

Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

5th - 6th Sept	Rosh Hashanah Jewish
11th Sept	Ethiopian New Year Rastafarian
13th - 14th Sept	Yom Kippur Jewish
18th - 25th Sept	Sukkot Jewish
21st Sept	International Day of Peace
26th - 27th Sept	Simchat Torah Jewish
Sept or Oct	Harvest Christian
Oct	Black History Month
1st Oct	International Day of Older Persons
5th - 13th Oct	Navaratri/Durga Puja Hindu
11th - 21st Oct	National Anti-Racism Week of Action in Football
14th - 21st Oct	Interfaith Week of Prayer for World Peace
15th Oct	Eid-ul-Adha Muslim
20th Oct	Guru Granth Sahib Ji given the Eternal Guruship Sikh (Nanakshahi calendar)
20th Oct	Anniversary of the Birth of the Bab Bahai
21st Oct	Chung Yuan Chinese
24th Oct	United Nations Day
1st Nov	All Saints Day Christian
3rd Nov	Divali Hindu
3rd Nov	Divali Sikh
5th Nov	Al-Hijrah Muslim
5th Nov	Anniversary of Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot
10th Nov	Birthday of Guru Nanak Sikh (lunar calendar)
10th Nov	Remembrance Sunday
11th Nov	Armistice Day
12th Nov	Anniversary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah Bahai
18th - 22nd Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
14th Nov	Ashura Shia Muslim
16th Nov	International Day for Tolerance
17th Nov	Birthday of Guru Nanak Sikh
17th - 23rd Nov	National Interfaith Week
27th Nov - 5th Dec	Hanukah Jewish
30th Nov	St. Andrew's Day
1st Dec	Advent Sunday Christian
10th Dec	Human Rights Day
24th Nov	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sikh (Nanakshahi calendar)
25th Dec	Christmas Day Christian
31st Dec	Hogmanay

Please send your contributions or comments to;
 Linda Papaioannou, Democratic Services Officer, Northumberland County Council,
 County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF
 Telephone 01670 622615
 E-mail: Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk
 For further information, please see NASACRE newsletters at www.nasacre.org.uk and
www.multifaiths.com

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Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council
 for Religious Education for Northumberland

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A visit by Iman Sadiq to Amble Links First School



On the 25th June, Iman Sadiq from the Mosque in Blyth came to visit our school. He asked us if we had seen anyone dressed like him before – only a few hands went up. He then showed us his special prayer hat called a Topi and let us all have a look at it and try it on. It had lovely embroidery on it. He told us that he wears it to pray and that Muslims pray 5 times a day using a special prayer mat.

He then showed a clip of the Arabic alphabet set to music and we found out that there are 29 letters in the Arabic alphabet. We then looked at the Koran. The one that Iman Sadiq showed us was written in Arabic and English. It is a special book for Muslims, like the Bible is special to Christians and the Torah is special to Jews.

He finished by telling us a little bit about Ramadan, which was due to start, and what children do at this time – they can try to fast from about the age of 8. He also invited us to visit him at the Mosque in Blyth. We are looking forward to going soon.

By Amble Links First School Pupil Council.



A Victorian-themed Church Visit



On the afternoon of Monday 3rd June 2013, some of Year 5 visited the church in Ovingham. There were 15 pupils from each class, 45 pupils in total. We all went dressed up as Victorians. The girls wore

mop-caps, shawls, aprons and skirts or dresses. The boys wore caps, white shirts, shorts and socks pulled up to the knee. At the church there were three activities: an indoor quiz about the features of a church; an outdoor quiz where you had

to look at gravestones to answer the questions (Reverend Lewis helped us to find the answers); and a chance to do sketching. We sketched yew trees, gravestones and flowers. The year group was split up into the three classes and we did the activities with our own class. Afterwards in the church, we sang a hymn and said the Lord's Prayer. The hymn we sang was called "All things bright and beautiful".

By a pupil at Ovingham Middle School.

Many thanks to Mrs. Debbie Smith, the Year 5 class teacher and RE co-ordinator at Ovingham Middle, for sending us this article and the photos. What an interesting way to make the Victorian era come to life!



Amazing Amsterdam



On Saturday 18th May, 41 Year 8 students and 4 staff from Richard Coates CE Middle School, Ponteland, set sail from North Shields to Amsterdam. The purpose of the trip was to explore aspects of the Holocaust they have studied in RE.

After a smooth crossing, we arrived and checked in at the hostel. The itinerary was packed and there was very little time before we were leaving to visit the Rijksmuseum and familiarise ourselves with Amsterdam on a canal boat cruise.

Days two, three and four were equally jam-packed and included visits to the Jewish History Museum to see its Holocaust exhibition, the Portuguese Synagogue and the

Anne Frank House, and a guided tour around Kamp Westerbork, the transit camp where Anne Frank was initially imprisoned. We were lucky to have excellent guides wherever we went and everyone approached each visit with enthusiasm and interest. It was amazing to see first-hand what we had learnt about in class, and to put some of our learning into context.

The trip was interspersed with visits to a theme park, the Hard Rock Café and even an evening of disco bowling! The visit concluded on Friday 24th May and, after a rough ferry crossing home, we finally made it back to school.

The trip was a fantastically memorable experience for everyone, and so much was



learnt over such a short period of time. Memorable quotes from the students include: "An amazing trip. Anne Frank's House was so interesting and it was so strange to actually be standing where she did," and "I had such a brilliant time, I really enjoyed everything we did and would recommend it to anyone who likes a packed itinerary!"

Jo Baker, Head of RE at Richard Coates, said, "The behaviour and level of interest of our students on the visit was outstanding. They seemed to gain a lot from the visit and a great time was had by all. It was interesting to see first-hand what we have only seen in photographs and on the TV."

Jo Baker
RE Coordinator
Richard Coates CE Middle School
Ponteland.

P.S. We have just found out that this is the fourth time the trip to Amsterdam has been organized by Jo Baker. In fact, Jo tells us that the trip has already been booked for 2014, which will mean that, by June next year, students at Richard Coates CE Middle will have benefited from the visit for five years running! Outstanding.