



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 3– February 2021



2020-2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another extraordinary half term, which has continued to test the resolve of us all, on behalf of the whole community, I wish to express our enormous thanks and gratitude to you, our parents, for all your prayers, support and amazing stamina, as either home educators or key workers.

It has been tremendously uplifting and humbling to witness the adaptability, resilience, care, positivity and support for each other in our community over the last few weeks.

We are certainly living in unusual times and have travelled an uncharted journey over the last year.

“Life is often a desert, it is difficult to walk, but if we trust in God, it can become beautiful and wide as a highway. Never lose hope; continue to believe, always, in spite of everything. Hope opens new horizons, making us capable of dreaming what is not even imaginable.” Pope Francis

Well Done Everyone

Well done children, parents and staff for your commitment to learning and to doing your very best over the last half term. Congratulations on all the new ICT skills you have learnt and shared. I hope everyone has some time away from their computer screens and can enjoy a bit of a break next week. Do something fun and make someone smile.

Catholic Life Of The School

We have continued to follow the liturgical calendar and remember the saints who inspire us on their feast days.

This week it was the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes:



We Pray...

Hail Mary, woman of faith, first of the disciples!
Virgin Mother of the Church, help us always to account for the hope that is in us, with trust in human goodness and the Father’s love.
Teach us to build up the world,
beginning from within: in the depths of silence and prayer, in the joy of fraternal love, in the unique fruitfulness of the Cross.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us

Lent

Next week is Ash Wednesday, marking the start of the Lenten season. Catholics focus on fasting, prayer, and giving to others during this very Holy season, as we journey towards Easter.

Lent is a good time for children to think about doing something extra rather than just giving up sweets and treats. Random acts of kindness or helping others are great ways of demonstrating the Gospel values and truly following in Jesus' footsteps.

The Feast Of St Robert Southwell



St Robert Southwell's Feast day is on February 21st which is also the first Sunday of Lent.

Fr. Stewart will celebrate a special Mass for St Robert Southwell on Monday 22nd of February. Mass will be at 10.30. The link for this mass will be available on your child's Teams platform, so the whole school can celebrate Mass together.

This year also marks the 50th year of the canonisation of St Robert Southwell's by Pope Paul VI.

Sad News

Please keep Ms Louisa Xavier, Saskia's mother, and the whole family in your prayers at this very sad and difficult time. This mother has sadly been diagnosed with terminal cancer and has been moved to St Luke's Hospice. Saskia is in Reception Two and the family only joined St Robert Southwell in September and are new to our community.

Vision and Mission Reminders

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.**

Wellbeing and Mental Health Vision: **To Support everyone's wellbeing and mental health, so that they can be the best they can be, are happy together, resilient, ready to learn and succeed.**

TT Rock Stars Inter-School Competition - Kingsbury Schools Together

Kingsbury Green School has invited local primary schools for an inter-school competition on TTRockstars!!

Schools involved are: Kingsbury Green, St Robert Southwell, Fryent, Oliver Goldsmith and Roe Green Junior School.

The competition starts today, Friday February 12th and will go on throughout the half term break. All children in Years 2 – 6 are invited to take part and coins/points are earned in ANY GAME MODE. All the children need to do is log in and play as often as they can, from today until the 21st February.

This is a great opportunity for us to compete with the local schools and to demonstrate our great mathematical talent.

Half Term

The school office will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during half term, 9.30am to 2.00pm.

Families may visit the school library so that their children can get a new book to read. The library will be open on Tuesday 16th February: 9.30 – 11.30 and Wednesday 17th February: 9.30 – 11.30. Please be aware that in line with our Covid Risk Reduction measures, you may be asked to queue in a socially distanced manner, before entering the library. Adults must wear a face covering, unless they are exempt.

Headteacher Update Information Session

A huge thank you to the 50 parents who joined the online update session on Wednesday evening. The PowerPoint has been sent to all parents by email. The only questions raised by parents before the meeting were about the return to school. Unfortunately, we will only know what is going to be permitted when the government announces it on the news. Be assured that once we are given permission to open to more children, we will communicate with you and look forward to welcoming all children back to school.

Half Term to Easter Key Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>What</u>
17/2/21	Lent begins	Ash Wednesday during Half Term
4/3/21	World Book Day one	Dress as a book character
11/3/21	World Book Day two	Dress as a book character
17/3/21	St Patrick's Day	Wear something green
20/3/21	International Day of Happiness	Do something at home to make your family happy
21/3/21	World Poetry Day	Share a favourite poem at home
24/3/21	Reception sponsored wheelie day	Reception children bring a bike, scooter, pram or other wheeled vehicle and walk laps of the playground and collect sponsor money for charity
25/3/21	Own-Clothes Day and Lenten charity fundraising day	Children may wear their own clothes and take part in our Easter Bunny fundraising activities
31/3/21	Last day of term	School finishes for Easter holidays

World Book Day

Due to the unusual circumstances, we are offering two opportunities to dress as a book character, Thursday 4th and Thursday 11th March. Teachers will share other activities for the children relating to this day. We hope every child will also receive another book, following on from the one from Father Christmas, for their home book collections.

Celebrating Lockdown Learning As A Whole School

Thank you to all those who have already uploaded videos of their children sharing a poem. My hope and goal is that we can celebrate "Learning During Lockdown" by creating a compilation of St Robert Southwell children performing poetry. Please record your child performing a poem and share it on their learning platform, or by email, by **Monday 22nd February**.

Thank You- Morrisons

Thank you to Morrisons Colindale store, which has continuously supported the school with donations, both for the food bank and in other ways. This week they provided the ingredients for all the children in school to have freshly made pancakes.

General Reminders

- 1) Improving Reading
Reading is one of our on-going areas for improvement. All children also have Reading Eggs. Please encourage your child to continue to read over the half term break.
- 2) Safeguarding
During these very unusual times, it is more important than ever that we are vigilant in our community and safeguard our children. If you have a concern about a child or family, you can email safeguarding@robsouth.org . During the half term break to raise any matters concerning safeguarding, please send an email to: safeguarding@robsouth.org or telephone the school mobile on 07450901227. You can also call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.
- 3) Help
We can only help you if we know what you need! Please phone the school, send an email or ask someone to talk to us on your behalf if we can help you in any way. We may be able to help with devices, Food Bank referrals, Free School Meal applications, Internet access, school uniform, or just be a listening ear. Be BRAVE and let us help you if you need some support. Phone 02082046148 or email admin@robsouth.org
- 4) Stay Safe
Follow government guidelines about social distancing and isolating, if required to do so. Get a test if you have Covid symptoms.