

St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 1– September 2019



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.**

Catholic Life Of The School

A big thank you to those families who brought back crosses and other religious artefacts from their holiday travels. All donated crosses are displayed in the main entrance.



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

School Prayer: 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

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.

APP

If you are not on the school APP we cannot communicate effectively with you. We are also trying to reduce the amount of paper copying we send home. **Thank you** to all those who are already signed up to the APP. All slips that have been returned with parent's email contacts have been processed and new invites have been sent out. Please check your email inbox & junk and follow the app download and activation instructions. Please email kjoseph@robsouth.org if you have not yet signed up.

Welcome

We take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Andretta to our Nursery staff team and Mrs McClenaghan to our Year 6 team

Safeguarding

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

Miss Beck, Miss Joseph 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.

Summer Library Challenge

Well done to those who took part in the Summer Library Challenge.

Focus on Reading



Reading is one of the two main improvement priorities. The school has spent £15,000 on the new junior reading scheme and the Friends continuously support the school library, which has over £20,000 of books. There is considerable evidence that children who read regularly and who are read to by adults have better vocabulary and are more successful in school and in life.

All children should read every night for 15 to 30 minutes depending on their age. Parents should actively engage with their child and talk about what they have read.

We need your support to give all our children the best chance for their future. Turn off the screens and technology and share a book instead. A few minutes each day can make a real difference.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY- READ/SHARE A BOOK

Focus on Mental Health and the Emotional Well-Being

One of the on-going improvements on our school plan is improving our awareness and support of Emotional Well Being. The children are being offered some yoga sessions during this term as part of our focus on this area.

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 this school year. We will be using the services of the Catholic Children's Society. 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 Mrs Egan in confidence. Please be aware there is a waiting list for this service.

Black History Month

Each class is focusing on different aspects of Black History throughout the month. Some year groups will also be involved in special workshops. The children are also being introduced to people from history who became experts in their field such as scientists and poets.

Postcards

Thank you to all those who sent us postcards from near and far during the summer break.

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 into 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 9.00am 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.

Sad News

As you may already be aware a parent of children in the school passed away at the start of term. Mrs Geary's daughters, Aiofe and Isla, are currently in our school, and their brother Jack will join us in the future. The whole family have been very much in our thoughts and prayers over the last few weeks. A foundation has been set up in her name to raise funds for continuing research into brain cancer. If you wish, please make a donation to the Elaine Geary Foundation via: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/elainegeary>

Charity Fundraising Calendar

A group of parents have suggested a special fund raising calendar. This will include pictures for each moth drawn by children in our school. All children may draw a picture. A selection of 30 to 40 drawings will be included in the final calendar. If your child would like to take part, please send their picture, drawn on A4 paper, into school by next Friday 18th October. Please make sure your child's name is clearly written on the back. We would recommend that felt tips pens are used for colouring purposes, as these will print more clearly on the finished product.

Friends' Association News

The Friends' Association held their AGM early in the term and appointed people to all the elected roles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our committee members past and present for their hard work and commitment to the school.

Temporary Admin Vacancy

We have a general admin vacancy four days a week, from 2pm to 5.30pm. This will involve general reception duties and office administration. If you are interested in this post, then please ask at the office for an application form.

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 if you wish to be added to the waiting list. For 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.

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 Club and all costs, including administration, must be covered by payment for the Clubs.

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 Mrs Kelly will contact you.

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 children's hair cut very short, please time this so that, on their 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.

Date reminders

School closes for Half term on Friday 18th October and reopens on Monday 28th October. School will also be closed on for staff training on **Friday 1st November**.

Assembly dates, trip dates and other events for the rest of the term will be sent out after half term.

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.

Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians to the 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, derogatory remarks or any form of intimidating 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.

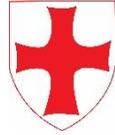
How to Raise a Concern?

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, the 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.

**REVISED SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES
INCLUDING NATIONAL BANK HOLIDAY CHANGE TO
FRIDAY 8th MAY**

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2019-2020

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Inset Days:	Monday 2nd September 2019
First Day for Children:	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
Half Term Holiday:	Monday 21st October – Friday 25th October 2019
Inset Day:	Friday 1st November 2019
Last Day for Nursery	Thursday 19th December 2020
Term Ends for School:	Friday 20th December 2019 – 2.00 p.m.

SPRING TERM 2020

Inset Day:	Monday 6th January 2020
First Day for Children:	Tuesday 7th January 2020
Half Term Holiday:	Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February 2020
Last Day for Nursery	Thursday 2nd April 2020
Term Ends for School:	Friday 3rd April 2020 – 2.00 p.m.

SUMMER TERM 2020

First Day for Children:	Monday 20th April 2020
May Bank Holiday:	Friday 8th May 2020
Half Term Holiday:	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2020
Last Day for Nursery:	Thursday 16th July 2020
Term Ends for School:	Friday 17th July 2020 – 2.00 p.m.
Inset Days:	Monday 20th July & Tuesday 21st July 2020



St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School

Aiming For Excellence - Being The Best We Can Be