

# St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 1 – September 2018



## **Mission Statement Summary**

*Following Jesus' footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell  
we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness.*

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

## **Welcome Back**

Welcome back! This is the first newsletter of this school year and I am sure the summer holidays feel like a distant memory. It's been wonderful seeing the children return to school full of enthusiasm and excitement for the year ahead. A very warm welcome to any new families who have joined us this term. This is an amazing school with lots of opportunities for you to get involved and be a part of the action! As always, there are lots of exciting and rich learning opportunities planned for the children throughout the forthcoming year. We achieved so much last year as a school community and the outcomes for children continued to be above national standards. I would like to congratulate all the children for their fantastic attitude to learning and behaviour since their return to school. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their support of the school uniform policy and ensuring the children are prepared for school and arrive on time each day.

As this is our first newsletter of the year we have re-attached the Term Dates, Code of Conduct and School Rules for your information.

## **The Best Year Yet**

Having had the privilege of being the headteacher at St Robert Southwell for several years, I hope that we can build on all our success and work together to make this year the best year yet.

## **Catholic Life Of The School**

A big thank you to those families who brought back crosses from their holiday travels we are currently considering the best place to display them and hope to have them on display following half-term.

We pray as a community: God, Father of us all, may we open our minds to learn more about you. May we open our hearts to the needs of others. May we have a welcoming word for those who are new or who need a friend. Help us to learn new ways to serve you in love this school year. Amen

## ***This is Our School***

This is our School, Let peace abide here  
Let the rooms be full of contentment  
Let love abide here, Love of one another  
Love of mankind, Love of life itself  
And love of God, Amen

## **Support**

We value all your support throughout the year. We are grateful for donations of toys for Nursery and Reception, boxes of tissues, board games for board game club.

We are also grateful to those who volunteer to help on sports trips and other school trips and who help the Friends' Association to prepare and run school events.

If every family donates just 2 hours of their time in some way, the school benefits from around 600 volunteer hours a year. There are lots of ways to give your time and to help the school provide exciting extras for our children each year.

## **Questions or Concerns**

Do you have any questions about school life? We are of course, really happy to answer any questions about school, no matter how small : Do pop in to the school office to ask questions or ask your child's class teacher. If you are worried about something, see us straight away. Don't let a little worry turn in to a big one. Most importantly, don't be misled by playground gossip, where mis-information can spread because of something mis- heard or mis-interpreted. Please check by being brave and asking a member of staff.

## **Celebration Assembly**

Parents and family members are welcome to join us each Friday at 9.00 for our weekly Celebration Assembly. At this assembly children receive a birthday pencil if they have celebrated their birthday during the week. Children are also presented with any certificates or trophies they have been awarded, both in and out of school. Please hand in any awards and certificates your child has received outside of school to the office, clearly marked with your child's name.

## **Pupil Parliament**

Congratulations to the newly elected members of our Pupil Parliament.

The election process in each class demonstrated that children are clearly able to select their own representatives. Our new Parliament have lots of ideas on how to improve the school and support us in fulfilling our vision and mission.

The newly elected members are:

Class	Girl	Boy
2R	Maya	Matteo
2S	Nicola	Jack M
3R	Davida	Kairo
3S	Emma	Frankie
4R	Amaris	Antonio
4S	Maisy	Breslin
5R	Delia	Joshua
5S	Ecatrina	Michael M
6R	Judyta	Michael A
6S	Mia	Niko

### **Friends' Association - First Event Of The Year**

The first event of the year is our Polish Family Festival, which has been planned by members of our Polish community. This is a new event and we hope everyone will join us in sharing food, music and a chance to enjoy time together at the end of the school day, on Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be food and drink for adults throughout the evening. There are special children's T-shirts available to purchase for £5, which children can wear to school on Friday, instead of uniform. Those not purchasing a T-shirt may wear their own festival clothes, or red and white, in the spirit of the day. This event will run like International Evening, with a mixture of food and entertainment.

### **Friends' Association**

Our Friends' Association is a registered charity. The Friends' Association organise exciting and memorable events for the children to enjoy, and all of the profits from the events go towards extras for the children in our school. Last academic year, the Friends' Association paid towards the new junior playground equipment, the playground markings, including new hopscotch markings. They also supplement transport costs for school journeys. They are planning to fund a new sound system for the main hall, more playground equipment for the infants, shade for the infant playground, new cameras and new computers for the ICT suite this year.

They ran a Christmas Fair, a Summer Fair and International Evening children's table-top sales and a children's disco last year, as well as supporting Reception's Got Talent and other events. These are events which give wonderful experiences to the children at St Robert Southwell.

Perhaps you'd like to support with shopping for Friends' events, or would just like to find out a little bit more about what the Friends' Association do. New parents are especially welcome. Do join. Come to the first event next Friday and the **AGM on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November, at 8pm.**

### **Welcome Information Sessions**

Once again, these were very well attended. Some year groups were offered at 9.00 am and some were offered at 2.45pm. Overall, there was a 78% turn out. Only one year group had a particularly poor turn out and we are reviewing the possible reasons for this. If you were not able to attend, please make sure you have received your welcome information booklet for your year group.

A small number of parents have told us that the 2.45pm slot is the least accessible for working parents. We will consider this feedback when planning future information meetings.

### **Attendance Reminder**

Attendance was the only area of improvement identified in our inspection in January 2018. As you are aware, I am not in a position to approve holiday absence requests. If your child is unwell you should call the office on the first day of your child's absence to explain their illness. If your child needs to attend a medical or dental appointment, wherever possible, this must be booked for the afternoon, after 2pm. If you need to request leave for another reason, it can be authorised if the leave is counted as truly exceptional. Please request a form from the school office. Mrs Quigg is our Attendance Officer and will follow up all absences to ensure we have accurate records, and to maintain your child's safety. As a

school, we expect parents to communicate the reason for a child's absence and failure to do so increases the workload of school staff, and may cause safeguarding concerns about your child.

### **Medicines and Medical Updates**

If your child has an ongoing medical condition which may require medication at school, then we must have an agreed plan in place and the medicines should be updated to ensure they remain in date. Please contact Mrs Egan, through the school office, if your child needs a care plan and medication.

### **Contact Details**

If your address, telephone number, email address or collection arrangements for your child have changed, please let the office know. We've spotted a couple of inactive mobile numbers on our text site which means if we needed to contact parents in an emergency, we do not have an up-to-date working number.

### **Childcare**

We are fortunate to have Breakfast Club and an After-School Club on site, run by school staff. Breakfast Club is full to capacity. Please complete a registration form to be added to the waiting list. If you wish to secure a place at After-School Club, please complete a registration form and ask the office to add your child to the register. Please note that payments for these clubs should be made on-line. Please call the school by 2.30 pm if you are seeking a place on the day for After-School Club, so we can ensure this message gets to your child's teacher.

### **School Website**

Our school website address: [www.robsouth.org](http://www.robsouth.org)

### **Clubs**

The school allows several providers to run clubs at our school including drama, ICT Coding, and Art. These are facilitated by external organisations who use our premises to run their clubs. These organisations set their own cost for each session. Please communicate directly with the individual organisers about times and payments.

### **Sports Clubs**

Mr Pascoe runs sports clubs every morning each week. These are offered at the beginning of each term. If any club is oversubscribed, then we try to allocate places to children on the waiting list for the following term. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to run as many clubs as we would like to, so we try to be as fair as possible in giving as many children as we can a place at something each school year.

### **Motor Skills Club**

This is run by Mrs Glynn and is offered to every Year 1 child for five weeks. A letter will be sent to you with your child's dates for this club.

### **Irish Music**

This run by Mrs Kelly. If you wish your child to learn to play an instrument please leave your contact details and child's name at the office and she will contact you.

## **Other Clubs**

Handwriting club is run on a Monday lunchtime

Homework club is run on Tuesday lunchtime

Board Games club is run on a Wednesday lunchtime

## **Haircuts**

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

## **Safeguarding**

The school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSLs) are:

Miss Beck, Miss Montgomery and Mrs Egan, however, all members of staff have a duty to, and are trained in the safeguarding of our children. Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to a member of staff as soon as possible. For any matters concerning safeguarding outside of school hours or during the holidays, please send an email to: [safeguarding@robsouth.org](mailto:safeguarding@robsouth.org).

## **Parking Again!!!**

Since the start of term this has continued to be a real problem. Our neighbours have complained about adults dropping and collecting children from school being rude, aggressive and dangerous. They have also observed adults reversing into the private road and ignoring the road markings.

Please, please, park considerately and safely.

Brent has a No-Idling campaign to reduce pollution.

The No-Idling campaign is part of Brent Council's initiative to improve the air quality in and around Brent Schools. The aim is to educate and engage with parents, students and members of the public and try to reduce the idling of vehicles near schools.

## **What is Idling?**

Idling is when a vehicle's engine is left running while it is parked or stationary for a period of time longer than 30 seconds, contributing further to toxic emissions in the air we breathe. This commonly happens when drivers are waiting whilst parked outside a house, school or business.

## **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.**

Throughout this document parents and guardians will be referred to as `Parents`.

### **Aims and Purposes**

All staff, pupils and parents have the same goal to ensure the best for every child, every day and to provide a safe and enjoyable learning environment. This code of conduct is to provide clarity of expectations and clear procedures in the event of matters arising.

The purpose of this code of conduct is to make clear to all parties the types of behaviour which are expected in our school and the types of behaviour which are not acceptable.

This code has been adopted by the Governing Board for the purposes of safeguarding our children and the working environment of our staff and visitors to the school.

### **Conduct and Expectations**

Parents must inform the school if there are any concerns or problems in relation to their child.

Parents must encourage their child to obey school rules and that they should do their best to be kind to others, to share, to have fun and to work hard.

Parents must respect the rights of staff members and other individuals.

Parents must conduct themselves in a way that is in keeping with the values of the school. This means:

1. Parents should support the school and raise any concerns in accordance with the procedures overleaf.
2. Parents must refrain from using bad language or swear words of any nature, racist comments, derogative remarks or any form of intimidatory behaviour.
3. Parents should be aware that events which children report may have many sides and different points of view and should be prepared to listen and seek verification of facts with an open mind before raising a concern.
4. Parents should support the school in their efforts to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment.
5. Parents should refrain from raising matters or concerns which have occurred during the day between children with other parents. Any concerns must be raised with the school.

Under no circumstances should any parent approach another child about a concern or issue which has occurred during the school day.

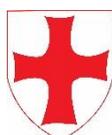
### **How to Raise a Concern?**

1. Speak to the class teacher at the end of the school day and up until 3.30pm. Make an appointment at the school office to speak to the class teacher at a mutually convenient time.
2. If the concern relates to Inclusion or Special Educational Needs an appointment must be made through the school office with Mrs Egan, Inclusion Manager.
3. If your concern is not resolved to your satisfaction you should then make an appointment to see one of the Assistant Headteachers or the Headteacher.
4. If your concern remains unresolved, parents may make a formal complaint by following the procedures as laid out in the school's Complaints Policy.

### **Action taken in the event of Misconduct**

In the event of unacceptable behaviour or any type of misconduct, the Headteacher or the Governing Board will, at their discretion take action, they consider necessary to safeguard staff, children, parents or visitors.

This action may include, but will not be limited to, the removal of any person the school considers offensive from the premises, for any period of time that the school should see fit.



# School Rules

## **RESPECT yourself**

- ✚ Take pride in your appearance.
- ✚ Keep safe.
- ✚ Listen and learn.

## **RESPECT others**

- ✚ Keep your hands, feet and hurtful comments to yourself.
- ✚ Use good manners.
- ✚ Be a friend.

## **RESPECT all property**

- ✚ Take care of school equipment, your own and others' belongings.

## **RESPONSIBILITY for all your actions**

- ✚ Follow signs and instructions.
- ✚ Make good choices.



## **St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School**

Aiming For Excellence - Being The Best We Can Be

### **SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2018-2019**

#### **AUTUMN TERM 2018**

<b>Inset Days:</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>
<b>First Day for Children:</b>	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>
<b>Term Ends for School:</b>	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018 – 2.00 p.m.</b>

#### **SPRING TERM 2019**

<b>First Day for Children:</b>	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019</b>
<b>Term Ends for School:</b>	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 – 2.00 p.m.</b>

#### **SUMMER TERM 2019**

<b>First Day for Children:</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019</b>
<b>May Bank Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b>
<b>Half Term Holiday:</b>	<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019</b>
<b>Term Ends for School:</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – 2.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Inset Days:</b>	<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July &amp; Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019</b>

**Inset Days: One further Inset Day to be arranged.**