



# St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 2 – December 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.*



**We wish all families a Happy and Peaceful Christmas Season**

## **Catholic Life Of The School**

The end of term has given the children the opportunity to share their amazing talents and to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, through their sharing of the Christmas Story. Nursery, Reception and Year 2 performed lovely concerts, with a mixture of modern and traditional carols. Year 1 performed a Christmas assembly and Year 3 and 4 helped us to prepare for Christmas with their liturgy.

Check out the updated pages on the school website about RE and Catholic Life of the School at [www.robsouth.org](http://www.robsouth.org)

We have raised £620.54 for charity from the concert collections. This will be divided between four charities: The Sickle Cell Society, which is one of the Mayor of Brent's chosen charities for the year, The Evelina Children's Hospital in London which treats very sick babies and children, the Elaine Geary Foundation and a further charity to be chosen by the Pupil Parliament.

We also raised £368.15 for Save the Children on our Christmas Jumper Day.

Thank you for your generosity helping these very worthy causes

## **Crosses From Around The World**

We have had some lovely comments about this display from visitors. Thank you for your contributions from your travels. We are in the process of setting up a special book to include the countries the crosses are from and the names of the families who donated them.

### **'God Who Speaks'**

The first Sunday of Advent marked the start of the 'The God who Speaks' year, which is designated by The Catholic Church in England and Wales for us to put Scripture at the centre of our lives. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship and the Bible shows us how to understand the world and how we are called to live and relate to each other.

At our school we will be looking at the following areas;

1. Celebrating God's Word, by focusing on Matthew's Gospel
2. Living God's Word, by looking at the lives of our class Saints and how they inspire us and our faith
3. Sharing God's Word, by focusing on our help and support of others in our daily lives and through our support of charities.

Please take the opportunity at home to support our work at school, e.g. reading the Gospel stories together and praying together.

### **School App**

Most information is now communicated to you via the App. Thank you for signing up and for your support. 99% of children in the school have at least one parent signed up to the App. This is helping us reduce photocopying and our carbon footprint. If you would like to make a suggestion for other information we could include, please email: [CMcEvoy@robsouth.brent.sch.uk](mailto:CMcEvoy@robsouth.brent.sch.uk) who will discuss your suggestion with the relevant staff.

### **Polite Reminder**

A reminder that pictures/videos taken at Christmas performances are for personal use only and should not be shared on social media - thank you.

### **Curriculum**

Next term our curriculum has a special fortnight focusing on reading.

Our foundation subject in focus for the term will be ART. Each year group will be exploring different skills and techniques which will culminate in a final piece. Our art will be linked to the Brent Borough of Culture – which is a wonderful opportunity to put our community on the map. Please have a look on the website (<https://www.brent2020.co.uk/>) as there are lots of fantastic free activities going on over the year for families to enjoy.

### **Staff Changes**

Mrs Browne left school last Friday after more than ten years to take up a new job as a receptionist in a dental practice. We wish her every success for the future.

Mrs Bleau has been offered a secondment position in a school in Herfordshire and will be starting this post in January. Cover for Mrs Bleau's role will be confirmed in January.

### **Friends' Association**

Thank you to those who helped at the Christmas Fair, in any way. Your support and generosity are much appreciated. Thank you also to everyone who supports our Friends' Association throughout the year. The Fair raised £5500 towards the Friends' funds.

## **Safeguarding**

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

Miss Beck, Miss K 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](mailto:safeguarding@robsouth.org)

## **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.

## **Application for a Nursery or Reception place for September 2020**

A gentle reminder during this busy season: the deadline for Nursery and Reception application forms for a place in September 2020 is the 15th January 2020. If you are applying for a Reception place you must also complete the online application (CAF) to the borough in which you live by, **15th January 2020**. If you have any queries, please ask at the office.

## **E-Safety**

If your child is receiving a new device which links to the internet for Christmas, please make full use of the parental controls and security setting.

Talk to your child about how to stay safe online.

Talking point: Choose usernames that don't reveal personal information.

## **Snow**

If snow should occur during a school term, then we will do our best to keep the school open, providing it is safe to do so. If we have to close, we will inform you through the App and by up-dating our web-site. Please be assured that we do try to open; in the event we are short staffed, we will sort the children into different groups and the structure of the day may be altered slightly. It is for each individual family to decide if it is safe to make the journey to school in adverse weather.

## **Thank You**

We are truly blessed to have amazing parents who are very supportive and generous. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for your support throughout the year. At this time, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our collective gratitude for the lovely gifts we have received. They are greatly appreciated by everyone.

## **Back To School**

**All children return to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8.55am.**