

Dear Parents , Carers and Parishioners,

The weeks are flying by and Christmas will be upon us before we know it. The season of good will has already begun here at Our Lady Queen of Peace and we are humbled by your generosity in the recent and ongoing fundraising events.

Poppy Appeal – Your donations to The Royal British Legion were much appreciated. We will update you on the total raised in due course.

Children in Need - We had a great day in our PJ's raising funds for Children in Need. In all of the changes we have had to cope with during this school year, it has been nice to return to one of the regular event in our school calendar and we cannot thank you enough for your huge generosity. We have raised a staggering £475.00. A special mention goes to Mrs Slater, parent of Amelia for going the extra mile earning money for steps!! £125 is a fantastic amount for a great cause.

Penshaw Food Bank – Thank you so much for the overwhelming response. It is fantastic to see our school community coming together to make a difference to those in need. Donations can be made at the front of school until the end of term.

There have been lots of great activities happening in school recently. We kicked off Anti-Bullying Week with 'Odd Socks Day' which was a great success. This was a chance to celebrate that we are all different and unique. Throughout the week our children were involved in self-esteem and resilience activities. They were given lots of opportunities to explore their perceptions of bullying and how together we can affect change to the lives of other.

Liturgies – Kandinsky and Dali have celebrated beautiful liturgies with themes of forgiveness and being proud of how special we are. Kandinsky class showed how to forgive one another and Dali class helped us remember how important we all are!

Christmas - We will be doing our very best to keep Christmas the special time it always is in school. However, some things have to be a little different. The details of Christmas parties and all other events, including Christmas lunch arrangements can be found on our school app calendar. Please be assured that, although parties are on the same day for some classes, the bubbles will be kept separate.

Christmas Cards - We know the children love to send cards to one another and we don't want to stop that this year. Should your child wish to send cards, we would like to request that they are brought into school before Monday 7th December. This will allow us to quarantine them before distribution in line with Covid arrangements. Unfortunately we will be unable to accept any cards brought into school after this date. Thank you.

During this second lockdown, every evening there will be a reflection shared live at 6pm on the Parish of St. John XXIII facebook page, link below. This is an opportunity for us to pause and be together in prayer each evening.

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/ParishStJohn23/>

While the churches are closed, and Our Lady Queen of Peace undergoes refurbishment, Mass is celebrated daily at 10am from one of the presbyteries. Please follow the link below.

<https://www.churchservices.tv/penshaw>

## A reflection for our children

Me

I love me.

I love the way I shoot through the sky when I jump, jump, JUMP.

I love my stretchy arms and all the shapes I can make.

I love my wobbly tummy and my wiggly toes.

I love my curly hair and smooth skin.

I love my brain,

My brilliant thinky brain that maps my voyages and paints my daydreams.

But sometimes there are days when I'm not sure I love me as much as the day before.

So on those days

I squeeze my eyes shut.

I take a deep breath in.

And I blow that thought away.....away..... So far away.

And I hug my arms around me and squish me hard.

Then

I jump and I stretch and I leap up high.

And I sing and I shout and make shapes and I wiggle my toes and wobble my tummy

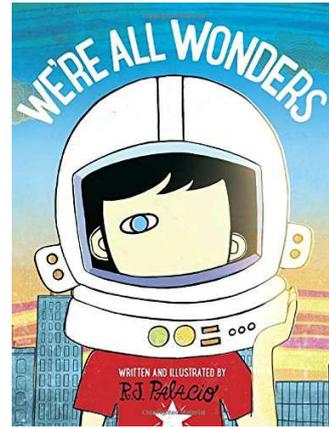
And I dance on my head and think all my thinks.

And I remember just how much

I LOVE BEING ME.

By Swapna Haddow

Always try to be, and love who you are.



I hope you have an enjoyable weekend, take care, God bless and stay safe.

Mrs Maher