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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

June 2017



Olqop Primary



@olqopprimary

Lots to Celebrate!

Over the last few weeks we have had lots of opportunities to get together and these have proved to be very enjoyable. Bishop Seamus visited us to begin the school's eightieth birthday celebrations. After joining the staff for their morning prayers, he was taken on a tour of the school by year 6 pupils and then spent some time with the children in each class. He meditated with Rousseau class and found this to be a wonderful experience. He then went on to speak to and answer questions from the other classes. His most popular question was, "Why did you become a priest?" but others included, "What did you have for breakfast?" and "Do you know which bus to catch to get back to Newcastle?" Representatives from each class and governors then joined the Bishop for a special blessing of the new building and then, after refreshments with the staff and with much reluctance, he had to leave. He commended the school highly and thought, as we all do, that our children were wonderful.

Later that morning we were joined by the Vicar General, Fr Colm Hayden, who presided over our anniversary Mass. He was joined by parish priests Fr Mark and Fr Tony as well as Fr Bill from St Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring. We were particularly delighted to welcome Fr Stephen Forster, a previous pupil of the school and now Provincial of the Order of St Camillus, who travelled from Eire to celebrate Mass too. Many ex-

pupils, ex-staff, parishioners and family members joined us for the celebration, amounting to about 800 people in total. This was a very moving experience and my thanks go to all those who contributed to Mass.

We were blessed with beautiful weather and so it was great to see all guests and pupils having a picnic on the field. Lots of stories were exchanged about the history of the school and friendships were re-kindled.

The beautiful weather held for our birthday party later that evening. The children had lots of fun with "Mr DJ Man" whilst the grown-ups relaxed in the summer sun. Thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes.

The fun continued the following day with our Anniversary Concert. Each class have been studying a decade from the school's history and then performed to a song from that decade. We twisted and rocked and rolled 'til our feet dropped off! Every performance was incredible and our large audience had a magnificent time.

We were sad to reach the end of the celebrations, all of which were made possible by a grant from the National Lottery. Many months ago we started planning the celebrations and it was very clear that both school and church were not large enough to accommodate all our guests. We therefore began to explore the possibility of hiring a marquee. Our grateful thanks go to Mr Clapperton for advising us on the grant

application. The marquee was not only a perfect location, but added to making the series of events very special. My thanks go to the staff for supporting the children during this memorable time.

Pilgrimage

Our second annual pilgrimage to Lindisfarne took place earlier this month. Building on the success of last year, two buses headed off for the island and several more families travelled independently to join us for the day. Several pilgrims walked in the footsteps of St Cuthbert across the causeway and then Mass was celebrated (very informally!) in St Aidan's Chapel. A picnic underneath the castle was welcome refreshment before the afternoon was spent exploring the island and building sandcastles. Thank you to everyone who joined us and put the date in the diary for next year- Saturday 23 June 2018.

Youth Ministry

Year 5 went to the Emmaus Village for an overnight retreat. The young people from the Youth Ministry Team were inspiring and our children came back enthused about their faith. Thank you to Miss Askew and Hannah for escorting the children.

Year 6 have also visited the Emmaus Village this term and took part in the Primary Festival. The theme of "Razed" was challenging but the festival vibe engaged and enthused the children and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all.

Sports News

Year 6 were victors at the Deanery Athletics Festival hosted by St Bede's. Well done children!

Our football team finished the Washington league in 6th position. Well done to all members of the squad and thank you to Mr Taylor for managing the team.

Congratulations to Noah Worthy for his selection for the Durham City team. Good luck next season Noah.

Performing Stars

Congratulations to Jessica Sloanes and Olivia Chase who will be performing for their dance school soon. Good luck also to George Dickman who will be performing at the Theatre Royal in *The Wizard of Oz* in the summer holidays. Finally congratulations to Isla McMonigle for securing a part in *The Dumping Ground* which will be broadcast in a few months' time.

Year 6 enjoyed a lovely piano recital by Grace Reid recently. It is wonderful so much talent amongst our pupils; don't forget to let us know if your child has something special to share.

Data Updates

Mrs Ludford and Mrs Dickman are updating our records. Please complete and return your data sheets as soon as possible so that we have accurate contact details and health information. Please also remember to inform us when your information changes.



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School Absence

If your child is ill please notify us each day of their absence by telephone; a message can be left on our new telephone system. As you are aware, we must record all absences and if we are not notified the absence is unauthorised and we may need to notify the local authority. If your child is ill in school we will telephone those identified on their contact list. It is vital that we have more than one number and therefore please ensure this is written on your data sheet.

Medicines in School

Staff are willing to administer medicines in school prescribed by a doctor. All such medicines can be left at the school office where a form must be completed by a parent/carer. Please note, over-the-counter medication cannot be administered by a member of staff. Antibiotics that are to be taken three times or less during the day are also not administered in school. All medications must be transported to and from school by an adult; please do not give these to a child to hand in. Finally, as we approach the end of term, please make sure that you collect any unused medication, including inhalers, for the summer holidays. Please note, it is a parents/carers responsibility to ensure that medication held in school is replaced when it is out of date.

E-Safety

Regularly in school we remind our children of ways to keep safe online and not to share information with unfamiliar people. Recently we have been notified of a number of sites, including *Musical.ly*, *SnapChat* and *Instagram* where there have been safety concerns raised. For up-to-date information about ways to keep your children safe please visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety> or <http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online/> or <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/staying-safe-online/> Please also regularly check the privacy settings on your children's mobile telephone and other devices.

Success in Reading

Recent research suggests that children who enjoy reading and read for pleasure at home are far more likely to perform well at school. Please speak to a member of staff if we can help you with this. For wonderful advice on helping your child to read, please visit <http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

Friends of OLQoP

If you would like to join our Friends of OLQoP group to help with the organising of family events and fundraisers, please join us for a meeting at 6pm on 6 July 2017 in school. If you can't make the meeting

but would like to be involved, please give your name to Mrs Ludford in the school office.

Classes for next Year

Classes in 2016-17 will be organised as follows:

EYFS Teachers:

Mrs Brown
Mrs Duncan
Mrs Young/Mrs Cresswell
EYFS Support Staff
Mrs Pike
Mrs Smith

KS1

Rousseau-Y1 and Y2 Mrs Lamond
Mondrian-Y1 and Y2 Mrs Elder
Constable-Y1 and Y2 Mrs Fraser

KS2

Kandinsky-Y3 and Y4 Mrs Fish
Seurat-Y3 and Y4 Miss Addison
Picasso-Y3 and Y4 Mrs Kebell
Dali- Y5 Miss Askew
Caravaggio- Y6 Mrs Swales

Staff will support in KS1 and KS2 according to the needs of our pupils. You will be notified in the next couple of weeks about which class your child will be in.

And Finally....

Please pop in to school to see our handwritten copy of St Mark's Gospel. It is very special!

Events for the rest of term

Monday June 26 and Wednesday June 28

Y6 transition days at St Robert's.

Tuesday June 29

YR Deanery Teddy Bears' Picnic

Family Events for the rest of term

You are welcome to join us for all the following events.

June 30, 2.45pm

Rousseau Liturgy

July 6, 9.30am-1pm

KS1 and 2 Sports Day followed by picnic

July 6, 6pm

Friends of OLQoP meeting

July 7, 2.45pm

Constable Liturgy

July 11, 1.30-3pm

EYFS Sports Day

July 14, 2.45pm

Mondrian Liturgy

July 20, 9.30am

Leavers' Mass in church

July 21, 9.15am

Potter Liturgy

Recommended Reading

EYFS:

Hamish and the Missing Teddy
M Munro

KS1:

We All Went on Safari
L Krebs

KS2:

Coraline
Gaiman, N

Adults:

Born to Run: The Hidden Tribe, the Ultra-Runners, and the Greatest Race the World Has Never Seen
Christopher McDougall

For wonderful advice on helping your child to read, please visit

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/>

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



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