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# Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

March 2017



Olqop Primary



@olqopprimary

## Spring is almost here!

As the days get longer it is lovely to see our new building in all its glory. The school field, that was out of action for so long, is now beginning to be used and our thoughts are now on how we can improve our other outdoor areas. With that in mind, we have another gardening morning planned for Saturday 8 April from 10am- 11.30 am. After the great success of our last session we are hoping to tidy everything up and think about planting flowers etc. Donations of shrubs and plants are gladly accepted and any willing gardeners who join us for the morning will be rewarded with bacon sandwiches. Please bring along gardening tools.

## Sporting Activities

The school football team were very successful in the Washington 5-a-side championships recently. Their winning position qualified them for the regional finals but unfortunately, despite their best efforts, we did not return as victors. We are very grateful to Mr Taylor for managing the team, with his able assistant manager Jenny!

Well done to our Year 3 children who took part in the skipping festival at St Robert's. They have learned amazing tricks and can dance while skipping! Incredible!

Well done also to our Year 1 children who represented the school at the dance festival, also at St Robert's They were wonderful.

The school is registered for the North East Children's Cancer Run on Sunday 21 May. If you would like to join the team you must register online at <http://www.neccr.org.uk/evening-childrens-cancer-run-2017/> You should have received a letter outlining how to join the school team, if not, please speak to Mrs Ludford as the details are not clear on the site. To prepare for the run, some of our older children have started a running club so we may have the next Mo Farrah in our midst!

## Liturgies

We hope you have enjoyed the opportunity to join us on Friday afternoons for our liturgies. Staff and governors have spent some time reflecting on ways in which we celebrate our faith and decided to separate worship from other school celebrations. In this way we create an atmosphere of reverence. Please also join us most Monday mornings for assemblies when we present certificates and celebrate success.

We were joined in school by *More Than Dance*, an organisation that promote worship through dance. Our children were greatly inspired and will use what they have learned in the planning of our liturgies.

We will be introducing meditation to all classrooms shortly. This is a practice already followed in the other parish schools and it will give

pupils a chance to relax and reflect for a very short time each day.

## Thank You

Once again, the children enjoyed World Book Day and arrived in incredible outfits. Thank you for your continued support for these special days. Don't forget to keep the reading bug alive by taking part in our Readathon. Thank you to Miss Askew for organising both these events.

Our early years' children have had a great time finding out about castles. Sadly during the Year R visit to Lumley Castle, Mrs Pike was put in the stocks! On the day of the visit the nursery children had a magnificent banquet back at school, so fun was had by all.

## Safety

Once again we were joined by Northumbria Police who spoke to the children about keeping themselves safe, particularly online. May I remind parents that there is useful advice about keeping your child safe on the internet on the NSPCC website, (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>)

It is important to note that most social networking sites including Instagram, Snapchat and facebook have a requirement that all members are 13 or over as they are not deemed suitable for younger children.

Please note that mobile telephones are not permitted on the school site. If your child

walks home on their own and you wish them to have a telephone please complete a request form. If permission is granted, children must handover their telephones as soon as they arrive and collect them as they leave.

Please continue to be mindful of safety in the car park and on Station Road. Since the car park has reopened we have had a number of concerns raised about drivers. Please do not park in the drop off zone or reverse when children are walking through the carpark. There is a path all the way through to Station Road so please encourage children to use this whenever possible. If you choose to use the car park please anticipate delays in getting out and do not drive over grassed areas in order to make a swift exit. Thank you.

## FairTrade

Our Mini-Vinnies have been working hard to promote fair trade products and have opened their own tuck shop. Small treats can be purchased on a Friday morning at a cost of 50p. This is a "not for profit" enterprise. Thank you to Margaret Hodgeson from CAFOD who visited school to inform everyone about the benefits of fairtrade.

## Well Done

Our Year 5 children joined with friends from St Joseph's and St Bede's Schools to debate, "Teachers should not mark books." Staff from all three schools are currently undertaking action research on the best way to inform



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pupils about ways to improve their work so it was very interesting to hear what children thought about the issue. The outcome was surprising; the majority of children said that teachers should not mark books. Well done to Emma Shorttle, Noah Worthy, Jerome Bramley, Summer Shearing, Scarlett Shearing and Lily Jessop for presenting their opinion and to all the children who fired questions and comments.

Well done also to Mrs Maher who has recently been accredited as a Professional Development Lead for the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

### And Finally....

We have a number of plans underway to celebrate our school's **80 birthday**.

If you were a pupil or member of staff at the school our pupils would like to interview you. We will be having an oral history day on Friday 24 March; if you would be willing to visit a class to talk about your experiences please let Mrs Ludford in the school office know.

If you have any photographs or memorabilia from the school that you would be willing to let us borrow, please speak to a member of staff. We promise to take good care of them.

We are creating a handwritten copy of St Mark's Gospel and we would like all parents to write a verse. Please pop in to

school when you get a moment.

On Thursday 25 May Bishop Seamus will be joining us for Mass at 11am. Please spread the word to family members, neighbours and friends as all will be welcome for this community celebration. After Mass we will have a picnic lunch, so don't forget to pack your sandwiches!

On the evening of 25 May we are hoping to have a family event. Please let me know if you would be willing to help with the organisation of this.

On 26 May we will be hosting a school concert and, once again, all are welcome so please spread the word.

### Dates for Your Diary:

17 March 2.40pm Mondrian Liturgy  
20 March Y1-Y6 open afternoon  
24 March 2.40pm Constable liturgy  
24 March Oral history day  
28 March Year 3 retreat  
31 March 2.40pm Picasso liturgy  
7 April 2pm Recycled fashion show

### SAVE THE DATE

25 and 26 May 2017  
**School 80 Birthday  
Celebrations**

### Recommended Reading

#### EYFS: Gorilla

Anthony Browne

#### KS1: That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown

Cressida Cowell

#### KS2: Skellig

David Almond

#### Adults: Noughts and Crosses

Malorie Blackman

### 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 March

#### (Year of Romero)

*We pray for those who live in poverty.*

*Loving God*

*During Lent we are trying to go without,  
to give to others*

*and to come closer to you through prayer.*

*Help us to be like Blessed Oscar Romero*

*and show our love for you,  
through the love we show to the poor.*

*Show us how to speak out for justice as he did,  
to make the world a fairer place.*

*On our Lenten journey help us to give of ourselves,*

*supporting the poor through our prayers and our gifts of time and money.*

*We ask this in your name, Lord.  
Amen*