



Our Lady Queen of Peace RC Primary School

# Newsletter



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

September 2015

Welcome back to school and a particularly warm welcome to all our new children and their families. Term has got off to a busy start and already there are many exciting pieces of news to share with you

A very special welcome goes to Mrs Lamond, our new member of staff. Mrs Lamond will be teaching our Rousseau class and will coordinate our Key Stage 1 classes.

Well done to Mrs Prior, mum of Katherine in YR, who is our new parent governor. Mrs Lamond will also be joining the governing body as the staff representative.

Mass was celebrated in church to mark the start of the new year. We were also thrilled to mark Mr Lane's retirement with Mass followed by refreshments in school. Both of these occasions were special in the life of the school and our thanks go to the parish and many family members who joined us for both these celebrations. On Wednesday at 6pm we will be returning to church with our Reception class and their families for a short welcome liturgy followed by refreshments in church. Please join us if you can..

We hope to continue our Friday morning liturgies and warmly invite family and friends to join us. Children will prepare the liturgies as follows:-

9<sup>th</sup> Oct Kandinsky Class (Y3)  
16<sup>th</sup> Oct Dali Class (Y5)  
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)

Our football team have got off to a great start in our early season games, with one win, one defeat and four draws so far. Well done to the team and to our new manager, Mr Sherriff. (Rumours are that the SAFC board have sent scouts to look at him with a view to replacing Advocaat!)

Last year's Eco Council had a final challenge when we were visited earlier this term by an Eco Assessor. I am delighted to report that we have once again been successful in securing the "Eco Green Flag Award." This is a rare, outstanding achievement and demonstrates the citizenship qualities displayed by all our pupils. Well done, particularly to the council and to Miss Robson.

The classes in school are currently in election fever. New members for our School Council, Mini-

Vinnies and Eco Council have all been elected and our congratulations go to our new school council; Mya-Mae Leighton-Allen, Jamie Parlett, Sam Gallacher, Faye Liddle, Violet Stokoe, George Dickman, Theo Economides, Jessica Laybourne, Martha Templeton, Harry Lang, Jake Burns, Isabelle Kerr, Kaitlyn Oxley, James Moorhouse, Max Gothard and Eve Gordon. Welcome to our new Mini-Vinnies; Mia McGrory, James Taylor, Arron Haugh, Poppy Furey, Aidan Thompson, Alicia James-Wilson, Lyla Alsop, Finn Montgomery, Jerome Bramley, Scarlett Shearing, Erin Johnson, Charlie Urwin, Marnie Curry, Olivia Thompson, Ella Routledge and Grace Reid. Good luck to our Eco-Councillors; Thomas Reid, Megan Errington, Oscar Hancill, Niamh Hanna, Daniel Gaff, Macie Telford-Peake, Owen Hill, Lauren Gibson, Gabriel Kerr, Emma Shorttle, Lucie Killen, Isabelle Kerr, Olivia Briggs and Katie Grey. Thank you all for contributing willingly to our school life.

We were delighted to be joined by poet, Nick Toczek, who came to school to show us how to craft verse and perform poetry with effect. We will

be using some of his tips during our poetry performance day later this week.

Our pupils are always eager to play an active part in the life of the community. Our grateful thanks go to Dylan Hall, Matthew Haugh, Nathan Blewitt, Kobe Hutchinson, Dominic Bramley, Keidis McRoy, Joe Woods, Mrs Scott and Miss Askew for representing our school at Houghton Feast Opening Ceremony. Worthy of praise also are Scarlett and Summer Shearing for their success in an eleven mile, Active Sunderland walk. The girls were so impressive that we received a telephone call in which they were highly praised. Well done girls; you are fantastic ambassadors for our school.

An exciting term for Year 5 started with a visit from the Durham Cathedral Outreach Team. The children are preparing for a performance later in the year. Also this term the children are travelling to London for a visit to the Houses of Parliament when they will be able to witness first-hand the backbone of our country's democracy. Watch this space for news of the visit!

*FORWARD TOGETHER IN HOPE* is a renewal programme for the Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Every Catholic in the Diocese is invited to be part of the discussion on the future shape of the Church in the area and to consider how best to enable viable and flourishing worshipping communities to thrive into the future. The Director of *Forward Together in Hope*, Fr Jim O'Keefe, is also seeking the views of *anyone* in the North East so that the Church can learn from 'how others see us'. You can contribute your views by completing an online survey which is available at [www.hope.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.hope.rcdhn.org.uk)

You will be aware that there is a government funded initiative to fund free school meals for 4-7 year olds. Uptake in our school is strong and parents of our Reception expressed their delight in the quality of the meals offered when they accompanied their children for lunch. The fact that all Reception and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to free school meals has caused confusion with Pupil Premium funding. This funding is available to school to support children from low income families. If your family income is less than £16,190 or you are in receipt of Welfare Benefits your child may

qualify and it is important that you let us know. Please ask Mrs Ludford for the relevant forms, which will be processed confidentially.

We are hoping to continue to enhance the learning with a range of visits as we know these are inspiring for the children. We are very grateful for the voluntary contributions you make to support trips out. Although some visits are costly the amount we request is based on transport and entry costs. The school budget always subsidises trips and therefore your contribution is vital to offset this. No child would be excluded from a school outing because their family did not contribute so please talk to Mrs Reilly O'Donnell if you have concerns. Thank you once again for your support – it makes a huge difference to the learning opportunities offered to your child.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few school procedures.

- Please send all money into school in an envelope, clearly labelled with your child's name and what the money is for.
- Please pay dinner money on Mondays. The child MUST take it to class in a named envelope. Please do not take money to office.

- Please ensure children wear sensible school shoes. Trainers/plimsoles are not permitted except for P.E.
- Jewellery (except a watch) is not permitted and children will be asked to remove earrings.
- Please park in the designated areas and be aware of the times of day when traffic is not permitted on the drive.

Thank you for your continued support with these matters.

To ensure we do all we can to care for your child, please inform us of allergies or other health issues. If your child requires medication please ensure you give medicines/ inhalers/ epipens to Mrs Burn. Please try to remember to replace medication at its expiry date. Prescribed medicines for short-term illnesses can be administered in school upon completion of a permission form (provided medication is required 4 times daily). Please note, only medicines prescribed by a doctor, in the original packaging and with a chemist 'label' can be administered.

In all aspects of school life we are eager to promote the British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with

different faiths and beliefs. We are alert to the fact that some people can be radicalised and we do all that we can to make sure that our young people are not coerced into extreme ways. For more information please visit our website.

#### **Recommended Reading:**

**EYFS:** The Gruffalo

**KS1:** The Twits

**KS2:** When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

**Adults:** A Thousand Splendid Suns

#### **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 the Month of September, for refugees**

Jesus, Friend and Brother, You know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty. You know the plight of the stranger who is made unwelcome. You know the suffering of all who have lost everything. We pray that by welcoming refugees we may show love for our neighbours and grow closer to You. Amen.

Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell