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# Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

January 2015



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## Thank You

As always, the staff were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families at Christmas. Thank you for the many gifts, cards and kind thoughts; they were all very much appreciated.

## Happy New Year!

Term has got off to a busy start and we have many exciting activities planned for the weeks ahead.

At the beginning of January the children had taster sessions for some new after-school clubs and as a result we will be offering Fencing, Street Dance and Art Clubs to different groups this term, as well as other clubs which will continue as previously. The charges we make for afterschool clubs and music lessons are contributions towards the cost for coaches and tutors. In order to be able to offer the clubs we have to make a commitment to the provider for a number of sessions. It is therefore not possible to refund money when a child chooses not to continue. Where a session is missed because the coach was unavailable then a refund will be made. It is lovely to see so many children enjoy the varied opportunities we are able to offer after school; thank you for your support.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January we are looking forward to

welcoming our local MP, Brigid Philipson to school once again. Our Year 6 children are learning about British democracy and will be holding a debate. We look forward to hearing the outcome!

Our Thursday mornings are very energetic when we are joined by Mr Fisher from St Robert of Newminster School. Mr Fisher is teaching PE to our classes and sharing his expertise with staff. On Wednesday afternoons we are also joined by students from St Robert's who are gaining valuable experience by volunteering in school. Our thanks go to them and to Mr Hurn; the partnership between our schools is getting even stronger.

We are continuing to take part in sports tournaments with our partner Catholic primary schools. Shortly our Y5 children will be representing our school at a Rugby competition, our very own version of "The Six Nations."

## Home-School Engagement

Once again we will be sending home written reports for children in Years 1, 4 and 5 after half term. As Mrs Fish is on maternity leave, children in Year 3 will receive their full report in the summer term but will be given an interim report this term. Children in Years 2 and 6 will receive interim

reports also and will be given their full reports after we receive their SATs results in the summer term. There will be a chance to visit school to look with your child at their work in March. As always, if you have any concerns about your child please contact the class teacher who will be happy to make an appointment to meet with you.

## Keeping Our Children Safe

Mrs Reilly-O'Donnell and Mr Lane are the designated safeguarding officers in school. If you have any concerns about a child's safety, security or well-being please speak to them. Mrs Fish is our special educational needs and disabilities co-ordinator but while she is on maternity leave Mrs Reilly-O'Donnell will be taking over the role. If you would like advice or support for your child's special needs please arrange to speak to her. There are a number of services available to parents to help you keep your child safe.

An on-line course provided by PACE, (Parents Against Sexual Exploitation,) is available at

[www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/resources/keep-them-safe](http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/resources/keep-them-safe)

Advice for parents about online safety and cyber bullying can be accessed at [www.thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk)

There are also games and activities for children on this site.

If you are concerned because your child is distressed about eating there is support from Washington Mind. Please email

[ypp@washingtonmind.org.uk](mailto:ypp@washingtonmind.org.uk)

for more information

If your child shows signs of aggression towards a loved one the *Respect Young Peoples Programme* for families may help. Please contact school if you would like further information.

Childline is a confidential service for children and young people and can give advice on how to keep safe and where to go for help and support. Their Freephone number is 08001111.

The City of Sunderland offer free parenting support programmes to all parents and carers in the city. For further information please contact

[alan.scott@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:alan.scott@sunderland.gov.uk)

0191 561 8151

As always, if you are worried in any way about your child, we are here to work in partnership with you, so please pop in to school to talk through your concerns.

## Absence

Attendance at our school is very pleasing and thankfully, many children are able to remain well enough to attend every day. As you are aware,



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attendance at school is closely monitored as lessons missed cannot be fully repeated. Children may be disadvantaged because they miss vital information and for this reason the government have changed the guidance on attendance. From September, any child who misses more than 10% of lessons will be considered as a "persistent absentee." If you would like information about your child's attendance please contact Mrs Ludford in the school office. I will write each term to parents of any child who has attendance of less than 95% in order to alert them to this fact.

A small number of children regularly arrive a few minutes late every day. This can be distressing for the children and means they miss vital information at the start of a lesson. Staff supervise children in the playground from 8.50am and breakfast is available from 8am at a cost of £2 per day. We hope both these services help families at the stressful start of the day.

## Sacramental Preparation

Please continue to pray for the families of our Y3 children who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time before Christmas. Their journey continues as they prepare for their first Holy

Communion later in the spring.

## Chitty Bang Bang!

Well done to all our children who took up the reading challenge based on the theme of Chitty Bang Bang. The final total raised is yet to be confirmed, but already we have been able to purchase a number of books. Thank you once again for your generosity.

## Dates for Your Diary

As always, please join us for our Friday morning liturgies, followed by refreshments.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January Lowry  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February Picasso  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February Potter  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March Goldsworthy  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March Renoir  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March Monet  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March Kandinsky

Mass will be celebrated at 8.30am in school every Wednesday morning during Lent, starting on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

We will also be celebrating liturgies during Holy Week as follows:

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 9.15am  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 9.30am  
Mass in church  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 9.15am

Our Mother's Prayers group will meet in the school chapel on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 2.45pm.

All mums, grandmas and female friends welcome!

Please note, school will be closed on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February for staff training.

## And Finally....

Plans to start the building work are continuing. We don't yet have a start date but we are hoping to cut the first sod in the spring. Watch this space!

Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell

## Weekend Mass Times

### Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

Sunday: 10am and 6pm

### Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church

Saturday: 6.30pm

Sunday: 11am

### St Bede's Church

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 9.15am

### St John Boste Church

Sunday: 10am and 6pm

## Prayer for January:

Into a dark winter world  
A snowdrop comes,  
A symbol of hope and  
peace,  
Carrying within it a green  
heart,  
Symbol of God's renewing  
love.  
Come to inhabit our  
darkness,  
Lord Jesus.  
Amen.