



OLQP NEWS



Friday 1st May 2026

<https://ourladyqueenofpeacepenshaw.bwcet.com>

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

Dear Parents, we hope you have a wonderful weekend and a lovely Bank Holiday Monday.
Please read the following information carefully for important updates.

Forthcoming Events

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

Monday 4th May

School closed – Bank Holiday Monday

Tuesday 5th May

Balance bike training in Reception (every Tuesday until half term)

3:30pm – Year 6 SATs booster classes

Friday 8th May

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

Monday 11th May to Friday 15th May

Year 6 SATs week

Monday 18th May – Friday 29th May

Sports week begins

Wednesday 20th May

3:30pm – Sacramental Preparation session 7

Thursday 21st May

10:00am – Year 5 and Year 6 attending Mass at Church – all welcome

Friday 22nd May

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

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May

School closed – May half term



Thank you

Thank you so much to every family member who came to support our CAFOD Big Lent walk just before Easter. It was a wonderful morning, and it was fantastic to see the children and their families walking together for such a good cause. In total, we have raised an amazing £487 for a very worthwhile charity. Thank you.

NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe



As parents are aware, where appropriate, all children have now taken part in the NSPCC's Speak out, Stay safe programme. Children have been taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe and trusted adult or Childline. If parents have any concerns, questions or worries, please speak to the School Office or your child's classteacher. If you would like to know more about the Speak out, Stay safe programme please see the links attached to the letter sent via Weduc or visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

Nee Dohs

Nee Dohs are the most recent craze amongst the children. Many of them are very expensive, very personal and it is upsetting for the children if they are lost or damaged. We are therefore asking parents to support school in ensuring that these remain at home and are not brought into school in bags please. This will save jealousy and friendship disagreements. If your child requires a fidget toy, as listed on their SEND Support Plan, school and home will work together to provide the most appropriate sensory toy for their needs. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sports Week



We will be holding our annual Sports Week again, every day, week beginning Monday 18th May.

As in previous years, the children can wear PE kit for the full week and will take part in a carousel of activities across the week including wheelchair basketball, the climbing wall, caving and events from Elite Sports.

More information will follow – but please save the date. We will also be encouraging pupils and parents to walk some, or all, of the way to school, where possible, that week as we have registered with 'Living Streets' to help to promote healthy and active lifestyles. We look forward to a fun-filled week before half term!

Please note: Sports Days will not take place during this week. They will remain, as per the calendar, on the following dates:

Monday 22nd June

9:15am – 10:30am – Year 3 and Year 4

2:00pm – 3:15pm – Year 1 and Year 2

Tuesday 23rd June

9:15am – 10:30am – Year 5 and Year 6

2:00pm – 3:15pm – Nursery and Reception

Relationships and Health Education (RHE)

Teaching Relationships and Health Education is a statutory part of our curriculum and strongly links with the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) statutory curriculum. As a Catholic school, we follow a scheme of work entitled '*Ten Ten – Life to the Full*'. This has been approved by our Diocese and Bishop Stephen. It is taught with a spiral approach to learning in which pupils will revisit the same topics at an age-appropriate stage through their school life, the programme includes teaching about personal health, physical and emotional well-being, strong emotions, private parts of the body, personal relationships, family structures, trusted adults, growing bodies, puberty, life cycles, the dangers of social media, an understanding of the Common Good and living in the wider world.

The entire teaching is underpinned with a Christian faith understanding that our deepest identity is as a child of God – created, chosen and loved by God. The programme is fully inclusive of all pupils and their families

As part of Life to the Full, an Online Parent Portal can be accessed. It provides a summary of each lesson, links to specific content and suggestions for further engagement at home. Parents can view the content on the Online Parent Portal by visiting:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Username: our-lady-dh4

Password: mercury-1-dh4



If parents have any concerns, questions or worries, please speak to the School Office, your child's classteacher or ask for an appointment to speak to Mrs Lamond or Mrs Garbutt.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for the last fortnight is 95.3%. This is close to our target; keep working hard everyone.

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

Week 1 – Rousseau class with a brilliant 99%

Week 2 – Constable class with a fantastic 100%

Children came home with attendance certificates for the Spring term last Friday. Many children across the school were awarded certificates for 100% attendance or excellent attendance (97% or above). Congratulations to you all!

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.

Spirited Arts Competition

Mrs Lamond has been running our Spirited Arts competition recently. A huge thank you to the children who have already submitted entries – we are very impressed at the standard and beautiful images you have captured. For any child who has not had the chance to complete this yet, and would like to enter, the deadline is **Tuesday 5th May**. The children have been asked to draw, photograph or creatively capture 'God's creation in nature'. If they can, they have also been asked to link their work to a scripture quote from the Bible such as: *'Be still and know that I am God'* Psalms 46:10. We look forward to seeing your entries. Children from all year groups can enter and the winners will be judged in age categories. Thank you for taking the time to observe and appreciate the beauty of God's creations.

Month of May

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady. In this special month, we are going to pray the Rosary together. Each class will be praying 1 Hail Mary a day with a special intention such as for our families, school, parish or for peace in the world. Alongside this our Mini Vinnies will be leading a decade of the Rosary each Wednesday lunchtime in the Chapel. This will be held at 12:15pm for KS1, 12:30pm for LKS2 and 12:45pm for UKS2. Children are welcome to bring their own Rosary beads in from home; however, we also have class sets of Rosary beads in school. If parents have any prayer intentions they would like us to remember, please let Mrs Lamond know.

Our families and school community will be in our prayers during this special month.



'Our Faith' section of our website

Our school website is always being updated. Recently we have updated the sections entitled 'Our Faith'. If parents would like to know more about the Catholic Life and Mission or Prayer and Liturgy that takes place in our school, please visit the following link: [Our Faith](#)

We would welcome any feedback on this newly developed section of our website.

If parents have any positive comments or suggestions for improvements, please send us a Weduc message.



Parents' Survey

We always welcome feedback from our parents and are very grateful for the time you take to complete surveys and respond to emails or messages. Please find a link to our annual parents' survey which we would be very grateful if parents could complete. The survey will close on Friday 22nd May at 5pm.

Thank you in advance for your support.

[Parents' Survey Link](#)

Year 6 SATs Week

From Monday 11th May, our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SAT tests. The children have worked incredibly hard for these, and we are all very proud of the dedication they have shown. We know the Year 6 pupils will do their very best, and that is all anyone can ask of them.

The tests are a statutory requirement of the Government, therefore, wherever possible, please could you ensure that your child attends school all week and is punctual every morning. If your child is seriously unwell, please let Mrs Garbutt know via the School Office as soon as possible as we have standard procedures to follow in the event that a pupil is unable to sit their SAT paper.

Mrs Hogg will be providing sausage or bacon sandwiches and juice before school starts to give the children that extra boost! Year 6 parents will receive separate communication about these arrangements. We are all very proud of you Year 6 - make sure that you get some early nights, have a good breakfast and keep smiling!

Our Year 5 pupils will be taught their normal curriculum subjects with Mrs Duffy and Mrs Forbister each day, however, they will be based in other rooms in school during the SATs tests. If we could ask Year 5 to enter school each morning during SATs week via the doors into the Hall please. They will be registered in the Hall to allow Year 6 to settle quickly in their classrooms. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Family Hub Activities

Our school lies within the 'Coalfields' area of our community.

Together for Children run a weekly timetable of events for families. This includes sessions such as sleep workshops, baby massage, play space and sensory room drop ins, support from *Daisy Chain* and much more. Please find the calendar of events attached to our newsletter.

These sessions are running from Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May 2026. For any queries, please contact Family.hubhetton@togetherforchildren.org.uk or telephone: 0191 561 6625.



Payments on Arbor

Please could we remind all parents to top up their child's Arbor account and clear any outstanding debts in a timely manner, particularly for Breakfast and After School Club and for school lunches if school meals are paid for. 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. We understand that there are many financial pressures upon families; we are sorry that we must 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. Thank you for your understanding.



Coalfield Best Start Family Hub Timetable
Monday 20th April - Friday 22nd May 2026
Family.hubhetton@togetherforchildren.org.uk
Postcode: DH5 9NE Telephone: 0191 561 6625



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Review & Development Clinic 10 – 11.30am</p> <p>Super Communicators 10 – 10.45am Referral only</p> <p>Daisy Chain Drop In 20th & 27th April, 11th & 18th May 10am - 12noon</p> <p>Sensory Room - Bookable 9.30-10am 10.15-10.45am 11-11.30am</p> <p>Young Mams 'n' Dads (14 - 22 years) 1.30 - 2.30pm Drop In</p> <p>Sleep Workshop 11th & 18th May 12.45 - 2.45pm</p> <p>Sensory Room Bookable 2.45 - 3.15pm 3.30 – 4pm 4.15 – 4.45pm</p>	<p>Baby Messy Play/Sensory Drop in (0 - 12 months) 9.30 - 10.15am</p> <p>Tobacco Dependency Service 9am - 4pm Referral only</p> <p>Busy Bodies - Drop in (Walkers - 5 years) 11 – 11.45am</p> <p>Sensory Room - Bookable (0-5 years) 9.30 - 10am 10.15 - 10.45am 11 - 11.30am</p> <p>Play Space & Sensory Room Drop in (0 - 5 years) 1 - 2.30pm</p> <p>GroBrain 12.45 - 2.45pm Bookable</p> <p>Sensory Room - Bookable (0-25 years with parents/carers) 3.30 - 4pm 4.15 - 4.45pm</p>	<p>Birth Registrations - Bookable via Sunderland Council website</p> <p>Childminder Network Fortnightly</p> <p>Daisy Chain Drop In 6th May - 10am - 12noon</p> <p>Daisy Chain Multi-Agency Drop In 22nd April & 13th May 10am - 12pm</p> <p>Sensory Room - Bookable 9.30 - 10, 10.15 - 10.45, 11- 11.30am 1.15 - 1.45pm, 2 - 2.30 2.45 - 3.15, 3.30 - 4, 4.15 - 4.45pm</p> <p>Time for Rhyme (Birth- pre crawling) Excluding 29th April & 13th May 1.45 - 2.30pm</p> <p>Little Adventurers 1 - 2.30pm Referral Only</p> <p>Baby Massage at Houghton Library 1 - 2pm - To book email space4hub@gmail.com</p> <p>Introduction to Solids 29th April - 1 - 2pm To book please call 0300 0031552</p>	<p>Play Space & Sensory Room Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9.30 - 11.30am</p> <p>Growing Healthy Drop In 10 - 11.30am</p> <p>Family Voice 24th April & 22nd May 10.45am - 12.15pm</p> <p>Baby Massage 1.30 - 2.30pm (Excluding 1st May) Bookable</p> <p>Buggy Walk 1 - 2pm then PlaySpace</p> <p>Sensory Room - Bookable (0-25 years with parents/carers) 1.15 - 1.45pm 2-2.30pm 2.45 - 3.15pm</p>	<p>PlaySpace & Sensory Room Drop in (0 - 5 years) 9.30 - 11.30am</p> <p>Growing Healthy Drop In 10 - 11.30am</p> <p>Family Voice 24th April & 22nd May 10.45am - 12.15pm</p> <p>Baby Massage 1.30 - 2.30pm (Excluding 1st May) Bookable</p> <p>Buggy Walk 1 - 2pm then PlaySpace</p> <p>Sensory Room - Bookable (0-25 years with parents/carers) 1.15 - 1.45pm 2-2.30pm 2.45 - 3.15pm</p>

Social media

Follow Sunderland Family Hubs on Facebook and Instagram.



Find out more at www.linksforlifesunderland.co.uk/familyhubs



Midwife Booking In Appointments. As soon as you find out you are pregnant, contact a GP or Midwife and they will help you book your first appointment. Your first Midwife appointment (also called the booking appointment) should happen before you are 10 weeks pregnant. This is because you'll be offered some tests that should be done before 10 weeks.

Antenatal Parent Programme - A five week course for parents to be, and can book from 26 weeks gestation by calling 03000 031 552.

Birth Registrations - Please book via Sunderland City Council website. Register a birth, a new born baby must be registered within 42 days of the date of birth. The baby should be registered in the district where it was born.

Review and Development Clinic - please book through your Health Visitor. Call 03000 031552.

Sensory Room (from birth) sensory lights and equipment to help develop your child's senses. Also for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years. 30 minute exclusive slots are available.

Breastfeeding Support to share experiences and advice about your breastfeeding journey with other parents. There is no need to book simply drop into any of the sessions.

Growing Healthy Drop In

Come along to meet others and learn some useful tips and advice. There will be scales available to weigh your baby.

Gro Brain Baby Course is for parents of babies pre-birth to 12 months. It focusses on bonding and brain development, and the vital part parents and carers play in 'wiring up' the connections in their baby's brain in the first 1001 critical days of life. This 'brain wiring' lays the foundation for emotional wellbeing and the way emotions will be handled in later life.

Baby Messy Play/Sensory Play. This is a session that allows children to explore different materials encouraging creativity using their hands and feet. Often involving messy ingredients such as paint, sand, water, cereal or pasta, it is geared toward exploring feelings and imagination through textures and colours.

Time for Rhyme (birth - crawling) is an interactive session for babies and their parents / carers. Sessions are based around sharing nursery rhymes, action songs, musical instruments and books.

Move to Rhyme (Crawling to pre-walking) an interactive session for babies and their parents/ carers to share nursery rhymes, action songs, musical instruments and books.

Busy Bodies – walkers - 5 years. A music and movement session to work on physical skills, experience free movement to support growth and development.

Stay and Play (0-5 years) have fun with your little one whilst socialising with parents. Each week we will have a themed activity such as books, messy play and everyday opportunities.

Introduction to Solid Food - Support to wean your baby on to solid food, understanding baby's cues, healthy key messages and food tasting. Your baby should be around 6 months old to attend the class. Please contact Health Visiting Service on 03000 031 552 to book.

Stop Smoking Support - Are you worried about how smoking is affecting your health and your families? Are you thinking of stopping smoking? Join us for our free stop smoking drop in sessions. An appointment can also be made on a one - one basis at a time to suit you, contact your hub to find out more and arrange.

Play Space (0-5 years) a parent led session, where parents are encouraged to play and interact with your child/ren in a friendly environment.

Young Mams n Dads is a dedicated friendly group for parents aged between 14 & 22 years old, to have fun and socialise. Includes sensory, messy play, crafts, cooking and much more for the children.

FISCUS is an independent charity based in Hendon, we offer benefits and debt advice, food parcel, baby bank, adult clothes bank and we have an energy team who also offer fuel vouchers, warm packs, home energy visits and warm home solutions. The advice is friendly, professional and confidential'.

Mams' Minds Matter (Maternal Mental Health Week)

A gentle wellbeing walk, a cuppa and refreshments, optional well-being activities, information, support and advice, and opportunities for mams to support one another.

These sessions are suitable for Mams and children under 1 year old, due to the sensitive nature of discussions.

Breast Pump Loan Scheme

Can be loaned on a 4 weekly basis. Each pack comes with information on how to use and a guide on how to clean.

Call 03000 031552 to find out more.

Registering

Please complete a registration form using the QR code, or visit any of our Family Hubs to register. After registering, remember to sign in each time you visit any hub. Everything is completely FREE!

