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Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School

Newsletter

November 2017



Olqop Primary



@olqopprimary

An Eventful Month

November has proved to be extremely busy with the parish mission providing a huge highlight at the end of the month.

Preparations for the mission began over one year ago and Mrs Reilly-O'Donnell has been meeting with representatives from the parish and the Youth Ministry Team, along with representatives of our partner schools, on a regular basis to ensure the mission would be fruitful. After welcoming Fr Jim O'Keefe, new priest in the Parish of St John XXIII, earlier in the month all plans were in place. The mission was launched with a "Walk of Witness" which saw a number of our families walking from church to church in our partnership. Thank you to all who joined us.

St Robert of Newminster School was the focus for the mission in the first week. "Speed-faithing," liturgies, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and sessions led by YMT were all features of the week and real enthusiasm was generated amongst the young people. At the family evening held in the school the lanterns which were decorated in the primaries were returned so that they could remain lit during the second week.

At Our Lady Queen of Peace the theme of "Unbroken" is one we have visited many times. All our children created art work on the theme and many pictures are in the exhibition in church. We also ran a photograph competition, asking children to photograph

where they see God's unbroken love for us. Well done to Francesca Allan, Beatrice Morrell, Abigail Thompson, Seth Morrell and Faye Younger whose photographs will all be proudly displayed in school.

The focus of Mission Monday was *love for the vulnerable* and our collection of food will be given to the Diocesan Justice and Peace Group for distribution to asylum seekers and homeless.

The focus on Mission Tuesday was *loving forgiveness* and our older children celebrated a reconciliation service in school.

Mission Wednesday saw our Y4 children meet with their friends from St John Boste, St Joseph's, St Bede's and St Michael's schools for a retreat day. Meanwhile, back in school, *More Than Dance* visited to teach some children a dance on the theme of *unbroken*.

On Mission Thursday our theme was *loving peace* and we were delighted to welcome a number of adults who joined us to meditate.

On Mission Friday Hannah worked with Y5 and Miss Askew to prepare our wonderful parish liturgy. Earlier in the day our Reception children walked to the top of the viewing point at Herrington Park and joined with the children from our partner schools to make an unbroken chain of love. At the same time the rest of our pupils made an unbroken chain on the school playground as a sign that

together we can show God's unbroken love to the world.

Thank you to the many people who have been involved in the planning for the mission and for joining us for all events. There will be a review meeting in school on Monday 4 December at 6pm and all are welcome. From this we are hoping to make sure that the momentum is maintained and new experiences can be planned.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The choir continue to work hard in preparation for the Choir of the Year competition which will be held in Durham Cathedral early next year.

Well done to our musicians who are working hard for their grade exams. Please note that we are hoping to offer trumpet and keyboard lessons to Key Stage 2 children in the new year. Please return the expression of interest forms as soon as possible so that we can make plans for this.

On 10 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 cenotaph.

Fundraising

Everyone has been busy with fundraising during this month. Our particular thanks go to Mr and Mrs Gordon who raised

£400 from their Rosary Lunches in church.

Thank you also to Mr Hill for helping to organise a very successful raffle during our family night. A total of £750 has been raised and Mr Hill has offered this for matched funding from his employers, Barclays Bank.

Over £1,000 was raised at the school fair and Mrs Domenech will receive matched funding for this as she is also an employee of Barclays Bank. We now have enough money to purchase our bike shed and the school council are currently researching our options. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

We always enjoy Children in Need day and this year was no exception. Well done to everyone who dressed up, £327 was raised.

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.

Little Riddlers

Well done to many of our KS1 children whose poems have been chosen to be published. What an achievement!

Jewellery

Please do not send your child to school wearing earrings. A



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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.

Parking

There are continued concerns about parking around school. Please use ONLY the designated parking bays in the church car park as children are being put at risk by crossing the car park between inappropriately parked vehicles. Please note also that the bays next to the path are designed to be drop-off points so should not be parked in. ACCESS TO CHURCH AND THE PRESBYTERY IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES. PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THESE AREAS AT ANY TIME.

There have been a number of "near misses" and a more serious incident on Station Road recently, all caused by unacceptable parking. If you become concerned about traffic incidents please ask Mrs Ludford for a form to complete so that the governors can continue to monitor the situation.

Parenting Together Group

Parenting is the most rewarding but particularly challenging job of all and we

seek to provide all our families with support. A request has been made that we set up a "Parenting Together Group" to provide an informal opportunity for parents and carers to come together to support and advise one another. We will have an initial planning meeting in school on Friday 12 January at 9.15am; please join us if you can.

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:

- 12 December
Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day
- 13 December 2pm
KS1 Nativity
- 13 December 7.30pm
Parish Carol Service
- 14 December 10am
KS1 Nativity
- 14 December 2pm
EYFS Nativity
- 15 December 10am
EYFS Nativity
- SATURDAY 16 December,
10.30am
Y4 Reconciliation Service @ St John Boste Church
- 18 December Y3 and Y4 party
- 19 December 1pm EYFS party
- 20 December KS1 party
- 21 December 9.30am
Mass in church
- 21 December Y5 and Y6 party
- 22 December 9.30
Carol Service in church

Recommended Reading

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*