

# Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

Listowel Crescent Clifton Nottingham NG11 9BH  
Telephone Nottingham (0115) 915 2392 Email: [admin@brw.nottingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@brw.nottingham.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.brwacademy.com](http://www.brwacademy.com)  
Head Teacher Mrs L Maylard-Mason BA (hons)



January 2016

**BIG** Question!

Is something  
less real if we  
can't touch it?

Try discussing the following BIG questions at home around the dinner table or on the walk to school. It might make for an interesting discussion!

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the start of a new year particularly the new children who have just joined the Foundation Stage this term. I hope you and your families had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the break.

We started 2016 with a wonderful Mass last Thursday with the theme of 'God's boundless love', linking to Epiphany week.

We began the Mass by asking the school community to pray for our families and past pupils who need our prayers at this time. It was lovely to see children from each class in the school participate in the Mass in some way. As usual, the singing was simply beautiful.

## Weather conditions

Please make sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather conditions. Coming to school in wellingtons is a good idea. Please ensure usual school shoes are brought to change into. Needless to say hats, gloves and scarves need to be named so that we can make sure that they get back to their rightful owners. On this note, the Lost Property Bin gets full on a regular basis. Please make sure **all** items are labelled. After some time, unclaimed clothing items are washed and put in our second-hand uniform box.

We often take the children out at the end of the day if it has been snowing so that they can enjoy the snow and avoid having damp shoes all day. The weather does not interrupt the smooth running of the school and walks to the library, Glapton woods and to swimming will continue unless weather conditions are deemed to be unsafe.

## Speed Skating

Last Friday the children in Years 1 and 2 were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit the Ice Arena to watch the Olympic Speed Skaters. It was a very exciting day with lots of cheering! The children travelled to the Arena using the trams. I was very proud to receive positive feedback from a member of Clifton community who praised their behaviour when travelling to the Arena. Well done Years 1 and 2; you are a credit to our school.

## Ten Ten Theatre

Ten Ten Theatre came into our school on Tuesday to work with the children from

## Upcoming Events

**19<sup>th</sup> January**  
School Photographs

**21<sup>st</sup> January**  
Year 3 Mass  
9.00am

**28<sup>th</sup> January**  
KS2 Talent Show  
1.30pm

**29<sup>th</sup> January**  
FS/KS1 Talent Show  
9.10am

**4<sup>th</sup> February**  
9.00am

**11<sup>th</sup> February**  
Musical Evening

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Inset Day – School closed

**23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
KS2 Disco  
3.30pm-4.30pm

**25<sup>th</sup> February**  
FS/KS1 Disco  
3.30pm-4.30pm

**15<sup>th</sup> March**  
Parents Consultation  
4.00pm-7.00pm

**16<sup>th</sup> March**  
Parents Consultation  
1.30pm-3.30pm

FS2 to Year 6 with a variety of dramatic productions. We also had the parent's viewing in the morning which was well attended. Thank you for your support with this. Please take time to talk to your children about the drama that they have seen.

FS and KS1 – *Freedom Fighter* – helping children to understand the importance of rules

Years 3 and 4 – *Master and Servant* – helping children to find happiness by loving and serving others instead of using others for their own benefit

Years 5 and 6 – *Called Up* – helping children to cope with the impact of change

### **Big Theatre Window Company**

Foundation Stage enjoyed a wonderful production this week of 'The Elves and The Shoemaker'. They were all mesmerized by the acting, singing and dancing, whilst learning how good it is to help others. Please look at the School Blog to see the enthralled faces.

### **Talent show**

The auditions went very well, with many children showing off their talents. It was difficult to decide who to select for the final and unfortunately, only a certain number of children could be selected. I was very proud of everyone who auditioned. It takes great courage and bravery and all the children who auditioned have been praised for their efforts. The KS2 Talent Show will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 1.30pm and the FS/KS1 will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 9.10am. All are welcome even if your child is not in the final. Please let us know if you are coming by returning the slip below so we can organise the seating.



### **School Photographer – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Our school photographer will be available from 8.00am in the morning to take sibling groups including younger siblings who may not be in our school yet. All children at school will have individual and sibling group photographs. Please complete the slip below to let us know if you would like a timeslot for this.

### **Young Writers**

Recently some of the children in our school entered the Young Writers' national writing competition *Time Travelling Tales*. Pupils wrote their mini sagas on the theme of Time Travelling... I am delighted to inform you that the editors would like to publish some of our pupils' mini sagas in *Time Travelling Tales – Through Time & Space*. Having work published is not only something to be proud of but it will encourage our pupils to continue to develop their writing

talents. All the children who entered received a bookmark. If your child's work has been chosen to be published, a letter from Young Writers will have been sent to your home address or to the school. Children who unfortunately did not get chosen will have received feedback and have ten days to resubmit their work again if they'd like to.

### **Lunchtime Menus**

Last term, our wonderful kitchen staff and our catering provider worked together to theme the school lunches around the children's learning in class. Just another way to bring the learning alive for our children! We hope to do this again this term by celebrating food from around the world (FS topic), all things magical (Years 1 and 2) and mysterious and spy themed food (Years 3,4,5 and 6). Watch this space for more information! In the meantime, please find the current lunchtime menus attached. For those children who have a packed lunch, from time to time you may find a short note inside your child's lunchbox about the lunch on offer that day. If you would like your child to try a school dinner, please contact the office.

### **Attendance**

Congratulations to Year 2 who won the class with the highest attendance last term, just pipping Year 4 to the post who had been winning for weeks! The school continues to work towards its attendance target of 97.5%. Current class attendance rates are:

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96.2	97.3	98.7	97.8	98.4	97.4	97.8

### **Sickness and Absence**

If your child has been physically sick or had diarrhoea, it is school policy that they remain off school for at least 24 hours. If you would like any further guidance, please contact the office.

### **Science Shirts**

In this Year to Create, we are keen to encourage the children to get their Science thinking hats on in particular to *create* questions to answer through scientific investigations. Children thoroughly enjoy practical science activities and at Blessed Robert, we aim to thoroughly immerse the children in their learning and bring it alive any way we can. One way we can do this in Science is by asking the children to wear their 'Science Lab Coats' when investigating. We ask that the children bring in a 'Lab Coat' (old, adult-sized white shirt – please do not spend money!) and keep it in their PE bags during the week.

### **Handwriting Grip**

We are currently looking at the way the children grip their pens and pencils as this can make a huge difference to the quality of their writing and attitudes to writing. Guidance and advice will shortly be sent out with a helpful video about pen/pencil grip led by the children which will be on the school blog soon.

### **Safe Driving**

It has been noted that some drivers using the roads around school are being unsafe, driving at dangerous speeds at peak times when our children and families are walking to school. If any cars are seen driving irresponsibly, car registration plates will be noted and passed onto the police. It is imperative we work together to keep our community safe.

### **Healthy Schools**

After successfully achieving the Healthy Schools strand in Raising Aspiration, we continue in our quest to be as healthy as possible.

The focus for this academic year is Safety, involving all aspects of safety from PSHE to internet safety and safeguarding. Our aim is to ensure children feel safe in school and are aware of what to do when they feel unsafe.

We are reviewing a number of policies and are keen to hear what our pupils have to say. We will keep you updated on events and our progress through the year.

**Pupil Voice**

Every term the house captains gather the pupils and staff in house groups to discuss ways in which the school is doing well and what we could do to develop further. We highly value the opinions and thoughts offered by our pupils and are committed to listening to their feedback and any ideas they may have. We have worry boxes in every classroom and a pupil voice box in the school hall. Last term, after gathering the views of our children we have:

- Trained the Sports Ambassadors up to lead and manage small games with the younger children.
- Improved the library area by making it more appealing. We now have 'flying books' and attractive fish to entice more readers in.
- Introduced a Tech Future Girls Club.
- Purchased new netball posts to be permanently cemented into the KS2 playground for our budding netballers and to increase physical activity and enjoyment at playtime.
- Launched two writing competitions which the children have thoroughly enjoyed!
- The library leaders looked in every classroom and gave advice on how to improve class library areas.
- In the Year To Create, the children asked for more ways to enhance their creativity and so we introduced the playpod in the KS2 playground which continues to be popular with the children.

The children gathered in their houses this week and yesterday I met with the house captains to discuss the children's views. The children were very professional and enjoyed chairing the meeting and taking the minutes. There are some very creative ideas and exciting ways we can continue to move our school forward. Watch this space for further exciting developments! I'll keep you posted.

I look forward to seeing you at the Talent Shows if you are able to make it. They promise to be entertaining and great fun.

In the meantime, I ask that you keep our school community in your thoughts and prayers.

I look forward to another exciting term ahead

Miss Ferrara

.....

Parents of .....

I would like to bring my younger child/ren in at 8.00am for photos on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

I/We will be attending the Talent Show final on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January

\*Please delete as appropriate