

St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 2 – November 2018



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

Mission Statement Summary

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

Catholic Life Of The School

This month we have celebrated Mass for the 'Feast of All Saints'. Fr Stewart celebrated a special Mass in school with the children, on the day. Throughout November, we have also remembered deceased members of our families and community.

Sunday November 11th marked a very special Remembrance Sunday: the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War One.

As we move into December, the season of Advent will begin and continue to the end of term.

Farewell to Fr. David.

Fr David will attend the 12.15 Mass in the parish church next Sunday, 25th November, this is an opportunity for the Parish to give thanks for his service and to wish him a happy retirement. All are welcome to Mass and to refreshments in the hall afterwards. The school will make a presentation to Fr David to thank him for his support and to wish him a happy retirement. St Robert Southwell children are invited to wear their uniform to the 12.15 Mass on Sunday, to represent the school community. (Please note the children will sit with their own family as normal during the Mass).

First Holy Communion

Application forms for those wishing to join the First Holy Communion Programme in the Parish of Saint Sebastian and Pancras, are available from the church. They must be returned by this Sunday, 25th November, for your child to take part in the preparation programme to receive their First Holy Communion next summer.

Crosses From Around The World

This is a work in progress. Those families who have donated crosses from around the world can see them on display in the entrance to the school. We are hoping to make this display a feature of our shared Catholic faith and will have the wall painted and special commemorative information displayed, with the crosses, as the display becomes a permanent fixture.

Secure Letter Box

The main school office now has a secure letterbox to enable you to drop off forms without queuing at the office window. You may also use it to drop off cheques and money, if for some reason you cannot pay online. This box is kept locked and can only be opened by office staff. Please ensure envelopes are clearly marked with your child's name and class.

School Website

For your information, our school website address is: www.robsouth.org

National Measurement Programme

The results of the national measurement programme are attached at the end of this newsletter. They indicate that children at St Robert Southwell are more overweight and obese than other children in Brent, and children nationally, by the end of Year 6. This is very concerning as obesity affects general health and well-being and can reduce an individual's life expectancy by many years. Other agencies are keen to support the school, our families and children to reduce obesity levels and aim to improve their health.

I believe the majority of our children are active during the week, both in and out of school. It appears that sugary drinks and snacks are the main cause of the increasing obesity issue for children in our school.

We are continuing our work to keep your children as healthy and active as possible.

I am taking this opportunity to remind parents that children must only have water in their water bottle for drinking throughout the day. Juice not only increases sugar intake but also increases tooth decay.

Children are not allowed to bring treats and snacks in to share on their birthdays. Instead, they may bring a book for the class to share.

Infant children are offered free fruit at morning playtime so do not need to bring any other snack. With the exception of children with very specific medical conditions, Junior children are only allowed to bring in fruit for their morning snack. Please do not provide cereal bars or other snacks as school staff will challenge unhealthy snacks.

Healthy Packed Lunches: All children choosing to have a packed lunch at school should be sent in with healthy options. Sandwiches, fruit, yoghurt, cheese and plain biscuits can be included. No chocolate bars, sweets, sugary biscuits or crisps should be provided. All packaging and leftovers will remain in your child's packed lunch bag in order for you to monitor what they have eaten in school. Thank you in advance for your support.

As a school, staff have agreed to limit the giving of sweet treats to a maximum of 3 times per year, (once each term).

Staff have also been encouraged to offer extra playtime and PE sessions as a class treat, to increase activity levels.

Consultation To Join All Saint's Academy Trust

Your child should have brought home a letter inviting you to comment on this consultation. More information is also available on the school website. A meeting will take place for parents on **Monday December 3rd at 6pm** in the small hall.

Friends' Association

The Friends' Association have already raised over £4000 since September. Most of this was raised by the very successful Polish Festival, planned and organised by a group of parents. They also managed to secure amazing sponsorship from Mieczko.

The next event is The Christmas Fair on **Sunday 2nd December, between 1pm and 3pm.** Thank you to those who have had an estate agent's board put outside their house advertising this event.

Next Friday, 30th November, children may wear their own clothes in return for bringing an item for the Christmas Fair. To help, the Friends have a broad range of items and each year group is asked to bring something different.

Nursery	Boxes/tins of Sweets of chocolates
Reception	Boxes of Christmas Crackers
Year 1	Gifts for Men- Wallets,socks cufflinks etc
Year 2	Children's toys/gifts eg balls, cars lego
Year 3	Gifts for Women - Nail polish, bath products, socks
Year 4	Children's Gifts/toys
Year 5	Tins of biscuits
Year 6	Toiletry sets

Governors' Firework and Family Disco Evening

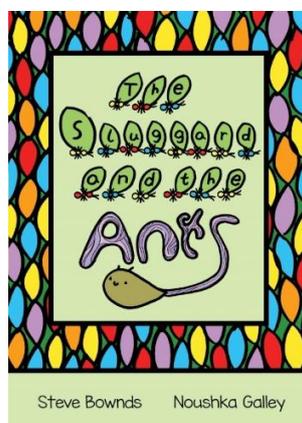
A big thank you to all those who helped organise and run this event. There was, some lovely feedback from those who attended. This raised £1750 for the Governors Fund. As you are aware, as a Catholic school, we need to raise enough money to cover 10% of all building and maintenance works. Money in the Governors' Fund is used for this purpose.

The Best Year Yet!

Over 35 trips and workshops have taken place across the school so far this term. We have also had two visits from School Improvement Advisors, who have worked with staff to ensure we continue to 'Aim for Excellence' in all we offer the children.

Julia Bachulska in Year 5 was selected as a winner in the Metropolitan Police Christmas Card competition and ws invited to a special presentation at New Scotland Yard.

We have had a special visit from some owls, and also the author of 'The Sluggard and the Ants.'



School Improvement Priorities

As a school, we have agreed to work on the following improvement priorities this school year.

1. Improving overall attendance towards a goal of 97.4% and ensuring rigorous systems are embedded to monitor and track attendance of groups so that intervention and support is targeted and effective in supporting improvement.
2. Improving the health and fitness and well-being of pupils, using a range of healthy eating and 'get-active' initiatives.
3. To increase reading for pleasure and challenge.
4. Ensuring improved E- Safety awareness for all members of the community.

E – Safety

Is your child spending too much time online? Agree what times your child can go online. For example, not going online just before bed time or in the morning before school. Explain that you think it's important that they do a variety of activities and you recognise that they enjoy being online, but you think it's important they do other things as well. Discuss your family agreement and remind them why it's important. Use technical tools to help you reinforce online times in your home. Many sites have timers that you can set, or you can set it up on the computer, mobile or tablet. Make sure that you stick to what you've agreed and that you also manage your own time online.

If your child likes You Tube, switch to You Tube Kids. Read this guide: ***How to keep your child safe on You Tube in 5 easy steps***: <http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/internet/how-tokeep-your-kids-safe-on-youtube-internet-matters11364240897926>

Ask a Question or Raise a Query

Do you have any questions about school life? We are, really happy to answer any questions about school, no matter how small. Do drop into the school office to ask questions or ask your child's class teacher at the end of the day, after the children have been dismissed. If you are worried about something, make an appointment to see your child's teacher straight away. Don't let a little worry turn into a big one.

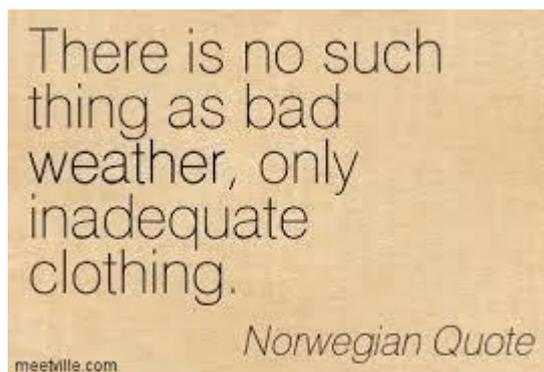
Attendance Reminder

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.

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 online. 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.

Winter Uniform



Please make sure your child has a black coat and sensible school shoes every day.

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

Parking

Thank you to those parents and carers who always park considerately and do not drive towards the children on the pavements near the school. I wish everyone could put the safety of our children first and not continue to put their lives at risk with dangerous and inconsiderate driving.

Can You Help Us?

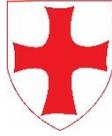
The Friends' Association kindly agreed to purchase some outdoor storage units for the Infant Playground and Nursery. These units need assembling so we are looking for some parents who have good do-it-yourself assembly skills, and basic tools to put the units together for us. If you can spare a couple of hours with a friend, your help would be much appreciated. Please let office know if you can help and when you are available.

Diary Dates

11/12/18	9.15	Reception Concert for Parents	Creche for children under 5
12/12/18	9.30	Nursery Concert for Parents	Creche for children under 5
12/12/18	1.45	Year 2 Concert for Parents	No Creche - Young children welcome
13/12/18	6.00	Year 2 concert for Parents	Creche for school aged siblings and children under 5
14/12/18	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day	Bring a donation for charity
18/12/18	9.15	Y1 Assembly for Parents	Creche for children under 5
18/12/18	11.45-1.30	Christmas Dinner for Children	
19/12/18	9.15	Y3/4 Liturgy for Parents	No Creche
20/12/18	1.15	Adult Christmas Dinner	Tickets £6 from the school office

Don't let your child miss out on learning– Note the Holiday Dates and make sure your child doesn't miss school.

All children Reception to Year 6 are expected to attend school until 2pm on Friday 21st December. (The last day for Nursery children is Thursday 20th December)



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

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

SPRING TERM 2019

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

SUMMER TERM 2019

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