



# St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 10 – July 2018



**Vision:** Aiming For Excellence, **Being The Best We Can Be.**

## **Catholic Life Of The School**

Congratulations to all those children who have recently celebrated their First Holy Communion.

### **First Communion Blessing**

May each of you know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love, and the joy of his life within you every day, Amen.



A special 'Thank You' to Fr Stewart Keely, who has celebrated several Masses for us this half term. His support is amazing and we are very grateful for all the time he has given us. Particular thanks to him for travelling to Buckden to say a special Mass for the Year 4 children.

## **End of Year Reflection**

As we move towards the end of another school year, we give thanks to God: For all the teaching and learning that has taken place in our school, both in and out of the classroom. For the talents and gifts that have been shared and the challenges that have been faced. For the respect and care that has been given. For the hope that has lifted our hearts on the dark days. And for the love that has kept us going.

We give thanks for this school community and we ask you Lord -

Bless our pupils: may your Spirit inspire them with confidence, joy and kindness to one another. Bless our families, our children and our staff. Pour out your love on us that we may continue our journey together through the holidays and into a new school year. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Thank You From Mrs Pettitt**

To the parents and families at St Robert Southwell - many thanks for your great generosity on the occasion of my retirement. I was greatly touched by your kindness. Hopefully, as I will still be living in Kingsbury, I shall continue to see some of you. With best wishes for the future, please accept my thanks again. Diane Pettitt.

## **End Of Year Message**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children for their fantastic attitude to learning and for all their hard work this year.

I would also like to thank all the parents and families of the children, who help to ensure they are prepared for school, support us in ensuring they enjoy school and make the most of the opportunities available. We are very fortunate to have so much help with trips, visits and sporting events.

Having been at several meetings over the last few weeks with other headteachers, I know that the parents here are wonderful and I appreciate all your ongoing support of the school.

Special thanks to The Friends' Association, all the Staff and the Governing Board who do a great deal behind the scenes to support the children, and ensure the continued success of the school.

### **Celebrating Our Catholic Faith**

We would like to recognise our Catholic Faith as it is represented in its many forms around the world. If you are fortunate to be visiting another country, or to have a visitor from another country, maybe you could buy a small cross which reflects the Catholic culture of the country. We intend to display donated crosses from around the world in different spaces around the school, to celebrate our shared belief as a world faith. Please send the crosses into school with your family name and the country or culture it represents.

### **Summer Library Challenge**

As in previous years, Brent Libraries are running their Summer Reading Challenge. It would be wonderful if as many children as possible from our school signed up and completed the **six book challenge**. More information is available at your local library. Last year we had a high number of children undertake the challenge and complete 6 books. As an extra incentive, the class which brings in the most certificates in September will get an extra playtime in the second week of term.

### **Postcards**

As part of our return to school in September we traditionally create a display of postcards which your children can send to school over the summer break. These can be sent from a day trip, a local place, as well as from abroad. It is a good opportunity to get your children writing. Postcards should be addressed to **St Robert Southwell School, Slough Lane, Kingsbury, NW9 8YD**. It has been fascinating to receive postcards from around the world and from as locally as Church Lane. All postcards are received with interest.

### **Keep Your Brain Ticking**

Junior children can use Mathletics, MyMaths, Spelling Frame and TTRock Stars over the holidays.

You may also like to make a model of a famous building or landmark from around the world, from any material of your choosing.

We have included a copy of 40 things to do in the holiday, which we sent out a couple of years ago. Children may like to write a diary, create a photo album or scrap book of the activities they complete.

All these activities are optional and are ideas if your child finds themselves with free time.

### **Brent Makes Music**

Well done to all the children who took part in Brent Makes Music. You performed superbly and everyone in the audience commented on the high standard of the

performance. Thank you to Mrs Minor for all her hard work with the choir for this event, and throughout the year and to Anita for her musical support.

### **Sports Day**

This ran very smoothly. Well done to all the children for the great way they participated in spite of the heat, and to all the staff for their hard work. Special thanks to Mr Pascoe and Miss Lynam for all their excellent organisation.

### **Staffing for September**

We are very fortunate to be fully staffed for September

Nursery	Mrs Grey, Mrs Stagg, Ms Magi
Reception 1	Mrs Keville
Reception 2	Miss Kelly
1R	Miss Moreira
1S	Mrs Griffiths
2R	Miss Fadipe
2S	Miss McAndrew
3R	Miss Malone
3S	Miss Amponsah
4R	Mr Scannell
4S	Miss Parente
5R	Miss Kessler
5S	Mrs McKnight-Posner & Mr Benserghin
6R	Miss Lay
6S	Mrs Minor

Mrs Bleau, Miss Montgomery, Mrs Sullivan, Mr Leary, Miss Joseph and Ms Josephs will undertake intervention groups and cover for staff for planning and preparation time.

Mrs Egan continues in her role as Inclusion Leader.

### **Other staff changes**

Miss Lynam is going to work abroad next year, we wish her all best for the year ahead. Mr Leary is reducing his working days to 3 days per week and will teach across the school.

Ms Lim is leaving to return to Poland.

Antonio, the Italian teacher, is returning to Italy.

### **Welcome**

We take this opportunity to welcome Miss McAndrew, who is joining our Year 2 team in September.

### **School Games Mark Silver Award**

I am delighted to inform you that we have been awarded the School Games Mark, Silver Level Award, in recognition of all the sport our children are involved in, especially the Sports partnership, competitions and clubs.

## **Summer Holiday Cycling Courses**

Brent Council has asked us to share the following information:

To book, go to  
<http://bit.ly/BrentSummerCycle>  
Contact us at  
[info@cyclinginstructor.com](mailto:info@cyclinginstructor.com)  
0845 652 0421 @cicom  
[www.cyclinginstructor.com](http://www.cyclinginstructor.com)

**SUMMER HOLIDAY**  
**LEARN TO RIDE 20 & 21 AUGUST**  
9.30–10.45am /  
11am–12.15pm / 12.45–2pm  
**LEVEL 1 & 2 22 & 23 AUGUST**  
9.30–2pm  
**LEVEL 3 24 AUGUST**  
9.30–2pm  
**LEVEL 1 31 AUGUST**  
9.30am–11.30pm / 12–2pm

## **General Counselling Service**

With the increased focus on Mental Health and the Emotional Well-Being of children, the Governing Board have agreed to use part of the school budget to pay for a school counsellor one day per week, for one school year. We will be using the services of Cath Child. The counsellor will undertake some work with a few individual children, and is also able to run self-esteem and confidence building groups, or anger management groups.

If you think your child would benefit from some counselling support, individually or in a group, please contact Miss Beck or Miss Montgomery, in confidence.

## **Friends' Association News**

The Summer Fun Day was a great success. A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way. Well done to the children who were very well behaved. The gentleman who supervised the trampolines said the children in this school were the best behaved and most well-mannered he has come across.

Thank you to all who supported this event. Special thanks to those who donated raffle prizes and their time to set up, clear up, or run a stall.

This event raised just over £5000 for the Friends' Association funds.

International Event - thank you to the Friends for all the events run everyone who provided food for this occasion and to all those who came along. This event raised £900.00 for Friends' Association funds.

Reception's Got Talent raised £300.

The special driving sessions for Year 6, provided by Mrs Cawley, raised £700. A big thank you to her for giving so generously of her time. This was an amazing experience for them.

The Friends support all our playground improvements, small equipment and the minibus. We are considering upgrading the minibus, installing a new hall sound system and further playground improvements next term with the money raised.

### **After-School Club Vacancy**

We are currently recruiting for our After-School Club staff team for next year. Over the last few years we have offered this opportunity to 6<sup>th</sup> form students, and college students, as well as our own staff. The contracts generally run for one year, so we can give students an opportunity for employment. This vacancy is also open to anyone who can work from 3.00-5.30, two or more days per week.

Please contact Mrs Quigg: at [aquigg@robsouth.org](mailto:aquigg@robsouth.org) for an application form. We expect to hold interviews for those shortlisted during the last week of the summer holidays.

### **Donations for the Nursery/Reception**

If you are having a summer sort-out, please consider donating your old toys to the Nursery/Reception. We would be especially grateful for: knights, dragons, castles, princesses, babies, buggies, shop till, sand toys, water toys, wooden bowls and pots and pans, diggers, buckets and spades, kitchen utensils, small cups & plates, pirates and pirate ships.

### **Childcare**

This is a general reminder that Breakfast and After-School Club are childcare provision. The school is not obliged to offer this provision, but does so to support parents. The school receives no funding for Breakfast and After-School Clubs and all costs, including administration, must be covered by payment for the Clubs. Thank you to those who have already completed their registration form for Breakfast Club for next term.

### **Attendance**

We still have a few children having unexplained and unnecessary absence. If we are unable to improve overall attendance, then this could be a barrier to the school securing an outstanding inspection judgement next year.

As we have been advised to be more rigorous in managing attendance, any children absent in the last week of term, who have not had their absence pre-approved, may be referred to the Education Welfare Officer in Brent for them to follow up the absence.

Mrs Quigg is our newly appointed Attendance Officer. She will review all requests for planned absence and will advise you if they can be approved. If your child has poor attendance, then you will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss your child's absence.

A big thank you to all those parents who ensure their children attend regularly, and on time, every day.

### **Hair Cut Reminder!**

Haircuts and styles are part of the uniform policy. Long hair must be tied back and fringes should be clipped away from eyes. If you choose to have your child's hair cut very short, please time this so that, on the return to school, it has grown back sufficiently to meet school requirements, and is generally of one length, with **no steps, no shaved symbols and no lines**. Girls should have hair extensions and colour, etc., removed before their return to school.

To ensure the children understand that this is part of the school uniform policy, children whose hair cut/style is not acceptable will be kept off the playground and may be withdrawn from school trips until the issue has been resolved.

## **Parking**

We have tried to encourage everyone to park considerately. This does not mean parking as close as possible to the school and blocking our neighbours' driveways, among other inconsiderate actions.

The Junior Road Safety Officers have been working with staff from Brent Council to increase awareness of the dangers posed by inconsiderate drivers. We are also sending this poem home in an attempt to explain what could happen if adults continue to behave inconsiderately on the roads near our school.

### **Avoid a School Tragedy**

#### **Today could be someone's last day at school**

I often wonder when it will end,

the death of a child, the loss of a friend?

The car is so handy; it saves so much time

But, to stop by the school is almost a crime.

The yellow lines are bright and clear

And must remain for the ones we hold dear.

Drive if you must but park somewhere else,

Then walk the last bit, it's good for your health.

I've tried in the past to get this message across

I will not give up, lest a life should be lost.

The children are small; the cars block their view,

They don't see the danger when they run up to you.

The parents are many, the offenders are few,

That child could be YOURS – am I getting through?

So do the right thing, abide by the rule

**Or today could be someone's last day at school.**

## Happy Holidays

**School breaks up on Friday 20th July at 2.00 p.m.**



## Return to School

All children in Years 1- 6 are expected to return to school on Wednesday **5th September 2018 at 8.55 a.m.** Nursery and Reception children will be advised of their start dates separately.

## Term Dates

These are included for your information. Please do not book holidays, day trips and family events during term time, as this leave cannot be authorised.