



# Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School

# Newsletter



[olqop.blogspot.co.uk](http://olqop.blogspot.co.uk)

## October 2015

### A Busy Half-Term!

Welcome to our second newsletter for the new academic year.

The children have been very busy over recent weeks and are now firmly settled into their new classes. The new children in YR are to be particularly commended as they have made a wonderful start to their formal education with us.

### Out and About

Once again Year 5 have spent an exciting few weeks preparing for their concert in Durham Cathedral. The children will be performing a range of pieces alongside other schools and with the Cathedral choristers. Our thanks go to the Cathedral Outreach team for their support.

Year 5 are also preparing for a visit to Parliament in December. This will be an amazing opportunity to visit our country's heart of democracy and there is great excitement about the visit. Watch this space for further news!

Our Year 6 children were visited by the Houghton Feast resident artists and they made incredible lanterns which were used in the opening ceremony. As usual, our school was well-represented and our thanks go to the boys and their families who attended for their support and to Mrs Scott and Miss Askew of course!

After the half-term holiday Y6 are off to Derwent Hill for the annual residential trip. We'll keep you posted with all their news on their return.

Our Key Stage 1 children all recently visited the Baltic Art Gallery. The children took part in workshops and were able to explore the range of exhibitions. Favourite installation of the day was definitely "Jonah and the Great Whale," which was actually a lorry filled with sea coral!

Congratulations to our Year 5 and 6 athletes who came third in the deanery Cross Country competition. Well done to Jude Lawless, Jude Anderson, Jessica Cook, Grace Reid, Michael Hepton and Dominic Bramley. Thank you to Mrs Richardson for training the children.

### ECO School

I am delighted to share the news that our school has once again been awarded the prestigious "Green Flag" in recognition of the focus school has in promoting green issues, protecting the environment and reducing emissions. Many children have contributed to the award and are to be commended for their commitment to caring for the earth. Our particular thanks go to Miss Robson and the 2014-15 Eco Council for their hard work in preparing for the accreditation.

### Macmillan Cancer Care

Thank you for joining us for our annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. The donation of cakes was amazing and certainly rivalled all *Bake Off* contestants!! £500 was raised. Well done and thank you to our Mini-Vinnies and to our team of mums who helped organise the event.

### Poetry Day!

After the visit of poet Nick Tocsek to our school the children were well-prepared for our performance poetry day. The children performed well-known poems and rhymes as well as their own compositions. A great enthusiasm was generated and it was great to see the pleasure children can derive from the written word. Future plans include a dance performance day. We hope that these opportunities will enable us to achieve the prestigious *Arts Award* in the near future.

### Safeguarding Children

The safety and well-being of all our children is of prime importance to us all. We apologise if you try to access school during playtimes and lunchtime when the school gates are locked but please telephone school if you require access and a member of staff will escort you to the office. At other points during the day the pedestrian gate is open and access to the building is ONLY through the main office. At the start and end of the school day please DO NOT enter the school with your child. Staff are available in the office to answer queries or arrange appointments with teachers if you require help.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child. School staff understand that well-being of all children is very important. They are also trained to look out for signs of concern and we work in close liaison with partner professionals to access appropriate advice and help. We are responsible for ensuring that children are not influenced by radical, extreme views and recognise our wider responsibility for keeping children safe; this underpins all our work in school.

### New Building

Building work is due to commence during half term. There will be four extensions to the school: the EYFS classroom will be enlarged and there will be new classrooms built next to the current Mondrian, Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms. There will also be a new entrance system which will be closer to the gate. The building work is expected to take 42 weeks and so we expect to be fully finished by next September. Throughout the build there will be changing arrangements in school and your continued support is very much appreciated. We will minimise disruption to the children and will review our safety procedures as the work continues. There will be limited access to car parking on church land and therefore we urge you to review your journey to and from school.

We will endeavour to keep you updated as work progresses on this exciting school development.

### Monster Fun

The Friends of OLQoP organised a wonderful Monster Ball at the end of half-term. It was great to see families gather together for the great social event which raised funds to go towards a bike shelter. Our special thanks go to the willing volunteers who contributed to the preparation for the event. The next *Friends* event is a mum's evening on 19<sup>th</sup> November; tickets are available from the school office.

### Living Wage

I am pleased to inform you that our school has a policy to pay all employees the recognised living wage.

### Dates for Your Diary

Please join us for our Friday morning acts of worship. The liturgies will be followed by a chance to stay for a quick cup of tea. (Volunteer tea-makers welcome!)

6<sup>th</sup> Nov Mondrian Class (Y1/2)  
13<sup>th</sup> Nov Rousseau (Y1/2)  
20<sup>th</sup> Nov Constable (Y1/2)  
4<sup>th</sup> Dec Whole School  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec Eco Schools  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec Goldsworthy Class (YR)

We will also be celebrating Mass over the coming weeks. Please join us if you can:

30.11.15 Advent, 8.30  
7.12.15 Advent 8.30  
14.12.15 Advent, 8.30

### And Finally...!

Please keep us informed if your child has a medical need or allergy. Please also ensure that you replace out of date inhalers and other medication.

Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell

### Recommended Reading:

**EYFS:** The Tiger Who Came to Tea  
**KS1:** The Jolly Postman  
**KS2:** Gangsta Grandma  
**Adults:** Touching the Void

### Weekend Mass Times:

**Our Lady Queen of Peace**  
Sunday: 10am  
**Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**  
Sunday: 11am and 6pm  
**St Bede's Church**  
Saturday: 5pm, Sunday: 8.30am  
**St John Boste Church**  
Sunday: 9.30am

### Prayer for October

God, no one is stranger to you  
And no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes.

Bring them to safety and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who too was a refugee and migrant who travelled to another land searching for a home.  
Amen.