

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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School Mission Statement

'We walk kindly in the footsteps of Jesus Christ as we live and learn'

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of the term and the end of an amazing 2016 at BRW! We

have had a busy and exciting build up to Christmas this year. So many events have taken place that I just do not know where to start!

Carols Around The Tree

Amazing! What a fantastic evening of Carol singing and festive cheer. I have had so many positive comments from parents about this event which is a pleasure to hear. Thank you to all the parents for your support and to the children for their wonderful carol singing. There was a strong community and festive spirit in the hall and we also raised lots of funds for the school and £297.45 towards the Building Hope Appeal.

BRW's 5 R's which help to build our learning power....

Relationships

Reflectiveness

Resourcefulness

Responsibility

Resilience

Advent Liturgy

The start of the Advent season was an important time for us to gather together as a school community. The children who took part in the KS2 Advent Liturgy this year were astounding. It was a joy to see them perform each song with passion and spirit and guide us on an important Advent journey. They shared a powerful message through their singing, acting and speaking. They invited us

to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming and to reflect on what this really means to us as individuals. I know you will agree that it was the perfect way to start Advent this year.

Building Hope for Bunkpurugu

As you are aware, we have been concentrating all of our efforts on raising funds throughout Advent for this exciting project. I can now report that work is complete on the new bore hole in Bunkpurugu. This is fantastic progress and it will be really exciting for you to know that our efforts here at BRW have already made a difference to the community we are supporting in Ghana!

Marsha, our link chaplain from the Becket, has informed me that The Christmas Market at the Becket School has raised £1200 so far! Money is still coming in. Thank you so much for your support with this event and thank you to the children in Year 5 who were absolute professionals at selling our Christmas Cups. Their persuasive skills were second to none! I also want to say a big thank you to all the staff who manned the BRW stall that evening. This has made a huge difference to this exciting project.

DATES

16th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Last Day of term

19th/20th December

INSET Days

4th January

School Opens

6th January

Meeting to discuss International Evening – 3.00pm

11th January

Ten Ten Theatre in school Parent presentation at 9:00am

12th January

Whole School Mass

19th January

Year 3 Class Mass

20th January

International Evening

25th January

KS2 Talent Show 1:30pm

26th January

Year 2 Class Assembly

27th January

9:00am FS/KS1 Talent Show

2nd February

Year 4 Class Mass

8th February

Hamper Raffle Assembly 3:00pm

9th February

Musical Evening

10th February

Break Up for Half Term

Christmas Celebrations

School was a magical and spiritual place to be last week with all the wonderful Christmas Celebrations taking place. Well done to the children in FS1, FS2, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3. I am so proud to be part of such an incredible school with such talented children. They re-told this important Christmas story in a variety of ways and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. There were tears of joy and laughter all around the audience. We enjoyed watching: funky camels, dancing donkeys, beautiful angels, magnificent kings and some fab-u-lous Come Dancing Judges!

This is such a precious time in our children's lives and I know many new memories were created last week; it was a pleasure to share them with you all.

Briars

Year 6 returned from an exhilarating and enjoyable experience at The Briars last week. I have heard some fantastic stories from their travels. They stopped off at The Greenwood Days Centre on the way to experience some outdoor adventure, team building and den building. They then had a fun packed stay at The Briars with the team and Fr. David. They may have looked a little tired on their return but I have definitely noticed a positive change in their demeanor and attitude. They had a great time. Myself, Miss Ferrara and Miss Cotter enjoyed a dance with them at the disco last Tuesday. Thank you to Miss Lee, Mrs Doherty and Mrs Kidger for joining the children and helping them to have such a great experience.

Reading Books

We have recently purchased some lovely new reading books and are excited to announce that we will be trialing a new reading book system for the children in FS2. This will mean that your child may no longer bring home a Jelly and Bean phonics reading book, instead they will receive an appropriately banded book which will assist them when working on their reading skills. Books will be changed every Monday and Friday as usual. We advise that you should read for about 10 minutes every day with your child in order to support their progress. It is also important that you write in their reading record every time you read with your child. The new books have an informative section for the adults at the start and end of the story providing guidance on how to share the story effectively and questions to ask your child. We look forward to hearing your feedback and what the children think of the books. At BRW we aim to foster a love of reading and ensure the children enjoy reading in school and at home.

Basketball

BRW made their long awaited debut at the Nottingham City Rally this month. They finished 6th overall. Coach Catterall was incredibly pleased with their performances and the whole school is behind the team as the Rally continues. Their next match will be played on 9th January. Go team go!

Cross Country

The Cross Country team have really proved themselves this term in their ten-week long training programme! They've set goals, improved and smashed running targets as well as improved stamina, agility, style and health! A small team proudly took part in the Rushcliffe Country Park 1.5km challenge back in November. Their sportsmanship was second to none. We look forward to more potential Cross Country events later next year, as we make way for... Netball!

Word of the Month

Trudge

Verb: To walk slowly and with heavy steps.

'I trudged up the stairs'

Synonyms: plod, tramp, drag oneself, walk heavily, toil, trek

Antonyms: skip, trip

Noun: A difficult or laborious walk.

"He began the long trudge back to..."

International Evening/Talent Shows

We have so many exciting things to look forward to in the New Year. Blessed Robert's bi-annual International Evening event is planned for Friday 20th January. This is an opportunity for our school community to come together to celebrate our diversity, experience different cultures and of course, enjoy lots of tasty food from around the globe. The event will involve hosting a table and giving a short presentation about the country you are from. There will be a meeting to discuss the details of the evening if you wish to take part on 6th January at 3:00pm in the school hall.

We will also be hosting our annual talent show events which showcase the children's gifts and talents. The KS2 Talent Show will be held at 1:30pm on 25th January. FS/KS1 talent Show will take place at 9:00am on Friday 27th January. Myself and Miss Ferrara are very much looking forward to the auditions this year. It is always a highlight as we have so many talented children.

Advent Reconciliation

Reconciliation took place last week for those children in KS2. Fr Philip led the service and there was an opportunity for children to pause, reflect and make a good confession during the season of Advent.

BRW Radio Station

The brand new BRW school radio station is growing from strength to strength. Home to our famous presenters Megan and Lenny who have been hosting Mission Mondays, Chatty Tuesdays and Funky Fridays for the last few weeks. They have definitely entertained us with their chat, had us all in stitches with their jokes and ensured we were gripped with their interesting interviews.

The radio is a fantastic opportunity for the children in our school to share their news and views and improve their communication and computing skills. I must also give a 'shout out' to our Year 5 presenters Jessica and Alexi who did a splendid job when they filled in for our regular presenters whilst they were at the Briars last week. Well done!

There is no need to miss out on any of your favourite shows. Listen again on the school blog.

<http://brwacademy.com/>

School Place Applications

A **reminder** that if you are applying for a place for your child to start Foundation Stage 2 in September 2017. (If your child will reach age 4 between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017). You need to apply through the Nottingham City Council Website online. Detailed guidance on applying for school places is available from the school admissions website <http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/schooladmissions>.

Once you have registered online, the school will be notified and you will be issued with a supplementary form to fill in and return.

For Foundation Stage 1 places, please speak to Mrs Shakh in the school office who will give you the application form.

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Jumper Day will be held this Friday. Children can wear their festive jumpers and bring in a £1 donation. All proceeds to go towards Save the Children.

New Menus

We are really excited to start working with our new caterers Aspens in January. I have attached the new menus for you to look at.

INSET Days

A reminder that the school is closed for INSET on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December.

School opens on Wednesday 4th January.

Congratulations

I am sure you would all join in with myself and all the staff at BRW in congratulating Mrs Owen (formerly Miss Verdon) on her recent wedding.

Huge congratulations in advance to Miss Sparkes who will be getting married over the Christmas period. She will return as Mrs Cook. We wish them both lots of love, luck and happiness.

Finally, I would like to wish the children, staff and families of BRW a peaceful and happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Mrs Maylard-Mason

Head Teacher