

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Monthly Update

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

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Issue 3
(2022-2023)



What a half term we have had at Our Lady's. It really has flown over! Our children have been amazing in their attitude, behaviour and learning. They have represented the school fantastically whether it be on school trips, events in school or in church at our masses. They truly are wonderful representatives of our school and you.

At our Harvest Mass, we gave thanks for our blessings and considered those in need. The collection for the harvest mass was amazing and all the donations have now been collected by the local food bank.

While we are thanking our blessings, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your donations of bottles and selection boxes for the Christmas Fayre; to those who attended the phonics for parents' session and the parent consultations themselves. Your feedback and comments during the consultation evenings are valued by the teachers and really do help us to help your child.

A quick plea: Do not leave children unsupervised in the car park. Many thanks.

Louise Keenan

#Article 2 (Non-discrimination)

#Article 3 (Best interests of the child)

Pupil Leadership

Congratulations to the following children who have taken up leadership positions within school. We thank them in advance for the leadership they will show!



School Council: Heidi, Ava, Kingsley, Ella, Evie-Mai, Quinn, Perry, Kane, Isaac & Finn
Mini Vinnies: Jamie, Rubie, Alfie, Lee, Maisie, Piper, Arthur, Bobby, Ronnie, Ollie, Niomi & Frankie

Eco Club: Megan, Niomi, Lola, Cian, Arthur, Orla, Mia, Harry W, Phoebe D, Penny & Freya F

Parking & School Access

Unfortunately, we have again received complaints regarding parents parking on the yellow lines near the school and of access being blocked to the school gates. Obviously, this is not an ideal situation as it is one that puts our children in danger.



It should be **everyone's priority** to ensure parking is **safe, respectful** and **legal**. Please try to adhere to these simple rules:

- Never Park on the yellow lines or any clear markings or safer crossing places, even for a few minutes;
- Never Park on pavements in a way which prevents pedestrians, disabled users or parents with prams/pushchairs from using the pavement;
- Try not to convene near the school gates as this is how children and parents access the school.

Many thanks for your continued support with this! Together we can make sure our children are safe.

Jorvik Visit in York – Class 4 – 4th

November

Class 4 went to York and visited the Jorvik Viking Centre as well as DIG as part of their history topic. It was a great day with lots of learning taking place, even though the bus journey was long!



Reception and Year 6 - Height & Weight – 3rd November

The school nurse visited school on 3rd November to measure the height and weights of the reception and year 6 children. You will have received a letter with more information from your local council regarding this matter. On the day, trained staff weighed your child and measured their height while they were in their clothes at school. They made sure the measurements are done sensitively and in private, and your child's results are not shared with teachers or other children. Your child does not have to take part, but every child who's measured is contributing to the national picture about how children are growing. The more children who take part, the clearer that picture will be. The information collected helps your local NHS and local council plan and provide better health services for our area.

SATS Parent Survival session – 8th November



This year the SATs for Y2 and Y6 and Multiplication testing of year 4 will take place. To help you support your children through this process, we will be hosting a parent information session on Tuesday 8th

November at 9.15am at OLQM and 2.15pm at St Joseph's. Please come along and find out how you can help your child to succeed!

Road Safety Day – 8th November



We will be completing work on Road Safety to help ensure that everyone can make safe and healthy choices every day. The

theme for this year is safe roads for all. Help your child learn more at [Safer Steps](#)
User name: durhamcc
Password: Durham21CC22

Relationship and Sex Education Consultation with Parents – 9th November

November

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 means for your child and help us make some key decisions on 16th November 9:15am.



The programme is based on the structure of 'A Model Catholic RSE Curriculum' by the Catholic Education Service. This is a vitally important part of our curriculum and one which can raise some tricky questions for teachers and parents alike. Please try to attend as we really value your opinion.

Remembrance Day Service – 11th November

We will be holding a liturgical prayer service and a minute's silence to remember all those we have lost.



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them." – Laurence Binyon

Odd Socks Day/Anti-bullying Week – 14th-18th November

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week and is designed to help raise awareness of bullying.



Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks to your school,

at work or at home, it couldn't be simpler!
<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/odd-socks-day/what-odd-socks-day>

Health and Wellbeing Day – 18th

November

We are lucky enough to have a PE teacher coming into school and provide a full educational day for our children. It will begin with a whole school assembly promoting the importance of staying active and give our children ideas and suggestions on how they can stay active in and out of school. Each class will then take part in a practical fitness sessions and workshops all focusing on wellbeing.



Christ the King – Be a goodie wear a Hoodie OR Dress as a King – 21st Nov

On Monday the 21st we would like all children to come to school dressed in a hoodie or as a king to support the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team and all the work they do both in and for our school communities. To support the wonderful work, they do – we ask for donations of a £1 payable via the school gateway and all monies raised will go directly to the Youth Mission Team.

Sleeping Beauty Panto – 25th November

On Friday 25th November we are off to the Panto to see Sleeping Beauty at the Durham Gala Theatre. Oh yes we are! We will be leaving school at 12.15 and will return after the end of the school day. You will be updated via texts. The PTA are hoping to be able to donate the cost of the coaches for all our children. The £7 ticket is to be paid for by parents via the school gateway.



Reverse advent calendar – 28th

November

We will once again, continue our tradition, we will take part in The Reverse Advent Calendar. The reverse advent calendar is a fun and easy way to help those in need. The idea is to concentrate on giving and helping, rather than only receiving and is a fantastic message to teach our children. All donations will be passed to local foodbanks for those in need. Whilst the charity 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, tea bags
- Sugar, spray cooking oil
- Lentil or leek & potato tinned soup
- Tinned rice pudding, custard or large tins of evaporated milk
- Tinned potatoes and vegetables
- Dried rice/noodle meals (just add water)
- Toilet rolls, cleaning products



Many thanks in advance for your donations.

Oriental Museum Visit for Class 3 – 29th

November

Class 3 will be visiting Durham's Oriental Museum as part of their history topic.



Children need to wear uniform and a coat. Bus will leave and return during the school day.

Christmas Dates

Please see below the provisional dates for our Christmas celebrations. Please note, although we hope they remain the same, they are subject to change. Any change will be communicated with you as soon as possible. More detailed information will be sent out in the next Newsletter.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding



Keeping our children safe and happy is our top priority. To view our Safeguarding Policies, please visit our website. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As a school we only ask our children to go on certain trusted websites that we have purchased. The websites we recommend to our children are:

Times Tables Rockstars - [Times Tables Rock Stars \(trockstars.com\)](https://www.trockstars.com)

Reading Plus – [Reading Plus Student Login](#)

Be assured that we never ask our children to do research at home as we are of the dangers that this could create.

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 was Monday 31 October 2022. To book either a primary or secondary school place follow the link [School places and admissions - Durham County Council](#)

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. We will shortly be sending out Reading for Pleasure books with the younger children. These are books that they have chosen and are intended for you to read to them. This will help them with the structure of stories, vocabulary and language. Remember to get really involved and do the voices or a dance if necessary!

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](#)

St Joseph's Savings Club – Open to Everyone

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. 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 preparing for 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.

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.

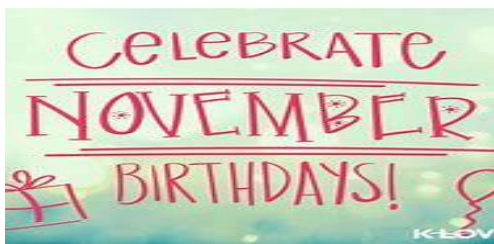


Children's Corner

Class 4 had a fantastic day at the Yorvik Centre on Friday. We learned about how the Vikings lived in their villages. (Article 31)
By Harry Y6

We know that drinking water keeps us healthy and hydrated. Plastic water bottles are reusable and better for the environment. (Article 24)
By Lexie

I love being in the Mini Vinnies. We are going to sell Poppies for the Royal British Legion. The money raised helps to support service men and women. (Article 24)
By Bobby



Albie	Kingsley	Lola
Evie-Mai	Eva	Alex
Bobby		Iris

This Month our Virtue to Live By is:

Hope

“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

You know that when life gets hard you don't give up but carry on hoping that things will get better. You dream of a better world or something better that will come in the future. You live for something greater than yourself.

Your hope drives out selfishness and boredom and encourages you to engage with your community and do good works. You trust that God is at work moving the world towards what is good.

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

I believe and trust that God will not give up on me

I am positive about the future

I don't give up on myself

I have hopes and dreams that we can all work for a better world

I pray to God placing my life in his hands

I know God has a plan for me

Dates for this month - OLQM

(May be subject to change)

October

31st Return to school for Autumn 2

November

1st All Saints Day

3rd Non-Uniform for a selection box

3rd Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight

4th York Trip Class 4

8th SATs survival for parents 9.15pm or 2:15am at STJ

8th Road Safety Day

9th Return your Home Walk booklet by today in order to receive a reward. It doesn't matter how far you managed to walk, just bring it in!

11th Remembrance Day

14th -18th Friendship/Anti-bullying week

15th Odd Socks Day today

16th Relationships & Sex Education Consultation for Parents 9.15-10.30am
Please attend – if you came to the last session, please spread the word!
Repeated at STJ 9th Nov 9:15am

17th Flu Immunisations – *Have you completed your child's online NHS consent?*

18th Health & Wellbeing Day

21st Christ the King – Be a goodie wear a hoodie or dress as a king, £1 donation for YMT please

22nd World Toilet Day

22nd Class 4 – Sports Hall Athletics

24th School Photographs – Siblings will be photographed together and individually

25th Whole school Panto trip

28th Reverse Advent calendar begins

29th Class 3 trip to Oriental Museum

December

1st Christmas Fayre – held in school. Please contact the PTA to help out.

6th Whole School Christmas Performance 6pm

7th Whole School Christmas Performance 10am

14th Christmas Lunches and Christmas Jumpers day (TBC)

16th Christmas Fun Run

19th Carol Concert pm (TBC)

21st Christmas celebration/Parties

22nd Break up for Christmas Holidays

January

11th Children return to school