



November 2011 Newsletter

Father Melia (5th April 1930 - 25th October 2011)

Very sadly Father Melia died during our half term holiday, following a long period of ill health. Father Melia was a priest in Ponteland for over 30 years and regularly came into school to lead our collective worship. He was a real character within the local community and he will be greatly missed. The congregation at the Mass to celebrate Father Melia's life was made up of people of all faiths and was testament to the high regard in which he was held.

PTA Halloween Disco

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA Halloween Disco on Thursday 20 October. Everyone had a great time and a staggering £1130 was raised. Many thanks to all of those parents who worked tirelessly in the preparation.

Harvest Festival

I hope that all parents who attended the Harvest Festival enjoyed the celebration. This year we invited the elderly residents from the bungalows opposite the school and Hannah Middleton (Methodist Church) and elderly members of their congregation. All of our visitors enjoyed the morning and particularly enjoyed trying the soup that was cooked by our Cookery Club using the produce from our school gardens.

Thank you to everyone who sent in tins for our collection for The People's Kitchen in Newcastle.

We have received a letter of thanks in school which contained the following:

Dear Children

I am writing to thank you for sending all the food that you collected at your Harvest Festival to The People's Kitchen.

This year, we are finding that more people than ever, are needing a hot meal and the gifts you have brought from home are very important to allow us to support those who use our charity.

When you go home, please will you thank your family and, indeed, anyone who has given you support. You should be proud that you have been able to help so many needy people.

Yours sincerely

Robert Eldridge (Chairman of the trustees)

Middle School Applications

The deadline for Middle School applications has now passed. If any parents have not yet applied for a middle school place you must do this as a matter of urgency.

Reception 2012 Applications

Applications for reception places in 2012 are now open. Applications can be made on-line from 1/11/11 at

www.northumberland.gov.uk/admissions. Parents who are resident in Newcastle can apply online at

www.newcastle.gov.uk/admissions.

Please note that applications must be made to the local authority where you live.

The closing date for applications is January 2012.

If you know of anyone who is looking for a school place for September please invite them to contact the school office to arrange a time to visit us.

Trim Trail

Please do not allow children to access the trim trail before school or after school as this equipment is not supervised at this time and this could lead to an accident being caused.

Evening Chronicle - Wish Tokens

A reminder that we are still collecting wish tokens from The Evening Chronicle in aid of the Toma Fund which is a children's cancer charity. Wish tokens are printed in The Evening Chronicle from October - January 2012 and can be converted to cash for the charity. If you get The Evening Chronicle please collect the tokens and send them into school. We have a collection box and more information about the charity in our main reception area.

Parking

There are currently 2 parents/childminders who have permission to park in the car park at Richard Coates Middle School before and after school. Permission has been granted for them to have a special parking space due to disability. Please note that no other parents should be using these parking spaces and gates will be closed to prevent general access. Once again all parents are urged to park in the village car parks and walk up Thornhill Road to access the school site.

Solar Panels

Work to install the solar panels has now been completed. On Monday 7th November the children will have a talk about them in our assembly and the energy saving benefits of them.

Eco Green Flag

Our Eco Green Flag had to be removed last term as it had become caught on the roof and was shredded at the edges. It looked more like we had been ship wrecked rather than an award for our environmental work. Thank you to Mr Brewis who carried out remedial work to our flag pole in the holidays and ensured that the flag can once again fly from the front of our building.

Dates for your diary in Autumn Term 2011

W/c 7 November	Foundation Stage Open Week
Friday 11 November	9am - Phonics Workshop for Reception Parents
W/C 14 November	Anti-bullying week : This year the theme is "Stop and think - words hurt"
Friday 18 November	Blue Friday - wear blue (non-uniform) to say "No" to bullying Children in Need Day -children bring £1 to donate for wearing blue.
W/C 28 November	Last week for clubs
Thursday 24 November	Years 1 and 2 visit Northern Stage - Newcastle
Friday 25 November	Non-uniform day (please bring in a prize for the PTA tombola)
Friday 2 December	PTA Christmas Fair - 3.15pm - 5pm
Tuesday 6 December	KS1&2 Christmas Performance "The Donkey Seller" - am
Wednesday 7 December	Reception Christmas Performance "Busy Busy Bethlehem" - am KS1&2 Christmas Performance "The Donkey Seller" -pm
Thursday 8 December	KS1&2 Christmas Performance "The Donkey Seller" - am
Friday 9 December	KS1&2 Christmas Performance "The Donkey Seller" - am
Monday 12 December	Year 2 Christmas Party
Tuesday 13 December	Year 1 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 December	Key Stage 2 Christmas Party
Thursday 15 December	Reception Christmas Party
Friday 16 December	Christmas service at St Mary's Church (11am) End of term

The above dates are those envisaged by the school and may be subject to change

L Blain
Head Teacher
4 November 2011