



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 6 – May 2019



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

May is the month dedicated to Our Lady. Thank you for all the flowers and plants sent in for our special liturgy celebrating Our Lady as Mother of the Church. These have been placed in Our Lady's Garden for all to see.

It would be lovely to say a Hail Mary together as a family at home this month.



Pentecost

The Celebration of the Feast of Pentecost will take place on Sunday, 9th June. As part of our Pentecost celebrations, Friday 7th June is a non-uniform day and we would suggest that the children come to school in a colour, as follows:

Nursery and Reception – something Red, to represent the symbol of fire.

Years 1 and 2 – something Blue, to represent wind and water.

Years 3 and 4 – something Black or White, to represent the spiritual hero inside all of us.

Years 5 and 6 – something White, to represent peace.

Parents are also welcome to join us for our special Pentecost Assembly, which will be led by Year 3, on Friday 7th June, at 9.00 a.m.

Mass for the Sick of our Community

Fr Stewart will celebrate a special Mass for the sick of our community next Monday. Mass will take place in school on Monday 20th at 2pm. This is a Mass for all adult family members. School staff will run a crèche for children under school age and school children will stay in class. If a member of your family is sick or recovering from an illness, or you are aware that a member of the community is sick and would like them prayed for at this Mass, there will be an opportunity for you to add their name to the intentions sheet prior to the start of the Mass on the day. Fr Stewart has advised us that if you are asking for someone to be prayed for at Mass you must have asked their permission.

Charity Collections

During lent we raised £200 for CAFOD.

Following the tragic events in Sri Lanka we raised £958 from selling Hot Cross Buns and a non-uniform day, which will be sent to our charity of the year, the 'One Child Foundation', based in Sri Lanka. They will ensure the funds are used to support those in need.

Polling Day – Thursday 23rd May

The school will be closed to pupils on Polling Day. We have a few places available in child-care. These places must be pre-booked and paid for to ensure we can allocate the correct staff ratio. Booking forms are available from the school office.

Nursery and Reception Sports Day

Rather than try and change the date, we have decided to go ahead with the planned sports day for Nursery and Reception on Polling Day. We use the field for this event so it is unaffected by the polling in the hall. Please be aware that there will be members of the public coming to vote so you must keep a close eye on younger children during the morning. Older siblings are welcome to come and watch but must be supervised by their parents. All children must be taken home at the end of the event which will finish by 10.30am.

Good News- Mayor Making - Brent

One of our long-serving Governors was elected Mayor of Brent for the Year 2019-2020, at a special celebration on May 1st. Three children from the school were selected to attend the ceremony, along with representative staff and Governors. I am sure you will join with us in congratulating Ernest and wishing him a successful year ahead.



The Mayor will be supporting two charities during his year in office:

- **Sickle Cell Society** - First set up as a registered charity in Brent in 1979, the Sickle Cell Society is celebrating 40 years of working alongside health care professionals, parents, and people living with sickle cell, to raise awareness of the disorder. The Society's aim is to support and represent people affected by a sickle cell disorder to improve their overall quality of life.
- **Jason Roberts Foundation** - The foundation is a registered charity working to support young people, to celebrate diversity and promote respect across the UK. The Foundation has worked with hundreds of children and young people from the Brent area. In recent years the work of the Foundation has broadened to provide a more holistic programme of support, including mentoring, life skills, education and training projects. It also offers sports activities and has worked with young people at risk of offending, those excluded from school or struggling with the school curriculum, and young people with physical and learning difficulties.

We hope to have a fundraising event during the year to support one of the Mayor's charities.

Governing Board Update

I am thrilled to announce that we have a full Governing Board. Following the elections earlier in the year, I am able to confirm that Mrs Rattigan and Mrs Praela were elected by parent vote. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for putting themselves forward and for showing such a great commitment to the school. We hope they both enjoy their term in office.

School App

Most of you will be aware that we are now able to send information to you via our new school App. I am delighted with the speed at which parents have downloaded and begun to use the App. Whilst we pay an annual fee for the App facility, the sending of information is then free. This will enable us to save costs, compared to our previous use of texts. It will also enable us to communicate with you more frequently and provide you with more information. If you have not yet managed to download the App or need another invitation, please contact kjoseph@robsouth.brent.sch.uk. If you would like other family members to be able to use the App, please send their email address and your child/children's name to the same email address.

A big thank you to Miss Joseph for getting this project up and running.

Geography

Geography is our subject in focus this term. Please discuss your family heritage and places that are important to your family with your children. A big thank you to Ms Harrison, and Mrs Alexandrou for providing food and information to Year 6 about their country of study, Jamaica.

Your child may also like to try the quizzes on line at <https://www.oddizzi.com/>

Staffing Update

Due to budget cuts, Ms Sarah Josephs, who has undertaken class cover for us for a number of years, will be leaving at the end of term. She has been a consistent cover-teacher for us and will be greatly missed.

Miss Lynam, previously a teacher in year 5 who took a sabbatical, has also advised us that she will not return from overseas. She is getting married in the summer and will continue to work abroad. We wish her a very happy future.

Parents' Forum

The next Parents' Forum will take place after half term: Thursday 27th June, at 2pm and 7pm. All welcome. Both meetings will cover the same content, so you only need to attend one.

Friends' Association Update

The Friends' Association have had a very successful year to date and have donated significant funds to the school for the extras that the budget cannot cover. Most recently this has covered the cost of two class sets of new I-pads, a theatre production of 'The Jungle Book' for every child in Y1 to 5, new outdoor building blocks and storage for the infant playground.

We are very fortunate to be given this amount of funding and I would like to extend my thanks, on behalf of the children, to every member of the Friends' Association for all their hard work. Thanks also to the parents who support all their events.

Due to the clash with Polling Day, the Friends have postponed their Bingo Night. This will now take place in the Autumn term.

Instead of the planned bingo, and in light of feedback about the cancelling of the Summer Fair, the Friends will hold a summer BBQ from 3.30pm to 7.30pm on Friday 5th July. Please note that this event can only go ahead if there are enough volunteers for the BBQ and serving of refreshments. **All children must be accompanied by an adult to this event.**

Children may wear their own clothes on Friday 5th July, in return for bringing crisps, sweet or children's drinks.

The Friends will also run a special children's table-top sale towards to the end of term, where children will be able to spend up to £5 buying new books to read over the summer holidays. These will be sourced at a special price, enabling the friends to sell the books at a reduced price and still make a small profit.

There will also be a clothes recycling bag-drop – more information to follow.

Friends' Association Meeting

The next Friends' Association meeting will take place in school, on Thursday 27th June at 8pm straight after Parents' Forum.

Mathletics

Due to very poor customer service and increasing costs, we will not be renewing our subscription to Mathletics. We would direct you to use My Maths and TT Rockstars instead.

Meeting for Year 5 Parents

There will be a meeting for parents of children in Year 5 on Wednesday, 5th June at 6pm. This meeting focuses on how to help your child have a good Year 6 and also information about applying for a secondary school place.

Health and Safety

We have an excellent health and safety record. We regularly remind children to take care walking around the school and to play sensibly to avoid accidents. We also monitor the school buildings carefully and ensure the buildings and grounds are maintained to a high standard.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our rules at the beginning and end of the school day. We have adjusted these slightly to take into account new equipment and the children's views.

Before school:

Children arriving before 8.45am who aren't accompanied by an adult, will be sent to Breakfast Club and the parents will be charged.

We have a strict no balls before school policy, to prevent random balls from hurting our youngest children and babies in prams. Sports clubs often run on the junior playground and those waiting should keep well back from the sports activities.

Junior children may use the Trim-Trail equipment at the end of the field, prior to the start of the day. If you allow your child to use this equipment, they remain your responsibility and are under your supervision when school is not in session. Please be aware that the Trim-Trail equipment is for children 6 years and over and is not suitable for younger children.

If you arrive after 8.55am, please make sure your child's name is entered into the late book at the main gate or in the school office, so that they are added to the register. This will ensure they are accounted for if we evacuate the building for any reason.

At the end of the day:

Please keep a close eye on your child once you have collected them. Remind your child that they should not leave the school grounds without you and that if you do become separated, they should return to a teacher or the office. Please do not allow your child to play on any equipment or to use balls at the end of the day.

Please also remind your junior child to walk to you from their line so they do not bump into anyone or knock them over.

General reminder:

If your child is allowed to walk to or home from school on their own, then we must have a letter from a parent giving permission.

If someone unfamiliar or different is collecting your child, please make sure you have let the school know before the end of the school day.

Do not park on the zigzag lines and do not drive onto the private road or use it to turn around. The children often see this access road as an extension of the pavement and are not very street aware when they are leaving school. School staff and the minibus have been prevented from accessing the school because of selfish parents, parking, turning and blocking the access road. Please remember these rules apply during Breakfast Club and After-School Club too!

Sun Safety:

Make sure your child has a school sun hat in school.

Apply suntan lotion before school for the day, when appropriate.

Make sure your child brings water to school, to drink during the day.

If your child suffers from hay-fever, please make sure school is aware and that we have the necessary medication and permission, to reduce your child's discomfort.

Breakfast and After-School Club Reminder:

If you fail to make the requested payment and get into arrears, your child's place may be withdrawn until you have cleared your debt.

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 school hours or during the holidays, please send an email to: safeguarding@robsouth.org

E – Safety

This course will expire at the end of term. It is available to every parent at our school and can be taken at your own convenience and covers:

- Information about online dangers and the newest platforms
- What online risks to look out for and how to protect your child
- Interactive quizzes to check your understanding

Please find below the URL you need to visit to register your account:

<https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/strobertsouthwell>

Uniform

Children may wear summer or winter uniform until May half term. After May half term all children should return in summer uniform. Children may wear modesty shorts under their summer dresses as long as these do not show below the hemline of the dress. I have been asked about the all-in-one shorts/top that look like a dress. Your child may wear this if they are in red check but you should be aware that children find these difficult to manage when they go to the toilet and the garment often ends up dragging on the toilet floor. It is therefore a personal decision if you choose this option over a summer dress.

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. If you chose to get boys hair cut very short in the holidays make sure it has grown back by the time they 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.

Jewellery

Apart from **stud** earrings, which are to be taken out or covered on P.E. days, no other jewellery is to be worn to school.

Governors' Fund

Letters have not been sent out this year to remind parents about this very important fund. We would like to undertake improvement works to the roof and heating system. We also have recently secured quotes for partial air conditioning and a security CCTV upgrade. These works will cost several hundred thousand pounds, over the next five years. As a Catholic school we need parent contributions to help us provide the expected 10% contribution towards improvement works. The Governors' Fund, which is £30 per term or £90 per year, per family, is the main source of improvement income. Please try to contribute, however much you can afford, towards the upkeep of your child's school. This will be added to the online account for your child or may be paid by cheque or cash at the school office.



Term Dates

Term Ends for School: Friday 19th July 2019 – 2.00 p.m. (Thursday 18th for Nursery)

The Autumn Term Starts: Tuesday 3rd September 2019

MAY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	OTHER INFORMATION
16/5/19	6pm	Year 4 Buckden Meeting	
20/5/19	9.00am	Orchestra and Guitar Concert	Parents Welcome
20/5/19	2pm	Mass For The Sick of the Community	All adults welcome
21/5/19		Class Photographs	
21/5/19	1pm	Y4 Sports Festival at Kingsbury High School	Free Parent volunteers needed
23/5/19	All Day	Polling Day	School closed
23/5/19	9.00am	Nursery & Reception Sports Day	Going ahead even though school is closed
24/5/19	All Day	Y4 – London Aquarium	
27/5/19		Half term Holiday	

JUNE

DATE	TIME	EVENT	OTHER INFORMATION
3/6/19	8.55am	Children return to school	
3/6/19	All Day	Reception to Willows Farm	
3/6/19	Mon-Wed	Y4 Buckden – 4R	
5/6/19	Wed-Fri	Y4 Buckden – 4S	
6/6/19	All Day	Nursery to Bekonscot	
7/6/19	9.00am	Pentecost Assembly	Parents Welcome
11/6/19	1pm	Y1 Sports Festival at Kingsbury High School	Free Parent volunteers needed
12/6/19		Choir Of The Year Competition	Night time – parent transport needed
14/6/19	All Day	Y1-6 Sports Day at Hendon	All welcome
18/6/19	1pm	Y2 Sports Festival at Kingsbury High School	Free Parent volunteers needed
20/6/19	All Day	Y1 to Buckingham Palace	Parent helpers needed
22/6/19	2pm – 4pm	Reception/Nursery Induction Afternoon	
24/6/19		Y6 PGL week	
24/6/19	1pm	Y4 Pond Dipping at St Gregory's	Free
27/6/19	2pm & 7pm	Parents Forum	All welcome
27/6/19	8pm	Friends' Association Meeting	All welcome
28/6/19	6.30pm	Reception's Got Talent	

JULY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	OTHER INFORMATION
2/7/19	9am	Choir Slam at St Dominic's	
4/7/19	All Day	Y5 – Golders Hill Park	
5/7/19	3.30pm	Friends' Association BBQ	
8/7/19	1pm	Y6 to Sporting Challenge at Kingsbury High School -	Free Parent volunteers needed
8/7/19	All Day	Y2 trip Winsor Castle	
18/7/19		Last day Nursery	
19/7/19	1.30pm	Y2 Mexican Party	
19/7/19	2pm	School Finishes for Summer	

