



St Robert Southwell School Newsletter

No 4– March 2021



2020-2023

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.**

Message from Miss Beck

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing you a faithful Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

Everyone deserves a rest over the Easter Break. As restrictions on social gatherings begin to lift, I hope all our families enjoy some time together outdoors, during this Easter season.

Congratulations to all the children, parents and staff for a very smooth and happy return to school over the last few weeks. We have been very blessed not to have to close any year groups. Thank you for all your support with our risk reduction measures.

Catholic Life Of The School

Year of St Joseph



**A Daily Prayer to St Joseph
on the
"Year of St Joseph"**
(8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021)

Pope Francis encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

'Pope Francis has declared a year dedicated to St Joseph, from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. He says: "Each of us can discover in Joseph - the man who goes

unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble" (Patris Corde - With a Father's Love - Pope Francis).

The Feast of St Joseph was on Friday March 19th and Fr Stewart kindly came into school to celebrate Mass. Year 3 and 4 led the Mass beautifully and all the classes took part, watching remotely in their classrooms.

Holy Week has been marked by assemblies and liturgies led by different year groups, and in line with current Covid risk reduction measures, was watched by all the children in their classrooms.

Year 1 led the Palm Sunday Assembly
Year 2 led the Last Supper Assembly
Year 4 led the Way of the Cross Liturgy

These provided an opportunity to follow in Jesus' footsteps in line with our mission, and to become familiar with the liturgical events of this Holy season.

Hop for The Hospice – Lenten Fundraiser

This was a wonderful day in school and there was a real sense of fun around the school all day. The children and staff participated whole-heartedly and the bunny ears really lifted everyone's spirits.

The generosity of the community was phenomenal and we raised a total of £2406 for St Luke's Hospice, who support families at the most challenging time.

Thank you for all your support.



Particular thanks to Reception who raised the most money towards the total collection with their Reception Wheelie day.

Friends' Association News

In spite of the challenges faced in relation to fundraising with the current restrictions, the Friends' Association raised £2000 in their Easter raffle. A huge thank you to all the school staff who ran this event on behalf of the Friends, including writing the tickets and counting

the collection. The Friends have given £20000 to the school towards our continuing efforts to improve technology provision. We are increasing the number of iPads available to the children to support their learning.

Your generosity in supporting our Friends' Association is much appreciated and makes a real difference to every child in our school.

Easter Break

The school office will be open on Monday 12th April, Tuesday 13th April and Thursday 15th April, 9.30am to 2.00pm, during the Easter Holiday.

Parent Consultations

These will take place during the second week back after Easter. All appointments are on Microsoft Teams, the platform used by children to meet their teacher each day during school closure. If you do experience any technical difficulties then please e-mail Caroline McEvoy on cmcevoy@robsouth.org Depending on staff availability, we will see if there is an opportunity for us to set up a new meeting at a later date.

Year 5 to Gordon Brown and Year 6 to PGL

Following the publication of the road map out of national lockdown, we have managed to book trips for Year 5 to go to Gordon Brown for the week and Year 6 to go to PGL for a long weekend. The number of parents who have signed their children up to take part in these trips is very high. I am delighted that we are able to give the children the opportunity to have these residential experiences, especially following such a challenging year. We are blessed to have staff so committed that they offered, without hesitation, to allow these trips to take place. This is giving the school and children a sense of some return towards more normal operations.

World Book Day

We marked World Book Day twice, once at home during lockdown and again in school the week all the children returned. As part of our focus on improving reading for progress and pleasure, all children were given a book, paid for by the school, to take home and keep as part of our World Book Day activities.

Fabulous Finale of Our Learning This Term

Our subjects in focus were Art and History this term. The children have learnt a great deal in both subjects, during remote learning and since their return to school.

The children had an opportunity to visit our own school art exhibition in the hall on Monday so that they could see the work produced by each year group. It was wonderful to see all the finished pieces, inspired by a range of black British artists.

This exhibition was also used by the BBC who filmed in school last Saturday for their education resource platform.

The children took part in some special history quizzes to show off their historical knowledge.

Special thanks to Miss Joseph for her leadership of the curriculum this term and to Mrs Grey for leading on the Art exhibition and Mrs Griffiths for leading on History.

Poetry

The submissions made by the children are being collated so that we have a permanent collection for each year group for Spring 2021. These will be available on your children's year group Teams platforms once they are finished. The delay is due to us trying to include every pupil, to capture a moment in time.

Thanks to Miss Kessler for all her amazing technology skills and for helping to put these together.

Thank You- Morrison's Colindale

Morrison's Colindale have been amazingly supportive of the school, especially in the last 6 months, and have made several generous donations, most recently donating eggs for the bunny to give to children in school. This support makes a real difference to events like Hop for the Hospice and fun days.

Summer Term - Back to School

The subjects in focus next term are Geography and ICT. You will be sent information relating to your child's learning at the start of the new term.

Wellbeing

Supporting Parents Helpfinder (Young Minds). Times are tough for many people right now. Parents find themselves pulled in many different directions and children may be struggling being in the house for so much longer than usual. A mixture of concern about Covid, working from home and children at home, along with a possible financial impact, can make for a stressful household. Young Minds have created a useful 'Supporting Parents Helpfinder'. By answering six questions, parents can find out how to support their child's mental health during the pandemic (and beyond). Find the help finder here:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/>

Summer Term - Uniform

Children should return to school in summer uniform. As a trial, all children may wear a red or white polo shirt, bearing the school logo, with grey trousers, shorts or a skirt as well as the traditional red checked summer dress. PE days will continue for the summer term. Please do check that your children's shoes fit and only purchase black school shoes. For health and safety reasons, all shoes should have a closed heel and toe.

Polling Day Thursday May 6th 2021

School will be closed to all pupils on Thursday May 6th. The children will be set work on their remote platforms and staff will undertake training on this day. Please add this date to your diary.

Local Safety-Children Walking to and From School Alone

There have been reports in the local press and on social media about children who have been approached by strangers on their way home from school. Reports have come in that affect both Brent and Harrow and it seems to have focused on girls walking home from High School. We have already spoken with all children in Year 5 & Year 6 about how to be safe when walking to and from school. They have also taken part in webinars about

personal safety, run by Constable Rose Shepherd from our Local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Please take a moment in the holidays to remind them about how to be safe.

The following steps are recommended;

- Travel in groups where possible and stick to busy roads.
- Ensure that your child keeps a charged mobile phone with them where possible/appropriate.
- Inform family/friends when leaving school so that others will have an idea of when to expect them home.
- Do not engage with strangers who approach; run away and call 999 where there is fear for safety.
- Police should be contacted ASAP so that the circumstances can be investigated at the earliest opportunity.

General Reminders

1) Improving Reading

Reading is one of our ongoing areas for school improvement. Please encourage your child to continue to read over the Easter break, including using Reading Eggs online.

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 Easter 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.

Covid Reminder

Please let us know if anyone in your household tests positive for coronavirus. If your child or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms of coronavirus at home or is sent home by the school with coronavirus symptoms, you must arrange a test for them immediately.

Please let us know by email: admin@robsouth.org or by phoning the school office; during the holiday you can also text the following number 07450901227. To arrange a test, you should visit: nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test. DO NOT WAIT! Your child should be tested on the same day they are showing symptoms, or the next day at the latest. If your child tests positive for coronavirus, you will receive a text, email or phone call from NHS that explains what your result is and what you need to do next. If your child tests negative for coronavirus, your child can return to school.

UNTIL Tuesday 6th April 2021 schools are expected to support Covid 19 Contact Tracing. As per DfE guidance, we will be available as part of the contact tracing system. It will run in the same way as the Christmas break. If your child develops Covid 19 symptoms within 48 hours of the end of term on Wednesday 31st March, please make sure you access the testing system and use this number (07450901227) to let the school know.

How to contact us: SEND A TEXT MESSAGE to 07450901227 and a member of the school's senior leadership team will contact you. When you text, please ensure you provide the following information in your text:

- Child's name and class
- Date they started symptoms
- Date they tested positive
- Details of any siblings in school.

This phone will be checked daily.

Should we receive information regarding a confirmed positive case, we will take advice from DfE/Public Health England. If advised to by PHE, we will advise parents using our APP service. This may mean that your child is required to self-isolate.

We sincerely hope that no one from our school community will need to contact us and that we will not need to contact any of you disrupting your Easter break due to a positive Covid case.

Covid Risk Assessment

Our Governors will be meeting in the first week back after Easter to review our Risk Assessment and agree any changes that might take place in light of any government updates.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for their ongoing support. Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter.



Back to School



Everyone is due back at school on Monday April 19th!