

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy



21st July 2015

Dear Parents

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter. I can't believe that this will be my last as the Head Teacher of Blessed Robert Widmerpool School. I think that I have been in denial all this time but now reality has kicked in.

Green Flag

Congratulations to all the children, The Eco Council, Mrs McGurk, Mrs Piper, Mrs Smith and Miss Taylor for all their hard work and dedication. We have been awarded the Green Flag for our commitment to being an Eco Friendly school and putting our words into action to support the planet and to remain true to our stewardship of the environment. This is a very proud moment for the school. Well done everyone!

SATs results

Results this year were amazing. Congratulations to all the children at the end of KS1 and at KS2. These results are a reflection of their hard work positive attitude and resilience congratulations to parents and all staff involved too. These results show that our children attain higher than expected and make exceptional progress.

END OF KEY STAGE 2 DATA

(Official Data)

| | Writing Submitted TA | Reading SAT'S Test | Grammar Punctuation SAT'S Test | Maths SAT's Test |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Level 6 | 19.4% | 0% | 19.4% | 32.3% |
| Level 5 and above | 45% | 77.4% | 90.3% | 74.2% |
| Level 4 and above | 90.3% | 100% | 100% | 96.8% |
| Level 3 and above | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

END OF KEY STAGE 1 DATA

(Official Data)

| | Writing Submitted TA | Reading SAT'S Test | Maths SAT's Test |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Level 3 and above | 19.4% | 35.5% | 32.3% |
| Level 2 and above | 96.8% | 96.8% | 100% |

Final Mass

I have been overwhelmed with the messages of support you have given me and the Mass yesterday was simply wonderful. The children sang beautifully and read so well. It was an emotional time made even more so with the sincerity in which the children professed their faith as individuals and as a community. I will never forget the Mass, its message and the joy that we shared together. Thank you to so many of you who managed to come to the Mass and join with us in our celebration.

So long, farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, goodbye.....

To Miss Garforth and Miss Eckersley who will be leaving us to continue their careers. We thank them for all their hard work this year. For the time they have given to our community and the way they have shared their talents. I know that you will join me in wishing them all the best and will keep them in your thoughts and prayers. We look forward to welcoming new staff in September—Miss Cotter in Year 5, Miss Fisher in Year 4, Miss Sellers in FS2 and Mrs Taylor who has started as a Teaching Assistant in FS.

Picnic

The sun shone on us all and we had a lovely time at the picnic. It was a relaxed atmosphere and a lovely way to celebrate the end of the year together. It was good to see some of our produce from the allotment on sale and to sample some of the new dishes prepared by the kitchen, I felt I was in the Costa del Sol with the paella it was delicious! Thank you to all who attended this lovely occasion.

Year 6

It is always a sad time to say goodbye to the children who have been at our school for so long. The Year 6 children are a credit to themselves the school and their families. As they take the next steps on their journey we send them with our love, our thoughts and our prayers. We thank them for all they have given to the school their talents, their creativity, their hard work and their love. We know that they will shine because they are special and because they belong to us. Forever a part of BRW history!

Adventure Bears

On Monday when the school was full of 'Mrs Blakes', we let some of our adventure bears fly off. It was magical to see them floating off into the atmosphere. We have already had one response that one of our bears landed on the coast of Hunstanton in Norfolk. It was a great way to end our year of adventure and we look forward to hearing how our bears are getting on...

The Blog

The Staff at BRW monitor any activity on the blog. We have recently blocked an inappropriate comment. Please monitor what your children write on the blog. In the meantime we will be continuing our investigation and addressing any issues that may arise. All blog posts are traceable.

Social Media

Unfortunately there has been an incident on facebook where parents from our school have made inappropriate comments about the school and me in particular. An official press release has been sent from the diocese detailed below. A letter has been sent to all parents across the trust reminding them of trust policy relating to social media. (STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE SOUTH NOTTINGHAM CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST).

The South Nottingham Catholic Academy Trust, of which Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy is a part, became aware of a number of comments in social media, concerning the Academy and the Trust's admission policy, which were regarded as offensive and potentially racist in tone.

Ken Daly, Chair of the Trust, wrote to the parents concerned to inform them of this. Subsequently, two parents have apologised.

Mr Daly's letter made it clear that the Trust takes any offensive comments seriously, and asked that they be removed. At no time was it suggested that any individual was racist.

Father Andrew Cole

Diocesan Communications Officer

Musical

This years musical 'Matilda' was as usual superb. Children acted, danced, sang and generally shone. They were amazing.

Healthy Schools

We have been awarded another strand of the Healthy Schools curriculum - Raising Aspiration. Our plaque is full! But we look forward to the next challenge.

I would like to thank you all for the support and love that you have shown me over the last six years. Blessed Robert is wonderful school; a fantastic community united in love and worship. It has been a pleasure, a privilege and an honour to work with you all; to get to know your children and their families. I know that the school will go from strength to strength under the very strong leadership of Mrs Maylard-Mason and Miss Ferrara. You have helped me to grow and develop and I have been touched and inspired by you all – pupils, staff, parents and governors. Thank you!

Miss Ferrara will keep me informed of all that is going on at BRW and I will not be a stranger....in the words of Arnie'I'll be back!'

Have a relaxing and restful holiday ready to return on Thursday 3rd September with suitable and appropriate hairstyles and ready for action.

My final poem to you all courtesy of The Beatles with a slight amendment.

Best Wishes to you and all your families

Mrs Blake

There are places I remember
All my life, though some have changed
Some forever not for better
Some have gone and some remain

All these places had their moments
With families and friends
I still can recall
Some are dead and some are living
In my life I've loved them all

But of all these family and friends
There is no one compares with you
And these memories lose their meaning
When I think of love as something new

Though I know I'll never lose affection
For people and things that went before
I know I'll often stop and think about them
In my life I love you more

