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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School Newsletter

November 2016



Olqop Primary



@olqopprimary

An Eventful Month

November has proved to be extremely busy with many of our classes involved in some exciting projects.

Mass for the feast of All Saints got us off to a great start. We are very grateful to Fr Mark for his continued support. Despite being very busy across all four churches and schools in the parish he continues to offer Mass for us. This will continue across advent as follows:

Mon 5 Dec 8.30am in school
Mon 12 Dec 8.30am in school
Mon 19 Dec 9.30am in church

During the first week in November our Year 5 had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to London and visit Parliament. For some children this was their first opportunity to travel by train, so the 6am start was soon forgotten in all the excitement! After breakfast on the train, we travelled from Kings Cross to Westminster for a walking tour taking in Buckingham Palace, Albert Memorial, St James' Park, The Mall and the Cabinet War Rooms before popping to Downing Street where we had the chance to knock on the door of Number 10 and watch the comings and goings of the office of the First Lord of the Treasury and the residency of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We heard all about the rivalry of Larry and Palmerston, the Downing Street cats, before continuing our walk to see The London Eye, Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square. Lunch was enjoyed on Westminster

Bridge before the highlight of our trip, visiting the Palace of Westminster. Our tour included Westminster Hall where we walked in the footsteps of giants including the monarchs from Henry VIII onwards, Nelson Mandela and President Obama. We sat in on the debates in both chambers: the House of Commons were focused on the impact of Brexit on UK business and the House of Lords were debating what will happen to research funding after the UK leaves Europe. After touring the rest of the Palace we enjoyed learning about how laws are made, before taking part in a question and answer session with Brigid Phillipson MP. Enthused and exhausted, we travelled back to Kings Cross for pizza and a quick stop off at platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$. Thankfully, the Hogwarts Express did not steal any of our pupils as we all returned to the north east excited by our adventure. Grateful thanks go to Mrs Merrington, Miss Christie, Mrs Maher, Mrs Ludford and Hannah for accompanying the children.

The month continued with auditions for the school choir. I was delighted to report that this was successful and the children will be performing at the Empire Theatre on Sunday 5 February. (Details of tickets will be sent shortly.) The choir also performed at the switching on of the Christmas lights in Sunderland and were so successful we have received a number of invites to other events.

On 11 November the school council joined other members of the Penshaw and Shiney Row community for the annual memorial service. The children felt very proud to represent the school and it was lovely to be accompanied by several members of the parish for this important and moving service at the Methodist Church then cenotaph.

All classes enjoyed science week when all our Einsteins experimented and tested a range of theories. Highlight of the week was our quiz which was won by Team Darwin. Well done to Callum Fraser, Megan Goodings, Martha Templeton, Oscar Hancil, Rowan Jardine, Aidan Curran and Ella Routledge and thank you to Mrs Young for a fun week.

The Feast of Christ the King, also known as Youth Sunday, was celebrated in church. Hannah and several of our pupils shared their thoughts about the Year of Mercy and gave out cards asking parishioners to pray for our reception children. Thank you to everyone who joined us. On Youth Sunday Bishop Seamus requests us to raise money for the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team. All profits from the Christmas craft fair will be given to this.

Flu vaccinations took place and the children were wonderful and remained calm throughout! Sixteen talented artists won a poster competition and the

exciting prize was to meet Olympic medallist Amy Tinkler. The children had the opportunity to watch her routine then took part in a question and answer session. Amy spoke about the dedication and perseverance necessary for her success, a powerful message for life. Well done to Macie Telford-Peake, Libby Johnson, Jerome Bramley, Jake Ward. Louis Jordison-Cleasby, Jessica Laybourne, Scarlett Shearing, Maggie Cockburn, Isla McMonigle, Isobel Smith, Ella Routledge, Molly Smith, Evie Emerson, Zac Tait, Mya-Mae Leighton-Allan and Lily Jessop.

We always enjoy Children in Need day and this year was no exception, although we joined in on the fundraising over two days due to the temporary closure of our Foundation Stage. Well done to everyone who dressed up, £341.50 was raised.

The end of the month brought the annual residential trip of Year 6 to Derwent Hill. As we go to press, the children are having a wonderful time. The dry weather has provided wonderful views and the children have climbed mountains, canoed, gorge-walked, orienteered, picnicked in the snow, made dens, built bonfires, made bridges for cows, planted trees, night-walked and of course, conquered the mighty "death swing." As always, the children have been wonderful ambassadors for our school and amazing memories have been made, thanks to the



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support from Mrs Duncan, Mrs Elder and Mrs Maher. We look forward to further news on their return.

Ourschoolsapp

Many of you have downloaded our school app which is accessible from smartphones and tablets as well as PCs. We use the app to keep everyone up to date with what is happening in school. Please speak to Mrs Ludford if you would like help to access it as we are increasingly trying to become paperless in our communications.

Superstars

Well done to Francesca Allen for recent success in her piano exam and good luck to all our talented musicians as they prepare for exams.

Jewellery

Please do not send your child to school wearing earrings. A number of incidents have occurred where children have been injured because of earrings getting caught in clothes etc. I am advised that it is necessary to keep earrings in for 6 weeks after they have been pierced so if you are planning on having your child's ears pierced please do so at the start of the summer holidays so that they do not need to be worn during school time. Staff are unable to help children with cleaning or removing earrings.

Mrs Forster, one of our lunchtime supervisors, and her family support the charity *Coco*, who work to provide educational experiences for children in East Africa. The family collect football strips and boots to be sent to Africa and will gratefully accept all donations. For more information, please visit www.coco.org.uk

And Finally....

We are all looking forward to end of term events. Tickets for the EYFS nativity play will be sent home with the children and must be presented at the door. No tickets are necessary for the EYFS play, however.

Dates for Your Diary:

7 December 3.15 Craft Fair
10 December 9am Gardening morning
12 December 8.30am Mass in school
13 December 2pm KS1 Nativity
14 December Christmas Jumper Day
14 December 10am KS1 Nativity
14 December Christmas lunch
15 December 2pm EYFS Nativity
16 December 10am EYFS Nativity
16 December Y5 and Y6 party
19 December 9.30 Mass in church
19 December KS1 party
20 December Y3 and Y4 party
21 December 1pm EYFS party
22 December 9.30 Carol Service in church

EYFS: The Snowman

Raymond Briggs

KS1: Clarice Bean, That's Me

Lauren Child

KS2: The Sheep Pig

Dick King-Smith

Adults: Windows on the World

Frédéric Beigbeder

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 Advent

*In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.
In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in mission,
that the hope within
might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.
In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in service,
that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.
Amen*

Recycle Your Sports Kit

Recommended Reading