

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Primary Monthly Update

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



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Happy New Year everyone! I hope you have had a restful and loving family Christmas and wish you all a happy and healthy 2023. Thank you so much for the kind and thoughtful cards, presents and gifts sent into school before the Christmas break. Our staffroom is very well stocked!

Louise Keenan

#Article 2 (Non-discrimination)

#Article 3 (Best interests of the child)

Children's Reports

Reports will be sent out next week. If your child has a support plan this will be included in with their report and we ask that you pop into the office to sign the plan. If you would like to discuss your child's report with their teacher, please contact school to make an appointment.

Bikeability – Year 5 & 6 – Mon 30 Jan to Thur 2 Feb

Year 5 & 6 will be able to partake in bikeability. All children will need their own bike (full working brakes) and helmet. Permission slips will be sent out prior to the sessions and these will need completing electronically in order to participate.

Attendance

Good attendance is key to your child being able to fulfil their potential and make good progress in school. One of the most important ways a parent can support the education of their child and ensure the child's social, emotional and academic development is to ensure they attend every day and on time. As you know, this can only be achieved if your child is attending school and has a good level of attendance. 96%

attendance is regarded as the minimum acceptable level of attendance. In the New Year, we will endeavour to report to you more regularly if your child has weak attendance as we need to understand why your child attendance is below the national expectation and how this can be improved. As per this year, no holidays will be authorised and any unauthorised attendance will be referred to the Local Authority who may issue a fine to parents who have parental responsibility for the child. We appreciate that there are genuine reasons for absence and we have had genuine conversations with parents in regards to this but we must also address any attendance that falls below expectations in line with DfE and Durham County Council guidelines.

Contact Details

If any of your details have changed recently can we please ask that you contact the school office. This could be a change of address, or a change of phone number or perhaps a change in emergency contact details. We will then update our school records accordingly. We need a minimum of two contacts, for safeguarding purposes, to ensure we can make contact in an emergency. If you wish to change the names of people on the pick-up list please contact the school office.

Parking & School Access

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.

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 - [ReadingPlus 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.

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](#)

New Build

I am absolutely delighted that Our Lady Queen of Martyrs has been chosen for a feasibility study with the potential result being a new build. Please keep us in your prayers over the coming months that everything goes to plan.

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. 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/>

Savings books would be collected and redistributed at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs but the bank takes place independently at St Joseph's parish, hence the name.


As a member of the Savings Club you will be entitled to financial advice and be able to access affordable, short-term loans if required.

Term Dates 2023-24

These are below. Please note that they differ to Durham County dates as ours are set by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

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.

		
Phoebe S	Ava	Xander
	Luke	

This Month our Virtue to Live By is:

Faith

“I welcome miracles. I believe in great possibilities. I have faith in my destiny. I release fear and worry. My heart knows what is true. I trust in the journey of life.”

Linda Kavelin Popov

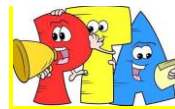
FAITH – is to trust. Faith helps us grow in friendship with Jesus and his friendship helps us become the best we can be by trusting in him so we can become more like him. Growing in friendship with Jesus means learning to trust him and knowing that he is always with us. Faith is always open to new things because if you have faith you are a trusting person. A person of faith believes in God and all that God has done. But faith is not simply a belief that something is true, it is a way of living. We are called not only to keep the faith but to live a faithful life filled with hope and love.

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

Faith being a gift from God

Faith helping us grow in friendship with Jesus

Showing our faith by living life filled with hope and love




NEWS

The PTA have helped school out enormously with the Christmas events and are now helping to buy all the books from our Amazon wish list.
THANK YOU!

Look out for information regarding the AGM (Annual General Meeting) as you are invited to come along.

Dates for this month - OLQM**(May be subject to change)**

January	
11 th	Children return to school
17 th	Zumba Taster Session – Class 3 & 4
19 th	New Age Kurling Taster Session – Whole School
30 th	Year 5/6 Bikeability
31 st	Year 5/6 Bikeability
February	
1 st	Year 5/6 Bikeability
2 nd	Year 5/6 Bikeability
7 th	Polar Federation Day – Class 2
17 th	Children break up for February half-term
27 th	Children return for school
27 th	Northern Ballet Workshop – Year 1 & 2
28 th	First Aid sessions begin for Y1 & Y5
March	
7 th	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
14 th	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
21 st	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
24 th	Intra School Sports Day
27 th	Reception vision screening
28 th	First Aid sessions for Y1 & Y5
	Bike Day – Whole School
31 st	Break up for Easter holiday
April	
17 th	Children return to school
May	
8 th	School Closed – King Charles' Coronation
9 th - 12 th	KS2 SATS
16 th	Striking & Fielding PE Event, am, Class 2
15 th – 19 th	KS1 SATS
22 nd – 24 th	Wilderness Camp for Y5 & Y6
27 th	Break up for May half term
June	
5 th	Children return to school
July	
6 th	Superhero PE Session, pm, Class 1
21 st	Break up for Summer holidays

	Open for teaching	<i>Last day of teaching</i>	<i>Half Term</i>	<i>Open for teaching</i>	Last day of teaching
Autumn Term	Wednesday 6 September 2023	<i>Friday 20 October</i>	<i>23– 27 October</i>	<i>Monday 30 October</i> School Closed Monday 27 November	Friday 22 December
Spring Term	Tuesday 9 January 2024	<i>Friday 9 February</i>	<i>12 – 16 February</i>	<i>Monday 19 February</i>	Thursday 28 March
Summer Term	Monday 15 April 2024 School Closed Monday 6 May	<i>Friday 24 May</i>	<i>27 May – 31 May</i>	<i>Monday 3 June</i> School Closed Monday 17 June	Tuesday 23 July 2024