



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 5 – December 2016



Catholic Life Of The School

As we continue on our Advent Journey we pray:

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and worship of the wise men. Amen.

The Catholic Life of the School has been at its best over the last two weeks with special Assemblies, Concerts and Liturgy performed by the children in all Year groups, Nursery through to Year 4.

Thank you for attending our Christmas Performances, your support of the children adds to the feeling of community and supports the sharing and celebration of our Catholic Faith. The children did very well indeed and it was an absolute pleasure to listen to your feedback and read some of the lovely comments of thanks we received. I am sure you all felt very proud of your children. What a beautiful start to the festive season. Well done children, you are all stars!

In the true spirit of Advent the generosity of parents and carers attending the assemblies concerts and liturgy has enabled us to raise £910, which will be split equally between the following three charities, HCPT, Crisis and the Parish Christmas Tree Appeal.

We also raised £355 on the Christmas Jumper Day, which will be split between NSPCC and Children's Brain Tumour Charity.

Learning Theme For The First Two Weeks In January

When the children return on 4th January 2017, we will be launching a whole-school curriculum theme, "Monsters and Heroes". There may be some special visitors throughout the eight days of learning and the children will be doing lots of creative writing. It might be a nice idea to read some comics with your children at home and embrace your inner hero or monster, to really excite their learning. This theme will culminate in a dress-up day for the children on Friday 13th January 2017, where the children should dress up as a hero or monster. Please think about their possible costume over the holidays.

Christmas Concert/Assembly DVD

The DVD including Reception Nativity, Year 1 Assembly, Year 2 Concert and Years 3 & 4 Liturgy will be available after Christmas priced at £16.00. Order forms have already been sent home with your child. Please return your order forms to the school office. This is a non-profit making venture and is being filmed at the request of parents to prevent disruption by individuals recording during performances.

St Robert Southwell Christmas Tree Baubles

St Robert Southwell Christmas Tree Baubles are available to buy from the school office for £2.50 each.

Choir News

Well done to the school Choir who attend rehearsals each week. In preparation for Christmas they joined in with other Catholic schools in the Diocese to sing at the Schools' Carol Service at the Cathedral and also sang for the Mayor of Brent at Morrison's in Colindale. Well done for your continued hard work. Thanks also to Mrs Minor for her continued outstanding leadership of the choir.

Update On Ava

Ava's parents are pleased to announce that, following the fundraising appeal for Ava, they have been given a date for her to have surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The operation is planned for 6th January 2017. Please keep Ava and her family in your prayers. We look forward to seeing her return to school after her surgery.

Staffing Update

Mrs Egan will return to the staff team after Christmas in her role as Assistant Headteacher, responsible for Inclusion/SEND. She will work on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week. Miss Montgomery is going to continue as Assistant Headteacher, with responsibility for Behaviour and the Catholic life of the school. She is also going to take overall responsibility for Gifted and More Able children. Mrs Bleau will continue in her role as Assistant Headteacher, with responsibility for the curriculum and school improvement priorities which, this school year, focuses on a review of the curriculum and improving the quality of children's writing and their attainment in this area.

As previously announced, Mrs Cosgrave, Miss Crossley and Mr Devay are leaving us at the end of this term. Mrs Cosgrave has secured a new job in another school closer to her home. We are delighted for her and wish her every success in her new job. Miss Crossley is returning home to her family after two years with us, having made a fantastic contribution to our teaching team across the school. We wish her continued success in her teaching career. Mr Devay has shared his talents with us across the school, including drama and dominoes and is working for The Southover Partnership, also nearer to his home. We wish him all the best for the future. To give thanks for the term and for the contribution of those staff leaving us, there will be Mass tomorrow morning at 9.15 a.m. All are welcome.

Twitter

The school has a public twitter account which is used to share key events and examples of learning during the school year. Please think about following us: @strobssouth

Admissions September 2017

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2017?

Have you filled in your application for a school place? This can be done online via www.eadmissions.org.uk and should be completed by 15th January at the very latest. You also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form which may be obtained from the school office and should also be returned to school by 15th January.

Thank You From The Staff

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank all of the families who have sent in Christmas Cards, Christmas wishes and gifts. They are very much appreciated, although not expected, and staff are very grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Safeguarding

St. Robert Southwell School is committed to safeguarding children. Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss Beck, Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Montgomery and Mrs Egan, Named Governor for Safeguarding: Mr Peter Manning, Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mrs Anne Quigg.

If you have a concern, please ask to speak to any of those named above.

Does Your Child Know And Follow The Green Cross Code?

It has been reported to the school that several of our older children have not been crossing the road correctly - for their safety, please remind them of the Green Cross Code.

Inclement Weather

As the cold weather approaches, should there be any snow, school will be open as normal unless there is a safety reason to close. We aim to open, even with less staff and an adjusted timetable, to limit the disruption to your children's learning and to enable those who work to meet their commitments. Please ensure you check your phone, as a text message will be sent if the school is unavoidably closed. Please refrain from ringing the school office as this should be unnecessary as a text will be sent.

Thank You From The Friends' Association

I just wanted to send a quick message to say thank you very much to everyone who helped at the Christmas Fair - either by manning a stall or turning up to spend money! The profit after costs is £6,623.38 which is great and the most raised for many years. With additional matched funding still to come the final total could be £7,000.

It's was also a really lovely event which was very well supported by parents, pupils, other family members and staff. Hopefully it's something children will remember of their time at our school. Thanks to everyone who put so much work into it - setting up the grotto, sorting stuff for the Tombolas, putting on a great raffle, running games & rides, cooking hot dogs etc

An extra special thanks to those who covered the cost of the ride and those who donated prizes for the raffle. This helped to draw the crowds as well as ensuring the raffle contributed significantly to the funds raised.

Merry Christmas to you all! Nicola, Chair of the Friends.

Are Your Children Going To Be Online Over Christmas?

The following information is to help parents talk to their children about staying safe online.

What children do online and through Social Networking.

Children and young people go online to connect with friends, and make new ones, to browse the internet for information, chat with others and play games. They may:

- search for information or content on search engines like Google and Bing
- share images and watch videos through websites or mobile apps like Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube
- use social networking websites
- write or reply to messages on forums and message boards
- play games alone or with others through websites, apps or game consoles
- chat with other people through online games, game consoles, webcams, social networks and tools like Whatsapp

When online, children and young people can learn new things, get help with homework, express themselves creatively and connect with friends and family. However, there are also risks. Keep your child safe online by understanding and talking about the dangers with them, being aware of parental controls, and by being vigilant about their online activity.

Talking to your child about staying safe online:

- Explore sites and apps together
- Talk about what might be OK for children of different ages.
- Ask your child what sites or apps they like. Write a list, and look at them together.
- Be positive about what you see, but also be open about concerns you have: "I think this site's really good" or "I'm a little worried about things I've seen here".
- Talk to your child about what you think is appropriate – but also involve them in the conversation. Ask what they think is OK for children of different ages – they'll feel involved in the decision making.
- Be aware that your child might talk about friends who use apps or visit sites that you've decided aren't suitable. Be ready to discuss your reasons, but recognise that they may not agree with you. Listen carefully for the reasons why.
- Go through a final list of sites that you both agree are acceptable and work out when you'll next discuss it.

New Year

We wish all of our children and families a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

School re-opens for all pupils on Wednesday, 4th January 2017