



OLQP NEWS

Friday 20th March 2026

<https://ourladyqueenofpeacepenshaw.bwcet.com>



... created to flourish in God's image ...

Dear Parents,

As we approach Holy Week and the end of our Spring term, there are a few additional events, activities and prayer and liturgy opportunities planned. Please read the following information carefully. An overview of the diary dates is below, and further details included on the next few pages. Thank you very much.

Forthcoming Events

A reminder to parents of the following events that are coming up in school:

Monday 23rd March

Parents' Evening appointments for EYFS and Year 1 to Year 5 classes

Tuesday 24th March

Parents' Evening appointments for Seurat class (Miss Mitchell)

3:30pm – Year 6 SATs booster classes

Wednesday 25th March

2:00pm – Rocksteady concert for parents or carers of pupils who play in the band! Please come to the Hall

Thursday 26th March

10:00am – Year 3 and Year 4 attending Mass – Picasso class to lead. All are welcome to attend

Parents' Evening appointments for EYFS and Year 1 to Year 5 classes

Friday 27th March

9:00am – Seurat Celebration of the Word - parents or carers of pupils in Seurat class are all welcome

Tuesday 31st March

2:00pm – Stations of the Cross in Church for Key Stage 2 pupils – parents or carers are welcome to attend

3:30pm – Year 6 SATs booster classes

Wednesday 1st April

Year 6 Parents' Evening appointments

Thursday 2nd April

Year 6 Parents' Evening appointments

CAFOD Big Lent Walk (morning) with families



Parents' Evenings

Our Spring term Parents' Evenings will be held on the following dates. Parents should have booked appointments via Arbor. If any parents are having difficulties signing up, please contact the school office.

Monday 23rd March

Nursery (Mrs Brown) and Reception (Mrs Duncan and Miss Boal) appointments will take place in the Hall.

Year 1 and all Year 3 to Year 5 classes, appointments will also take place in the Hall.

Year 2 (Constable class with Mrs Fraser) – if parents have an appointment between 2:30pm and 3:30pm, please come to the main office. After 3:30pm, please go to the Hall.

Tuesday 24th March

If parents have an appointment with Miss Mitchell for Seurat class, please come to the main office.

Thursday 26th March

Nursery (Miss Rowell) and Reception (Mrs Brown and Miss Boal) appointments will take place in the Hall.

Year 1 and all Year 3 to Year 5 classes, appointments will also take place in the Hall.

Year 2 (Mondrian class with Mrs Elder) – if parents have an appointment between 2:30pm and 3:30pm, please come to the main office. After 3:30pm, please go to the Hall.

Year 6 Parents' Evening Appointments

These will take place on Wednesday 1st April from 3:30pm to 5:30pm and on Thursday 2nd April from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Appointment slots are now available to book on Arbor. This is an opportunity to have a more in-depth conversation with your child's English and Maths teacher as we approach the forthcoming SATs in May. We are hopeful that parents may be able to book their appointment times around the CAFOD Lent Walk on Thursday 2nd April. Please come to the main office for any Year 6 appointments.

General Information

There will be an opportunity to view your child's books in the Hall / classrooms before or after your appointment time. We will also be asking parents to complete our annual questionnaire which will be sent as a link via Arbor after all parents' evenings have taken place.

Please try to attend on time and stay for your allotted appointment slot only. If parents have more questions, or would like more detail following the appointment, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher and a follow up meeting can be arranged.

It is so important that teachers keep to time, where possible, in order to reduce waiting times.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Holy Week

During this important and special time of the Church's year, we will be participating in prayer and liturgy opportunities as part of our Holy Week celebrations.

KS2 will be attending Stations of the Cross in Church on Tuesday 31st March at 2:00pm. Parents and family members of pupils in KS2 are welcome to join us.

Please note that it has been necessary to cancel the whole school Mass that was pencilled in for Thursday 2nd April at 10:00am. We apologise for any inconvenience caused; however, our Priests are unable to say Mass that morning.

Instead, as part of our Lenten fundraising campaign, we will be participating in the CAFOD Big Lent Walk on Thursday 2nd April. Each House Group will be taking part in this sponsored walking event which will be around the school grounds.

All children from Nursery to Year 6 are placed into House Groups and siblings are placed into the same House Group. You can view your child's House Group by looking at the home page, next to their photograph, on their Arbor account:



Kandinsky Y4 Thomas

If any parents are unable to view their child's House Group, please contact the school office.

Parents and family members are invited to start the walk with a cup of Fairtrade coffee or tea and a Fairtrade biscuit in the Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before your child's walk begins if you wish to enjoy a much-needed refreshment! At the allocated time for your child's House Group to leave, parents or carers will meet their child on the yard. We will walk around the school field and into Church where we will say prayers together. We will then complete the walk around the school grounds and end back on the playground where children will return to class. Our school chapel will also be open for any parents or family members who wish to add prayers and intentions to our prayer stations. The walk should take around 30 minutes per House Group. The timings are as follows:

09:20am - Matthew House

09:30am - Mark House

09:40am - John House

09:50am - Thomas House

10:00am - Luke House

10:10am - Andrew House

10:20am - Aidan House

10:30am - James House

Please ensure that children (and adults!) are dressed appropriately for the weather with suitable walking shoes. Thank you very much.

By challenging ourselves to this walk, we will be playing our part in helping to continue to fight global poverty with CAFOD. Please show our children your support by donating, as sponsorship, on our Just Giving page. Donations are welcome up to and including Friday 10th April. We thank you all so much for your generosity and support.

[Our Lady Queen of Peace Big Lent Walk Just Giving Page](#)

We look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 2nd April.

CAFOD Workshops

We have been delighted to welcome a representative from CAFOD to talk to the children in assembly this morning. Steve spoke about the important charity work that CAFOD do to support those who are less fortunate than we are. He shared real life stories and pictures explaining how CAFOD help people to tackle injustice and poverty in 40 countries around the world, '*because a better world needs all of us working together.*'

The children then completed workshops with Steve or spent time in their classes learning more about this wonderful charity and how its vision, mission and values draw directly from Catholic Social Teaching, Scripture, Liturgy, the Gospel and the tradition of the Church. '*Catholic Social Teaching is at the heart of what we do and who we are.*'

We have made a pledge to Steve that we will try to work together to raise as much money as we can for CAFOD through our Big Lent Walk, where the funds raised will be used to bring sources of life saving water to some of the poorest parts of our world. Thank you again for your generosity and support.

St John XXIII Parish Big Lent Walk

Our Parish community of St John XXIII are hosting a Parish picnic in support of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. Everyone is invited to meet at Herrington Park Amphitheatre at 11am on Saturday 28th March for a short walk followed by a bring-your-own picnic! For more information, please see the latest [Parish newsletter](#).

Attendance

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for the last three weeks has been 93.9%. Our whole school attendance is lower than usual as the spread of chicken pox has affected many of our younger children. We really hope they are feeling better very soon.

We are delighted to announce that the winners of our attendance trophy for each week have been:

Week 1 – Picasso class with 100%

Week 2 – Picasso class with 98.1%

Week 3 – Kandinsky class with 100%

If parents have any questions about their child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact school and a member of the attendance team will be in touch.

Year 4 Skipping Festival

Our Year 4 pupils attended the annual Sunderland skipping festival at the Beacon of Light this Wednesday. They were absolutely fantastic and demonstrated their skills and talents superbly.

They have got through to the Sunderland City Finals which will be held on Wednesday 24th June at the Beacon of Light. We are so proud of them. Many congratulations Year 4, here's to the finals!



Drop Off and Pick Up Times at EYFS

Drop off and pick up times are always a busy part of the school day. When children are in Nursery and Reception, there is often a greater need to communicate with your child's teachers and pass on important messages. Where possible, could we ask parents to share information at the end of the school day, rather than in the morning. As parents will appreciate, a smooth start to the day is so important for the children, staff and so parents can get straight to work. If lots of information is being shared first thing in the morning, it can slow down the safe and calm process of getting children into the classroom quickly.

If any urgent messages need to be passed on, please feel free to pop into the school office, send an email or Weduc or catch your child's class teacher during pick up. Thank you for your help and support in this matter.

Staffing Updates

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Duffy to join our team of staff here at Our Lady Queen of Peace. Mrs Duffy is the Year 5 and Year 6 class teacher in Dali class. She has had a warm welcome to our school this week and we wish her all the very best for this new chapter in her career.

Payments on Arbor

Please could we remind all parents to top up their child's Arbor account and clear any outstanding debts before the Easter holidays, particularly for Breakfast and After School Club and for school lunches if school meals are paid for.

Outstanding debts have to be paid directly to our suppliers from the school's budget. This is very quickly taking money from our limited funds if we cannot clear the outstanding monies owed. We understand that times are hard at the moment and there are many financial pressures upon families; we are sorry that we have to write such reminders on our newsletter. If parents are having financial difficulties and would like to set up a payment plan, please speak to Mrs Ludford in confidence.

Payments can be made online via the Arbor app or parent portal, or alternatively you can pay by cash at the school office. Please note: all meals should be paid for in advance of your child receiving them. We would suggest topping up the account each weekend for the coming week or making a monthly payment in advance, where possible, so the account does not go into arrears. Thank you for your understanding.

Easter Holidays

School closes on Thursday 2nd April for the Easter Holidays. School will reopen to all pupils and staff on Monday 20th April. Details of our Parish Holy Week masses and liturgies will be published with our next newsletter.