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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

March 2016



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A Busy Month!

March has been a hectic month in school. We have had lots of sporting activity and have welcomed many visitors. Early in the month, the children shared their talent in our Dance Festival. Each class choreographed their own dance and performed it to the rest of the school. Huge amounts of effort went into making the festival a success; well done everyone and thank you to Mrs Fraser for organising the event which will help us to gain Arts Award very soon.

Our football team have had mixed fortunes. Several closely run matches have resulted in us having a middle-of-the-table position as the season is drawing to a close. The children have been wonderful in preparing for the games and, once again, have been great ambassadors for our school.

Forty eight members of the school choir took part in the Sunderland Singing Festival. We were greatly disappointed to find out that the annual *City Sings* competition was not taking place this year, so it was with great joy that we learned of this opportunity to join with friends from other schools. Mrs Purvis said she felt our choir's performance was outstanding, consistently tuneful and very enjoyable. Despite the large number of children, behaviour was exemplary.

Our open afternoon was a lovely opportunity for the

children to share their achievements with their loved ones, in the context of a working classroom. We hope that it gave you an insight into school life from your child's perspective and helped you to monitor their progress.

The highlight of the month has undoubtedly been the Lenten fundraising activities. Almost 200 grown-ups enjoyed soup in school, prepared by the children and about £400 has been raised for St Cuthbert's Care. The charity is committed to helping improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, including people with profound disabilities, children in care, older people and those living on the margins of society. Firmly rooted in the Catholic faith, the charity's work is highly specialised and often in areas of high risk. Moira Ashman and Nicola Milne from the charity joined us for lunch one day and were highly enthusiastic about the welcome they were given by the children and very appreciative of our support. Thank you to everyone who contributed. To find out more about the charity please visit their website at www.stcuthbertscare.org.uk

Message from Tyne and Wear Fire Service:

It's no game playing with someone's life warns the fire and rescue service in its latest campaign

During the spring months of April and May, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service sees an increase in the number of

fires which are set deliberately.

Most of these fires occur on grassland, woodland, waste land, in fields, parks and playgrounds. They are usually started by young people setting fire to rubbish, grass, fly tipping, hedges and fences. Not only do these anti-social behaviour fires cause damage to property, the environment and tie up firefighters unnecessarily but they can also cause injuries and deaths; what may seem like a bit of fun can quickly spread and endanger lives.

The Fire and Rescue Service is asking parents to support them by finding out what their children are doing if they go out during the lighter nights. They want parents to back the campaign by making children aware of the dangers of setting fires deliberately – it's no game playing with someone's life.

Fire is unpredictable and dangerous, not only can it kill but deliberately setting a fire can leave you with a criminal record and scar you for life. Please follow the link to view our short film which highlights that fire crews cannot be in two places at once www.twfire.gov.uk/lighternights

The film shows a young person being dropped off by his mum to play with his friends in a park. They decide to set a fire which is put out by fire crews who also receive a call to attend a road traffic collision (RTC). A fire crew from another station attends the RTC whilst the local crew is busy putting out the rubbish fire started as a bit of fun.

After they arrive to support the fire crew at the RTC the driver of the vehicle dies. For more information on how to stay safe from fire please visit www.twfire.gov.uk or www.facebook.com/twfrs or www.twitter.com/tyne_wear_fr, or search for 'twfrs' on Instagram.

Holy Week

Please join us for liturgies 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, followed by refreshments and Easter bonnet parade/ painted egg competition

Family Day Out

As the weather begins to warm up, our thoughts turn to summer. We are hoping to enjoy a family day out to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on Saturday 18th June. The parish have kindly agreed to help to fund a bus and we also encourage families to make their own way to the island. The intention is, for those who would like to, a pilgrimage walk across the causeway followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Mark. There will be plenty of time to enjoy a picnic and explore the island before the journey home. More details to follow but please put the date in your diary.



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Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is growing in popularity and we now have Mrs Kennedy as well as Mrs Darwin and Mrs Stark looking after the children. Because of increasing numbers we have a need for more toys to keep the children busy and welcome donations of lego or stickle bricks. Please let Mrs Ludford know if you have any that you are willing to part with! Breakfast club costs £2 per day, per child and the children are offered cereal, toast, fresh fruit, milk and juice. We feel this is good value but we can only continue if all our costs are met, so please make sure you make swift payment for the service. Please note also, that the club runs from 8am. Adults on the premises are unable to take responsibility for the children before this time and so children must not be left unattended. Thank you for your understanding.

Building Work

At long last we are beginning to see some progress with our building work. Extensions are taking part in four different areas in school and therefore we are having to be very patient! Unexpectedly we were told that our EYFS area had to be evacuated sooner than anticipated and all EYFS as well as Mondrian and Constable classes will be relocating after the Easter holidays. To facilitate this additional work has taken place to convert the library and office area into a classroom. Thank you for your

understanding during this challenging time.

Online Safety

Recently I have dealt with a number of concerns relating to e-safety issues created outside of school. If your child has a mobile telephone and accesses social media sites please monitor their actions closely. We recognise that our children understand the dangers of internet use but, unfortunately, they sometimes have difficulty in relating this to their own activities. To help you to gain a full understanding of current trends we will be hosting an e-safety workshop for parents on 20 April, (more details to follow.) The older children will also be given additional lessons on managing online activities. Most of the concerns I am asked to help with relate to *Instagram*, *Snapchat* and *Youtube*, all of which state that a child must be 13 to hold an account. I also have dealt with a number of concerns relating to children sending unacceptable text messages, often very late at night. For excellent advice please visit the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk> and please contact me in school if there is anything I can help with; we need to work together to enable our children to make wise choices.

And Finally....

Very shortly we will be launching our school app. We will use this to share news and information and you will be able to download it for free onto a smart phone or tablet.

It will have a link to our website and *Facebook* and *Twitter* feeds and will be used instead of our text messaging service to keep you updated. Further details will follow shortly. Please let Mrs Ludford know if you do not have access to a smart phone or tablet so that we can make alternative arrangements to keep in touch.

Dates for Your Diary School reopens for the summer term

Monday 11 April
Year 6 SATs week 9 May
Friday morning liturgies:
22 April Dali
29 April School Council
6 May Goldsworthy
13 May (2pm) May procession
20 May Picasso
27 May Kandinsky
10 June Eco Council
17 June Whole School
24 June Mondrian
1 July Rousseau
8 July Constable

19 July, 9.30am Leaver's Mass
20 July, 9.15am Potter liturgy

Recommended Reading

EYFS: We're in the Wrong Book!
Richard Byrne
KS1: Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak
KS2: The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
John Boyne
Adults: If Nuns Ruled the World
Jo Piazza

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

Times for Holy Week Services

Maunday Thursday 24 March
Commemoration of the Last Supper for all four churches at St John Boste 7pm

Good Friday

Commemoration of the Passion at all churches 3pm

Saturday

Easter Vigil

St Bede 5pm

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate 6pm

Our Lady Queen of Peace 7pm

St John Boste 8pm

Easter Sunday

St Bede 8.30am

St John Boste 9.30am

Our Lady Queen of Peace 10am

Our Blessed Lady 11am & 6pm

Prayer for March during the Year of Mercy:

Lord Jesus,

You called all who were thirsty to come to you, to believe and to drink.

Look with mercy on your people who live in dry lands, and who struggle to survive without access to safe drinking water.

We pray for those who have to walk for miles carrying water. Help us to remember not to waste our natural resources.

May we share your love and mercy through our prayers, actions and charity so that one day all your children may drink clean water and live healthy lives.

Amen