

# Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

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## No Pens Wednesday Success

On October 7th the school took part in No Pens Wednesday where the pens and pencils were firmly locked away for at least one lesson. The classrooms came alive with role play, drama, debates and an abundance of technology was used to enhance learning. Needless to say, activities that don't require pens/pencils are used creatively all the time at BRW. Seeing as though children usually write as well as they can speak, this seemed

a worthwhile activity to place extra importance on the spoken word and it was a day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! The school office can now rest easy as pens are back on the menu...for now!

## DePaul Sleepout

On Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, the school hall saw 78 children put their faith into action. They sacrificed a good night's sleep in a warm, secure bed for a hard floor with a cardboard box as a mattress. We enjoyed skyping other schools in the Trust, a visit from the Becket Chaplaincy team and a night time prayer over Skype. Their behaviour was exemplary. Your children truly are champions of change who want to make a difference to those less fortunate; they are inspirational. Staff who braved the night couldn't have been prouder. The challenge now is to collect the sponsor money! Please send it to the office as soon as possible.

## Year 6 Mass

St Therese of the child Jesus who led an incredible life was the theme of the recent Year 6 Mass. It was a lovely celebration filled with beautiful singing and poignant reflections. Parents even left with a hand-made rose. The learning was quite evident as they shared facts about St Therese during the Mass. Did you know that she loved flowers? She also said that it's the kind, small things that aren't shouted about that make all the difference. Something for us all to think about...

## Harvest Mass

Today we celebrated Harvest Mass. It was a joyous occasion; the singing nearly took the school roof off! The donations have been piling up and the amount collected is a true testament to how our community pulls together to help those less fortunate. Donations will be sent to Emmanuel House and Clifton Food Bank. The house of Matthew won (just!) with the most donations – well done team Matthew! Thank you for your support and generosity.

## Upcoming Events

### 2<sup>nd</sup> November

KS2 Disco

3.30pm-4.30pm

### 3<sup>rd</sup> November

FS-KS1 Disco

3.30pm-4.30pm

### 10<sup>th</sup> November

Coffee&Cakes

2.45pm

### 11<sup>th</sup> December

Carols Around the Tree

6.00pm

### 15<sup>th</sup> December

Academy Concert Albert hall

## Attendance

Last year the schools attendance was 97.3%. This is above other schools locally and nationally and something the school should be very proud of. It's onwards and upwards for BRW! Our aspirational target for this year is 97.5%. Attendance rates for individual children have been shared at the parents consultations this week. Class attendance is as follows:

FS2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
97.29	97.58	98.55	97.63	98.73	98.38	98.38

Well done to Year 4! Watch out – Year 2 are hot on your heels!

## Football Fever!

The team have started the league with a positive, competitive spirit. So far the matches have been nail biting; it's difficult to watch without an excitable scream or two here and there! See below for a brief commentary from the team:

### **BRW v Glapton**

*This proved to be a difficult game, Glapton were on good form however, our defence stayed strong and were able to score first. We pulled together as a team even when Glapton went on to score 4 goals leaving the final result 4-2 to Glapton. Nothing gets our team down though, we kept our heads high, rolled our shoulders back and walked away with pride*

### **BRW v Dovecote**

*From the moment the whistle blew the team attacked and scored. The team fought hard, powered on and the end result was 4-0 to BRW! Go team!*

### **Radcliffe Football tournament**

*At the RF Tournament we played with great strength and in true BRW style many goals were scored and saved. The matches were nail biting and a few tense moments were had. Overall position third in our group. Well done BRW!*

### **BRW v S Wilford**

*The team united, communicated well and battled hard. We unfortunately lost the match 6-3 in the end but we left with chins held high.*

*Commentary by Freddie (Goalkeeper)*

### **Year 5 Assembly**

Year 5 shone with confidence, energy and positivity during their class assembly. It was a true showcase of their passion for learning and I think I speak on behalf of everyone when I say they made all of our cheeks ache after the laughter and endless smiling! The PE cupboard was cleverly transformed into a travelling police phone booth and sophisticated use of technology added to the entertaining performance. Those who watched the show saw every child stand up boldly, radiate with confidence and proclaim why they were proud to be who they are. When Miss Lee asked Year 6 what they learnt from the assembly, they responded, "Love yourself. They taught me to be proud just to be me." These children were absolutely inspirational. Finding the words to let you know just how uplifting, motivational and exceptional they were is proving difficult; perhaps simply INCREDIBLE will do!

### **Parents View**

We have added a new page to the school blog. Please go to **BRWAcademy.com**, click on **Information, Parents Link** and there a link to the official Ofsted Parent's View page for you. Alternatively, scan the QR code will take you straight there. Collecting your views is essential at any time during the school year so we ask that you click on the link and share your views of the school. The more parent views we have, the better!



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### **Productive Parents Meeting**

A group of parents and I met to discuss future fundraising events to bring the school community together and support the school. We have a long list of exciting ideas and we'll keep you informed of upcoming school events. Thank you all for money raised so far through such events as they have paid for a new house for the chickens, a storage container for the PlayPod items and previously, the new school stage. We now have another, expensive goal – a new set of iPads for Years 1 and 2! We are open to fundraising ideas all the time and simply ask that you continue to support us with events in and after school. We will officially open the new chicken house soon – details to follow.

On this note, a **thank you** must go to Mrs Thompson who kindly agreed to, in the nicest sense of the word, *hassle* organisations for fundraising items for school raffles and prizes. Another **thank you** to Mrs Batterham who runs a bidding page which raises funds for the school. We are so grateful for your continuous support. If you have any items that could be sold on the page, please contact the school office for Mrs Batterham's details. Nothing is too big or too small and all money raised goes to the school or other good causes.

### Foundation Stage 2

Regretfully we inform you that Miss Sellers, the FS2 teacher, has had to unexpectedly leave Blessed Robert Widmerpool School due to unforeseen circumstances. We thank Mrs Sellers for her hard work whilst she was here. The post has been advertised and we hope to appoint a new teacher shortly. In the meantime, Miss Chapman will be teaching your children, supported by the rest of the staff in the Foundation Stage including Mrs Cave who we welcome back for a short time.

### Diary Dates

#### Advent Celebrations

3<sup>rd</sup> December – Years 4, 5 and 6 - 7.00pm

7<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 - 2.45pm

8<sup>th</sup> December – Year 2 – 2.45pm

9<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 – 2.45pm

10<sup>th</sup> December – FS1 – 2.30pm

11<sup>th</sup> December – FS2 – 2.30pm

Carols Around The Tree – 11<sup>th</sup> December – 6.00pm

Academy Concert (Albert Hall) – Years 5 and 6

Christmas Jumper Day – 18<sup>th</sup> December

The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> January to take individual and family photos

### British Values

The Department for Education have reinforced the obligation for schools “to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. Actively promoting these values means challenging opinions and behaviours that are contrary to, or undermine, these values.

### Coffee Morning and Toddler Group

One way to stay involved and meet other parents is to come to Coffee Morning on a Friday and Toddler Group on a Tuesday, both at 9am in the Jubilee Room. It is a friendly bunch who love to natter over coffee; it's a positive, uplifting way to start the day. Why not pop in for a coffee and a slice of toast? Anna Boulton, who works within the school also, will be there to welcome you if you're interested. In order to officially welcome **new parents** to the school, we are holding a **Coffee and Cake Welcome Event** for new and existing parents. This will be in the hall from 2.45pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Come and along and enjoy a cake or two.

The British values include:

- Respect for the law
- Democracy
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

These are all embedded through the teachings of the Gospels which are woven through all aspects of curriculum and school life. Respect for law and order begins as the children enter the school and respect themselves, each other, the property of the school, their place in it and that of the wider community.

At Blessed Robert Widmerpool, these values are further reinforced regularly through SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) themes which are planned for across all areas of learning and school life. We ensure pupils are aware of the history and values of Britain and are prepared for life in modern Britain. We aim to help pupils understand the role of British values in society.

Children at our school are encouraged to have a voice. Opportunities to vote for school and class representatives are available to the children and the opinions of all are valued and welcomed. The school acts as a Polling Station and the children are encouraged to understand the civic duty and responsibility associated with casting a vote. For more information regarding British Values, please visit the school blog.

#### **And finally...**

School closes today (Friday – Inset Day) for one week and will re-open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. It's been an incredibly busy first half term at Blessed Robert Widmerpool. The school has come alive after the summer break with an infectious positive spirit, a thirst for learning and enthusiasm oozing from every corner and every classroom. Your children continue to inspire us all and we await the next half term with excitement.

Have a restful and safe half term break.

Miss Ferrara

Acting Head Teacher

