

# Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Monthly Update

Living, loving and learning together  
with our eyes focused on Jesus.



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The last month has flown over, although it has been short, we've still packed so much into it! It has been wonderful to see our Reception and new children settle into their new school. Thank you to all those who attended our Welcome Mass. It was wonderful to see our new children and families so warmly welcomed into the school community.

Witnessing the Tour of Britain that whizzed past our school on the first day of the school year was amazing for all of us. The children loved the build-up, the singing, the Mexican waving and the race itself. What a way to start the year!

Our school open day was a great success and our newly elected house captains were excellent ambassadors for



our school. They provided a guided tour of our school and answered all questions that were put to them with confidence and honesty.

During recycle week we County Council. We learnt about the importance of recycling and how to use the different recycling bins. As an eco-school we rightly place a high emphasis on the way we treat the world and what we can do to make a difference as part of our everyday lives.



Finally, after the sad news of the Queen's death and funeral we have spent a little time praying and reflecting on her long life filled with service. We pray she rests in peace.

Louise Keenan

#Article 2 (Non-discrimination)

#Article 3 (Best interests of the child)

## House captains

Congratulations to our newly elected house captains and vice captains who were voted into position by their peers on the Day of Democracy.



Quinn & Luke for Garabandal House  
Ava & Jessica-Lilly for Lourdes House  
Perry & Harry for Walsingham House  
Evie-Mai & Kaylin for Carmel House

## Beamish Trip – Class 2 - 3<sup>rd</sup> October



Class 2 visited Beamish Museum on 3<sup>rd</sup> October as part of their history topic. They visited the houses and had time to explore. Unfortunately, they were unable to go down the mine as there was a technical problem. Even so, they had a fantastic time!

## Phonics for Parents

We consider reading to be one of the most important skills that our children learn; it is the key that affects all areas of your child's learning and development. Reading starts with phonics. Grandparents and parents were welcomed into school for a session explaining phonics and for tips on how to help your child. A [free course for parents can be found here](#).

## Mrs Shorten

On Friday we said goodbye to Mrs Shorten our Caretaker who left our school after 9 years. We wish her well in her new job.

## **Harvest Festival 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Oct**

Harvest Festival celebrates the time of year when crops have been gathered from the field and people can reflect on the food that they have. It dates back to ancient Britain when people relied on crops for food and farmers would give thanks for a good harvest.



At school we learn about harvest time, and collect food for those in need in our local community. Whilst we are aware that these are difficult times for everyone if you can help at all in donating any items during the week we would be extremely grateful. It will all be passed onto our local food bank. Whilst we are grateful for any donations received, this year particularly useful items are:

- Tinned meat (stewing steak, mince, corned beef, hot dogs etc.)
- Instant coffee, dilute orange, instant hot chocolate
- Sugar, spray cooking oil, sage & onion stuffing
- Individual packets of cereal
- Lentil or leek & potato tinned soup
- Tinned rice, custard or large tins of evaporated milk
- Deodorants, shower gel, shampoo, shaving cream
- Large freezer bags, washing powder/tablets

Many thanks in advance for your donations.

## **Harvest Festival Mass – 20<sup>th</sup> October 9.30**

We will have Mass in Church on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October to thank God for his harvests and all our blessings. Please come along and support the church and school community.

## **Parents Afternoon – 17<sup>th</sup> October 1.15pm-5.30pm**

We are offering Parents' Afternoon this term where you will have a chance to speak with your child's teacher. The meetings will be taking place from 1:15pm.



## **October Half-Term**



We will break up for half-term on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October and return to school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October

## **Class 1 & 2 Leaving School**

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we get Class 1 exiting school in a way where we can hand children to their respective adult rather than having them run into a forest of tall people. I have received a lot of comments, some positive, some negative about using the rear gate. To give a final idea of how you would like to proceed, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code to answer a couple of simple questions. Then watch out for an update this week on moving forward. Many thanks.



## **Jorvik Visit in York – Class 4 – 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **November**

Class 4 will be visiting the Jorvik Viking Centre as part of their history topic. Children will be required to wear school jumpers, and will need: a packed Lunch, water Bottle and waterproof coat. It is probable the bus will leave early and return late.



## **Primary & Secondary School Places 2023 – 2024**

Please note that the deadline for primary school places for the academic year 2023 - 2024 is 15th January 2023. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**Applications for secondary school places** open on Monday 5 September 2022 and the **closing date for applications is Monday 31 October 2022**. To book either a primary or secondary school place follow the link [School places and admissions - Durham County Council](#)

### **Wilderness Camp Residential in 2023 (Class 4)**

We have pre booked the Wilderness camp in the Durham Dales again for next year, The dates are 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The estimated cost is £220 per child. Secure a place by paying a deposit of £30 payments may be made online from today. As in the past, a you may pay in instalments through the School Gateway. If you have any questions at all regarding this matter, please phone the school.

### **Reading**

We listen to your children read in school and have also invested in Reading Plus for our older children, but we are asking for your support in ensuring your child reads for 10 minutes a day at home, to maximise their reading progress. Reading each day really makes a difference on developing your child's vocabulary, their fluency as well as helping them with ideas in their writing tasks. For our pupils in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2, it is vital that your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day as staff will read frequently on a 1:1 basis with your child and record in their reading record any words or sounds they are struggling with so you can help them at home. We ask parents to sign and date when you hear your child read at home and make a positive comment.

### **Reading Plus**

Our KS2 children, (years 3-6) are now using the Reading Plus program to help become better readers. Reading Plus helps children develop the skills they need to be skilled readers and lifelong learners. The children seem to love it so please encourage them to read at home. Through regular Reading Plus practise, reading will become easier, and comprehension will increase. The children can engage with Reading Plus outside of school on a computer or any tablet with internet access. [Log in by clicking here.](#) **Our school code is: rpourla20**

### **Year of the Eucharist**

The Diocese has declared this year to be the Year of the Eucharist. The aim of the year is to deepen the children's love and understanding of Jesus in the Mass and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Each month we will celebrate a different theme and focus on a different part of the mass. In October, our focus is on Mission – We are sent out.



### **St Joseph's Savings Club**

To encourage children and adults to save, we have a link for a saving club through NE First Credit Union. Every child who joins the Savings Club will receive their own pass book. Please see Miss McKenna (school office) for an application form. **Books can be handed in at OLQM and will be processed at St Joseph's.** The Credit union also provides help and financial advice for all. If you would like more information visit their website <https://www.nefirstcu.co.uk/>

### **Journey in Faith**

Just as some of our children will be taking their next journey in faith by getting their First Holy Communion if any parents wanted to think about their own faith journey, and the presence of God in their lives, or wanted to discover more about what Catholics believe, then Father David is hoping to start an informal 'Journey in Faith' session shortly. Please contact him if you would like any further information.

### **Relationships & Sex Education**

Last term a lively discussion was held with parents around some aspects of the RSE curriculum that is taught in school. Come along to find out what the teaching of Relationships and Sex actually means for your child and help us make some key decisions – 9<sup>th</sup> November 9:15am.

### **Upcoming Dates**

I have added some key dates for the rest of the term in the hope that they give you some advanced warning. Please be aware that they may be subject to change and of course, more dates will be added as the diary fills.

## October Birthdays



Henry	12 <sup>th</sup>
Maisie	15 <sup>th</sup>
Kaylin	17 <sup>th</sup>
Frankie	19 <sup>th</sup>
Sophie	27 <sup>th</sup>
Piper	27 <sup>th</sup>



## Children's Corner

We are so proud and honoured that our House Groups voted and chose us as their House Captains -  
Quinn, Ava, Perry & Evie-Mai Y6

I love school especially school dinners -  
Isaac from Reception

I am so happy to be back at school and am enjoying the challenges of being in Y4. I was really happy that so many people came to The Macmillan Coffee Afternoon and ate all the cakes! -  
Rubie Y4

### This Month our Virtue to Live By is: Thankfulness

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1)

You show you are grateful for all that you have. You are grateful for all the people you know and all the things that happen around you each day. You grow in wonder about the world and see the world and your life as a gift from God. You accept the gifts you have and use your gifts to benefit others. Being thankful helps you to be generous to others.

#### In our Liturgical prayer and house groups we will be talking and learning about:

I can say thank you to God  
I take time to appreciate the awe and wonder in God's creation  
I show God I am thankful to Him by cherishing the gifts of His creation  
I am thankful for all the gifts in me and around me  
I count my blessings every day and remember to praise God for them  
I know that all I have is a gift from God

**Dates for this month - OLQM**

(May be subject to change)

**October**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Class 2 trip to Beamish
6 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics for Parents - 9.15am <i>or at STJ at 2:15pm</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Non-Uniform day for any bottle
10 <sup>th</sup>	Start of collection for Harvest Festival
12 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to school Day – <i>can you park further away and walk a short distance?</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Afternoon
20 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Mass All Welcome to Church 9:30am
21 <sup>st</sup>	Playground Leader Training – Y5
24 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for half term
31 <sup>st</sup>	Return to school for Autumn 2

**November**

1 <sup>st</sup>	All Saints Day
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Non-Uniform for a selection box
4 <sup>th</sup>	York Trip Class 4
8 <sup>th</sup>	SATs survival for parents 9.15am
8 <sup>th</sup>	Road Safety Day
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day
14 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Friendship/Anti-bullying week
16 <sup>th</sup>	Relationships & Sex Education Consultation for Parents 9.15-10.30am <i>Please attend – if you came to the last session, please spread the word!</i> <i>Repeated at STJ 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 9:15am</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Immunisations – <i>Have you completed your child's online NHS consent?</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Health & Wellbeing Day – Visit & Workshops for all from School Sport Partnership
21 <sup>st</sup>	Christ the King – Be a goodie wear a hoodie and donate to YMT
22 <sup>nd</sup>	World Toilet Day
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sports Hall Athletics – Class 4, am, water bottles needed
25 <sup>th</sup>	Whole school Panto trip
28 <sup>th</sup>	Reverse Advent calendar begins
29 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3 trip to Oriental Museum

**December**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Fayre (TBC)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Christmas Performance 6pm
7 <sup>th</sup>	Whole School Christmas Performance 10am
14 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunches and Christmas Jumpers day (TBC)
16 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fun Run
19 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Concert am (TBC)
21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas celebration/Parties/Santa Saunter
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Break up for Christmas Holidays

**January**

11 <sup>th</sup>	Children return to school
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