order to begin. Essentially, four extensions are being added to the existing building. There will be extension to our Early Years classroom and an additional classroom next to Mondrian class for our KS1 children. (You will see that a temporary road has been installed in order to access this area of school.) An additional classroom will be built adjacent to Dali class as well as another classroom close to the school gate. There will be a new office suite and entrance system which will improve security of the site. Work will also be completed on four existing classrooms to create corridors and these rooms will be extended to ensure no space is lost for our children. The church car park is to be extended and will also

have a drop off zone with pedestrian route straight into the school grounds. Hopefully this will mean that our older children can be dropped off and thus there will be less congestion. Clearly, we have much to contend with over the coming months and staff are working closely with the builders to ensure that our children are safe and that disruption is at a minimum. Most of the work is due to be completed by September and the builders are expected to leave the site completely by October half-term holiday. I would like to commend all our staff for their patience during this time and most especially for their dedication to ensuring our pupils maintain an excellent school experience.

I continue to thank all families for their patience also, particularly with regard to traffic issues. It will be many months before the car parks will be fully accessible again. Please try to find an alternative way to travel to school if at all possible. If a car journey is essential, please consider parking away from the school and walking the final part of the journey, or perhaps consider car sharing with your neighbours? A number of concerns have been raised with regard to traffic on Station Road and we have had several "near misses." A traffic survey has been completed and the police are monitoring the situation regularly. There may also be monitoring with a mobile CCTV unit. Police will

issue penalty notices to any driver who parks on zig-zag or yellow lines, as well as to those close to junctions.

If you choose to use the church car park please be mindful that Fr Mark needs access at all times. Please, therefore, do not park in front of church or at the entrance to the car park.

Final nag!-If you have been involved in any minor accidents in the car park please inform school. We have had a couple of "hit and run" incidents.

Most of all, well done, to our children; they continue to be amazing even during all the disruption.

Fingers crossed all will be completed well.

Our Lenten Journey

There will be distribution of ashes to our pupils on Wednesday to mark the start of Lent. Please join us for Mass every Monday morning at 8.30am during Lent and for liturgies over Holy Week as follows:

Monday 21 March
Penitential service in church, 2pm

Tuesday 22 March,
Mass in church, 9.30am

Wednesday 23 March,
Stations of the Cross in school, 9.30am

Thursday 24 March,
Washing of Feet in school, 9.30am

Our *Lenterprise* activity this year, to raise funds for St Cuthbert's Care, will be soup lunches. You are invited to be served by your child with a

simple lunch in return for a donation of at least £3. Meals will be served as follows:

Reception	15/16 and 17 March
Constable	9 March
Rousseau	10 March
Mondrian	11 March
Kandinsky	15 March
Picasso	16 March
Dali	17 March
Potter	18 March

More details will follow, but please note, we can only accommodate one adult per child.

At the end of Lent our EYFS children are invited to make Easter bonnets and KS1 and 2 pupils to decorate eggs. More details to follow.

Visits

Year 4 are off to dance with "Mix It," a group for adults with learning disabilities. No doubt great fun will be had by all.

Year 3 will be visiting St Robert's for the annual deanery skipping competition. Good luck children!

Y6 visited Nissan to learn about the world of work. A great day was had by all and once again our children benefitted greatly from the opportunity.

Kieron, mascot for construction company Kier, came into school to advise everyone about keeping safe around building sites and St John's Ambulance led a training session for Year 4, helping them to understand basic first aid techniques. These are both great ways for the children to learn life skills and our thanks go to our visitors.



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Sporting Talent

Well done to our swimming team of Eve Gordon, Katie Grey, Jessica Cook, Lucie Killen, Jude Lawless, Nathan Blewitt, Jake Burns and Adam Dagleish who competed in the Sunderland Schools Swimming Gala. There were 37 schools represented and both the boys and girls teams were finalists in the freestyle and medley events, with the boys securing a silver medal in the freestyle competition.

Well done to our medallists and to everyone involved.

Congratulations to Emily Dodds, Harriet Dodds, Olivia Briggs, Madeline Burrows, Summer Shearing and Scarlet Shearing who represented the school at the North East Schools' Gymnastics Competition. The girls finished in bronze medal position. Amazing! Also representing the school were Isaac Dodds and Isabelle Kerr. Well done everyone.

Later this month all classes will be taking part in our dance festival. Thank you to Mrs Fraser for organising this event.

500 Words

Once again our Key Stage 2 children will be taking part in the BBC 500 Words competition. Building on successes of previous years this is now an annual event we all look forward to. As well as 500 word stories, the children are challenged to write 50 word and 5 word stories, why not have a go? Here is my attempt: *Builders. Crane arrives. Excited children!*

Polite Reminders!

Once again, please may I remind you that holidays taken during term time are not authorised? Schools in Sunderland are now serving parents with fines for a child's non-attendance and so please try to avoid any unauthorised absence. Please also ensure that your child arrives in school on time. The first 15 minutes of EVERY day are spent working on essential mathematics skills and so if a child is late, even by a short time, they are significantly disadvantaged.

May I remind you that jewellery is not permitted in school? Children will be asked to remove earrings for reasons of safety; it is not acceptable for them to be covered with tape. Please be mindful of this if you intend to have your child's ears pierced.

And Finally....

During the Year of Mercy we will be looking at ways to show forgiveness and to seek mercy. We will be creating our own "Stations of mercy," so please ask your child about what is happening in school.

In line with Bishop Seamus' guidance, we will be praying for the sick during February and during March we will be remembering those who do not have fresh water.

Dates for Your Diary

Open afternoon Y1 to Y6,
Monday 14 March, 2pm onwards

Friday morning liturgies:

12 February	Goldsworthy
26 February	Rousseau
11 March	Mondrian
18 March	Constable

Reports

One copy of reports for Y1, Y3, Y4 and Y5 children will be sent home on Friday 4 March. If you would like a second copy please telephone school to make a request.

Interim reports for Y2 and Y6 children will be sent home at the same time. These children, as well as EYFS children, will receive their full report in the summer term after SATs results have been confirmed.

Recommended Reading

EYFS: Room on the Broom
Julia Donaldson

KS1: Katie Morag
Mairi Hedderwick

KS2: Gold of the Gods
Bear Grylls

Adults: Room
Emma Donoghue

Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell

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

Prayer for February during the Year of Mercy:

We pray for all those who are sick, injured or dying.

Lord Jesus,

We remember how you healed the sick, the lame, the blind.

Send your love and mercy to all people who are suffering.

Give them courage, healing and strength.

We thank you for all doctors and nurses and for all who look after the sick.

Give them wisdom, skill and patience as they bring help and care to those in need.

Help us to share your love and mercy through our prayer, comfort and support. Amen