

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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18th December 2015

Dear Parents,

Being at Blessed Robert Widmerpool for the last few weeks has been an absolute joy. I have been able to share with many of you and your families the fabulous nativities, the Academy Concert, the Advent Celebration and our final Advent Mass. Every occasion has been a blessing and lifted all of our spirits. If we weren't in the Christmas spirit before, we certainly are now!

Years 4, 5 and 6 Advent Celebration

I'm surprised that the roof of the school hall is still intact – the singing nearly took it completely off! This was a beautiful, sophisticated

celebration. Every child was completely committed to their role whether it be singing, narrating, acting or dancing. It

was a stunning, flawless presentation of Advent as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus at Christmas. We were honoured to dedicate the song, 'Love Shone Down,' to Mrs Underwood, a parent whose children attended the school previously, who sadly passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family.

FS1

The FS1 nativity was meant to be celebrated outdoors however the heavens opened at the last moment and so there was a quick venue change. Thank you for co-operating with us, especially considering the tight squeeze in the Jubilee Room. Many of you were there and listened to what could only be described as joyful and uplifting with plenty of enthusiasm. The weather certainly did not dampen anyone's spirits. The children were simply wonderful and thoroughly enjoyed dancing to the Christmas party song at the end.

FS2

The story of Christmas was told through 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. The children were astoundingly confident despite being only 4 and 5 years old. They sang so beautifully; it really was lovely. The children also showcased their wonderful sense of humour by laughing at their own jokes!

Year 1 'A Miracle in Town'

Here our stage was graced with a host of angels who told the story of the first Christmas. There was singing and lots of dancing. Confident voices, fabulous costumes and smiles all round.

Year 2 'Shine Star Shine'

The children taught the audience about Jesus' birth and the important message was that Christmas was a time of peace, joy and love. The singing was wonderful, the costumes were fabulous and the children were exceptional.

Fundraising
The DePaul 'sleepout' has raised £626.00 so far.
Children In Need has raised £243.40.
Christmas Jumper Day is expected to raise around £250.00.

The Peruvian Gift Stall last Friday (at Carols Around The Tree) raised £142.00 for Aid for Chad.

Thank you for supporting all of these causes.

Upcoming Events

Back to School

Monday 4th January
Yrs 3&4 Swimming

12th January

Ten-Ten Theatre

13th January

Talent Show Auditions

19th January

School Photographs

28th January

KS2 Talent Show
1.30pm

29th January

FS/KS1 Talent Show
9.10am

11th February

Musical Evening
6.30pm

Friday 12th February

Inset Day – School closed

15th March

Parents Consultation
4.00pm-7.00pm

16th March

Parents Consultation
1.30pm-3.30pm

Year 3 'Baubles'

Well, if looking after our school isn't enough, the Year 3 children even centred their Christmas play around her – Mrs Larcombe was the star of this story! Cleaning the school each evening, Mrs Larcombe (played wonderfully by one of the children) worked away making a new bauble each night for the tree only for this past-time to be discovered by dancing mice! Each bauble told the Christmas story beautifully. It was a creative performance with jokes sprinkled throughout. Year 3 enjoyed laughing at their own jokes too! We do have a sense of humour here at BRW!

Academy Concert

Our Year 5 and 6 choir have excelled themselves once again at the Academy Concert which was at the Albert Hall on Tuesday evening. They worked extremely hard with Mrs Bracha, one of our school governors, to develop their singing over the past few weeks. We don't like to do things by halves at Blessed Robert; we chose a modern, creative yet challenging song. As usual, their hard work and perseverance paid off – the singing was incredible. Watching and listening to the children perform is always wonderful; their singing at the concert made the hairs on the back of our necks stand on end. It was a great evening with lots of wonderful singing and crazy Christmas dancing to finish the night off. They were a credit to the school community. It was wonderful to join together with the other schools in our Academy Trust (St Patricks, St Edwards, St Edmund Campion and The Becket) as well as English Martyrs who joined us for the night. It was also great to see so many of our ex pupils singing or playing instruments as part of the Becket School. Thank you to all parents and governors who came along.

Carols Around The Tree

Our annual gathering around our tree was lovely and gave you all the opportunity to join in with the singing of traditional carols and Christmas songs. The atmosphere was great and I would like to thank you all for your enthusiasm and energy. Our children love to sing and evidently so do you! It was quite clear that, apart from Year 5, we all need to work on our rapping skills next year! Thank you for your support; it raised a whopping £800 for school. We are very grateful and hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We have received lots of compliments about the surprise staff Christmas video – now you know exactly what the staff get up to when the children have gone home for the day! You can watch it again on the school blog – brw.academy.com (School Activities – School News)

Advent Mass

Yesterday we celebrated our final Mass of the term. It was a lovely occasion with lots of songs from class nativities coming together in our celebration. Children from every year group participated either in reading a prayer, doing the offertory or singing. It was a truly joyful occasion. It was lovely to see so many of you there, including some ex pupils.

Photographs and filming of Nativities

With so many wonderful nativities and celebrations, capturing these moments as photographs or video to treasure forever is important. You will have heard me say that it is your responsibility to ensure that photographs and films are **not** posted on social media. Our reasons for this are that some parents request this for personal reasons or more seriously, for safeguarding and child protection concerns. Should the Governors discover that this request has not been respected and photographs have been posted online, they will take legal advice and as a school, we may have to reconsider our position in allowing photographs and videos to be taken at school events.

Singing in the Community

Year 2 visited Clifton Manor Care Home yesterday and sang to the residents. The children sang their hearts out. Just another way our children give to the community – what better way than festive, joyful singing. Many residents commented on their excellent behaviour and singing skills.

Year 6 Briars Residential

Year 6 had a superb time during their two night stay at the Briars (The Diocesan Centre for Young People). Not only did the children enjoy a tree top adventure at Go Ape with Year 5 beforehand, they enjoyed a walk in the Derbyshire hills, a celebratory Mass and a disco!

Homework club

Mrs Doherty, Mrs Comar and Mrs Kidger run this club voluntarily before and after school. This was something requested for by the children and parents.

Monday
3.30pm-4.30pm

Wednesday
8.00am-8.55am

Please ensure you contact the school office to put your child's name down should they wish to attend.

Their behaviour and attitude was exemplary and they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. I am pleased to report that they all went to sleep on time... well before midnight at least!

Date Changes for your Diary

Year 3 Mass will now be on Thursday 21st January and Year 4 Mass will now be on Thursday 4th February.

Hen House Opening!

Today, we officially opened our brand new hen house paid for by the fundraising efforts of the Parent Group. The opening was led by the Animal Welfare Ambassadors in Year 6 and attended by class representatives across the school. Parents were invited to watch the ribbon being cut by Mrs Larcombe, Mrs Taylor (our gardener) and Mrs Boulton. We have two very pampered chickens indeed! They even have decorations ready for Christmas!

Bauble Competition

Congratulations to the entrants of the bauble competition who were awarded house points today! We have such creative children at BRW! Thank you to all who entered. The winner was announced in celebration assembly. We raised £52.00 for school funds.

FS2

Miss Wood will continue to teach the children in FS2 in the Spring Term. The entire Foundation Stage enjoyed a visit to Manor Farm this week where they took part in a retelling of the Nativity story, explored the farm where they were able to hold some of the smaller animals and had fun playing imaginatively in the indoor play barn.

Achievers of the Term

At the end of every term one child per class is awarded the achiever of the term. Congratulations to all class winners! Their photograph will be displayed on the Wow Wall in school shortly.

The Playground

Please ensure language used on the playground is appropriate and suitable. As adults, we are role models to the children. This includes how we speak and the words we use. Please be mindful of this. The children hear more than we think at times and this language can easily find its way into school.

Suitable Hairstyles

At Blessed Robert Widmerpool, we pride ourselves on high standards of behaviour and smartly dressed children. A reminder about suitable hairstyles for both boys and girls -

Boys: Hair should not be shaved less than a number 2 grade. Gel should be saved for the discos.

Girls: Hair should be tied back with discreet accessories in school colours.

Finally...

The new dinner menu for January is attached. We will be starting with Week 1.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

It's certainly been a busy term with so many memorable events and achievements. Thank you for your continued support. I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. See you all on Monday 4th January 2016.

Best Wishes

Miss Ferrara

