



Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School

Station Road, Penshaw, Houghton-Le-Spring, DH4 7JZ

Telephone: 0191 3854545

Email: admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk

Website: www.olqoprprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B. Reilly-O'Donnell

1 May 2020

Dear parents,

As we come to the end of another week I hope you are all well and managing to enjoy some relaxation during these challenging times.

We have not yet received any notification about the reopening of schools but the Prime minister is expected to make an announcement next week. Although it still seems likely that school will not reopen for a number of weeks we have been looking at ways in which we can make the return to school safe and appropriate for the health and well-being of all pupils and staff. We are trying to plan for all possible outcomes and will inform you at the earliest opportunity if we receive any further information.

The staff have really enjoyed reading your emails and Twitter messages. We are all missing the children very much and so it is lovely to keep in touch. Mrs Maher and I will be calling families again next week so we are looking forward to finding out what you have been doing. If you need to contact school or if we can help you in any way please email school at admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk. Our confidential email is also available if you have any concerns: familysupport@olqoprprimary.org.uk

All relationships have their ups and downs and sometimes a positive solution is hard to find. In these extraordinary days in which we experience lives of enforced isolation such difficulties may become enhanced and overriding. MarriageCare provides a counselling service for couples or individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationship. You can access support here: <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/relationship-counselling/>

MarriageCare also provides links to support organisations for advice on Debt and Finance and Family support organisations: <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/how-we-help/links/>

Support for women, men and children affected by domestic abuse is available here:

<http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Domestic-Violence-Help-Resources.pdf>

The global pandemic will be discussed for many years to come and our children may have questions or concerns. To help you talk to your children I would like to remind you of two books which have been published:

The Book of Hopes is available online here: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/> It is a collection of stories and poems to comfort, inspire and entertain children in lockdown.

Coronavirus: A Book for Children can be downloaded here <https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-A-Book-for-Children.pdf> and it explains the effects of the virus in simple terms for children.





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I know many of you are doing daily workouts, regular quizzes and zoom parties, but if you are looking for something different to entertain the children, daily virtual singing sessions from the Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme are now available at 2pm every weekday. They are aimed at primary school children. Every session includes sacred music, RE and music curriculum learning, and lots of vocal fun and songs to keep children engaged in lifting their voices to God. They can be found at www.schoolssingingprogramme.org.uk

There are also some lovely bible home activities here: <https://acnuk.org/resource/childs-bible-project/>

Bishop Byrne will celebrate Mass for the sick and their families, and for NHS front-line and social care workers at 7.00pm on Thursday 14 May in St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne. The Bishop has also made 14 May a Diocesan Day of Prayer for the sick and their families, and all who support them. The Diocesan day of prayer will begin at 10.00am with an online stream of Divine Office at St. Mary's Cathedral, led by Fr. Michael McCoy. Streams can be found via our the website: <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php>

And finally, Pope Frances has written a prayer for protection during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –

and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Wishing you a peaceful weekend.

Kind regards,





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