



# Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School

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

Telephone: 0191 3854545

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Website: [www.olqoprprimary.org.uk](http://www.olqoprprimary.org.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs B. Reilly-O'Donnell

25 April 2020

Dear parents,

Thank you so much for the messages of encouragement being sent to school. These have been wonderful for staff to read during this difficult time. I would particularly like to thank Mr Mee, our Site Manager, and Julie, Oxsana and Julie, our cleaning team, as well as Mrs Maher, as they are all working particularly hard to ensure that our school is clean, safe and open every day to anyone who needs support.

The Gospel in Mass yesterday told the story of two friends of Jesus who were walking to a town called Emmaus. The friends were scared and very confused by the events of the previous days, when Jesus had died but then his tomb was empty. They were frightened to speak openly about these events, for fear that they too would be sentenced to death for being a friend of Jesus. They supported one another in the safety of their privacy. They were then approached by a stranger who seemed to have no knowledge of them or of the preceding events and the friends were comforted by the stranger. He invited them to share a meal with him and as he broke bread, the friends realised that they stranger was in fact Jesus and they had not been left alone. This wonderful painting by Caravaggio depicts the moment when the friends realise that Jesus is with them.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supper\\_at\\_Emmaus\\_\(Caravaggio,\\_London\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supper_at_Emmaus_(Caravaggio,_London))

It is easy to see the relevance of this episode in the life of Jesus to our own lives at the moment. Scared and confused by the impact of Covid19 we seek security in the comfort and privacy of our close family. We are uncertain why the world has been devastated by the events of recent weeks and we feel very uncertain about the future, fearful that our loved ones may be at risk from the virus. However, comfort is generously given by our NHS strangers, our shop-worker strangers, our police strangers and all strangers who are doing all they can to protect us and reassure us that all will be well. I believe that God is working in all these people who serve us with love, and just as the disciples saw Jesus in Emmaus, we too are seeing Jesus in the love being shared by these workers and by neighbours, friends and relatives. The photograph which was widely shared yesterday of the rainbow over our church was a reminder of the hope God gave Noah after the flood that all will be well. Yesterday's rainbow gave us that same message of hope-that all will be well.





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As the period of lockdown extends, some families may be experiencing a change of circumstances with work. If you have a reduced income because of the current situation you may now be entitled to free school meals when you previously were not. To find out if you are eligible there is a link on the school app which takes you to a straightforward form to complete. You will be informed straight away if your child is entitled to free school meals. Once school has this information we can arrange for vouchers to be sent to you to help with the purchase of meals for the children during lockdown. The value of the voucher is £15 per week per child, so this can make a significant difference. If you require further information or help with this please email [admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@olqoprprimary.org.uk).

During this extended period of lockdown many families are finding the challenge of not being able to go out extremely difficult. For some, the stress this causes can be very worrying. If you need help please contact school using our confidential email- [familysupport@olqoprprimary.org.uk](mailto:familysupport@olqoprprimary.org.uk)

Keep up the good work with your home-schooling; you are doing incredibly well. The work for week 6 has been uploaded to the school website and the children have been given new challenges on Numbots, SPaG.com and MyMaths. Thank you to everyone who is working hard on the Timestable Rockstar tournament. We've had some incredible competitors and the speed with which the children can answer is phenomenal! If you are experiencing difficulty with any log ins please let us know so that we can resolve this quickly; we do not want any children not to progress because they are not accessing the work that is being set for them.

Thank you for the photographs and messages on Twitter; please keep them coming as it is a lovely way for us to keep in touch. We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please also remember that we are here to help, so do get in touch if you need anything.

Kind regards,

B A Reilly-O'Donnell

