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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

January 2017



Olqop Primary



@olqopprimary

Happy New Year!

Christmas seems a distant memory now, but I hope it proved to be a happy and peaceful time for all families. Thank you once again for the many kind gifts we received; we are very grateful.

The new term has got off to a busy start with lots of children sharing their talents.

Congratulations to Francesca Allen, Katie Grey, Eve Gordon, Grace Reid, Theo Economides, Jack Rushworth, Owen Mullaney and Jude Anderson who represented the school at the Sunderland Schools' Swimming Gala. There were strong individual efforts from all members of the team and the girls' team came 4th overall. Well done everyone.

Our choir have been busy and competed at both the Sunderland Singing Festival, (in Sunderland Minster,) and *The City Sings*, (at the Sunderland Empire.) Their performances at both events were highly commended and, as always, the children were great ambassadors for our school. A special thanks goes to Mrs Purvis for giving her time so willingly to support the choir. Thanks also to Mrs Fraser, Mrs Pike, Mrs Ludford and Mrs Maher who gave their time to look after the children during the Sunday at the Empire.

Well done to Olivia Briggs and Emily Dodd in the recent Schools Gymnastics Competition. The girls achieved bronze medal

position, an incredible achievement.

Charlotte Coates and Theo Economides were our representatives at St Mary's Cathedral for the celebration of the Youth Ministry Team. They presented a cheque for £387, raised through the craft fair organised by our Mini Vinnies.

£466 was raised for NSPCC from our "numbers day." The children spent some time learning new strategies and solving problems which proved to be great fun.

Our Key Stage One and Two classes enjoyed watching a live BBC broadcast to inspire them to write. Every year we use the 500 Words competition to encourage our pupils to have lots of fun with writing and we hope many will enter this year's national competition.

Congratulations to Olivia Marshall whose picture of Barabbas was featured in the Codex 2016 which has been presented to Pope Francis.

Staffing

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Alexandra Kebbel has been appointed to the teaching staff of our school. She will join us in April and initially will not be classroom-based.

School Visits

You will be very aware of the value of school trips to our pupils as they are so memorable. We often subsidise trips but really

appreciate your contributions towards the cost. If the costs of visits, including the transport to swimming lessons, are not met then the main school budget must be used. This has an impact on what we can offer the children in the classroom.

Lost Items

Please ensure all clothing including coats, hats etc are named as we have had a number of lots items lately. If an item that does not belong to you makes its way home, please return it to the school office and Mrs Ludford will attempt to reunite it with its owner!

Building Work

Building work is almost complete. Unfortunately, however, we had a flood caused by the central heating system and Kandinsky Class have unexpectedly moved to the Performing Arts Room until their classroom is back to normal.

Car Park and School Site

Despite having many more spaces in the car park we still have parking issues. Please do not leave your car unattended if you are not in a space. Please also be mindful of pedestrians when manoeuvring as we have had lots of concerns raised. The grassed area is not for parking and must not be crossed to access the driveway. It is important to note that the car park does not belong to the school and we are only able to use it with permission from the parish. They have the right

to withdraw permission at any time. Access onto the school site is restricted at the start and end of the day so that we can maintain safety. Please do not try to enter during the times displayed on the signs. Mr Pullen also monitors traffic at these times and will prevent traffic from entering. Please speak to me if you have any concerns.

Please do not bring animals onto the school site, including the grassed area outside of the fence.

Dates for Your Diary

The school has been entered for the Children's Cancer Run on Sunday 21 May. If you would like to join us, all runners must be registered online at <http://www.neccr.org.uk/evening/childrens-cancer-run-2017/> When you register you will be able to join the school team.

Bishop Seamus will be joining us to celebrate the 80th birthday of the school on Thursday 25 May. Mass will be followed by a picnic lunch and all are welcome to join us. We will be hosting a birthday concert on Friday 26 May also.

We are planning another family day out to Lindisfarne on Saturday 17 June. Last year, our day was a terrific success so hopefully many of you will be able to join us.

Online Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the online survey about the ways we report to parents. We now have a



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detailed understanding of what you find useful and as a result we will be changing our report format. You will receive a short summary of progress during the autumn and spring terms followed by a report in the summer term containing a brief summary of your child's achievements. This will be much shorter than previously, as suggested in your feedback. We will continue to offer parents' evenings in the autumn and summer and a parents' afternoon in the spring term.

Social Media

In school we are keen to use social media to keep you updated with events and we embrace modern technologies. Please be mindful, however, that if you use social media, do not refer to the school or any member of staff without permission. If you have concerns please telephone me to discuss them.

Friday Liturgies

Staff have reviewed collective worship in the school and as a result we have adjusted our Friday liturgies. Parents are invited to join us each Friday afternoon at 2.45 for a peaceful and prayerful gathering. Certificates etc will be given out during our Monday morning assemblies and parents are warmly invited to join us for these too.

And Finally....

If you have not yet provided Mrs Ludford with your email address, please do so as we are trying to reduce paper copies of letters etc. Please

note that the school app contains important information for families and is easy to download.

Recommended Reading

- EYFS: Funnybones**
Allen Ahlberg
- KS1: The Legend of Spud Murphy**
Eoin Colfer
- KS2: Mrs Cockle's Cat**
Philippa Pearce
- Adults: The Kite Runner**
Khaled Hosseini

Dates for Your Diary

School Photographer 9 Feb

Friday afternoon liturgies:

- 10 Feb Kandinsky
- 17 Feb Seurat
- 3 March Goldsworthy
- 10 March Rousseau
- 17 March Mondrian
- 24 March Constable
- 31 March Picasso

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 January during the Year of Oscar Romero:

We pray for Blessed Oscar Romero

Lord Jesus,
your servant Blessed Oscar Romero
lived his life as a model of love and faith
and died at the altar,
celebrating Mass.

We pray that the Church will recognise him as a saint.
Help us to follow his example of love for the poor and oppressed.

Let us remember his message of peace and reconciliation, justice and mercy.
Give us courage to speak out against injustice, wherever we see it in the world.
We ask this in your name, Lord.
Amen