

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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SEPTEMBER

Welcome back!

It is wonderful to see everyone looking so refreshed and excited at the start of another year at BRW. Everyone has returned with such enthusiasm; it is positively infectious and we start as we mean to go on.

Mrs Maylard-Mason is very excited about the year ahead and until her return I will be keeping her seat warm and ensuring the school continues to thrive.

A warm welcome to all our new children and our new staff members. We welcome Mrs Sellers (teacher) and Mrs Taylor (teaching assistant) in the Foundation Stage, Miss Fisher in Year 4 and Miss Cotter in Year 5. As you are all aware, we bid farewell to Mrs Blake who has asked me to share this message with you.

Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for the generosity shown to me when I left at the end of the summer term. I will treasure the messages and gifts I received and the memories they will always hold.

As I reflect on my years at Blessed Robert Widmerpool School, I have been privileged to have been part of a great community, a true community of faith. Your children have been a joy to work with.

Blessed Robert is as we all know a school to be proud of and I know it will continue to go from strength to strength.

Mrs Blake

We have already introduced to the children this year's theme of, 'The Year to Create'. The children will enjoy a year of designing, making, experimenting, building, rebuilding and lots of cooking! We are creating more opportunities than ever for the children to learn and one way we have done this is by issuing each classroom with a class plant to look after. Research shows that plants promote happiness, positivity and even creativity – what better way to start 'The Year to Create'. More details about another project, 'The BRW Baker's Basket', to follow.

Important links with our parish

You have all made a deliberate decision to send your child to Blessed Robert Widmerpool, at a Catholic school part of the commitment of being part of this Catholic community is regular attendance at Mass. Sadly many of our children

Upcoming Events

17th September

Whole School Mass
9.00am

16th October

De Paul Sleep Out

22nd October

Whole School Harvest Mass
2.00pm

The BIG Question!

"Can you ever remember to forget?"

This year at BRW, we are encouraging the children to **think** about big questions and to **voice** their opinions confidently. Why not try discussing the following question at home around the dinner table or on the walk to school? Look out for more BIG questions on each school newsletter.

FACT: Debates and discussion encourages children to be interested in crucial issues, voice ideas, carry out independent research, respect the opinions of others and develops listening skills. Go on...get involved!

do not attend Mass at all with their families. Please support your child/children in their faith journey and don't be a stranger to our parish of Corpus Christi. Father Philip will be delighted to see you all. Mass times are Saturday evening 6.00pm and 11.00am on Sunday morning.

Fishy friends

You will notice in our school library, 9 new members of our BRW family in the form of Japanese shubunkins, sirasses and comets! Feel free to come and take a look at our new fishy friends. They are already proving to be a talking point with the children and serve as another opportunity for the children to be curious, intrigued and to ask questions .

Parking

If parking on the road near school, please take care to ensure you do not mount the pavement as this poses a risk to pedestrians and is hazardous. Representatives from the council often patrol the area and will issue fines and prosecute persistent offenders. I am sure you will agree that the safety of the children in our school and the community is paramount. Father Philip is more than happy for parents to park in the church car park which has been extended to include more spaces when delivering or collecting children.

Classroom Refurbishments

We are pleased to report that the Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms have been completely refurbished over the summer holidays and have been refitted with new carpets, new ceilings, new interactive whiteboards and even new doors! We review the school building regularly in order to make sure it is safe, clean and inspiring for our children.

Blog

Please ensure you share and celebrate in the work we do here at BRW by visiting the school blog at www.brwacademy.com or scan the QR code at the end of the letter. The blog is updated frequently with class work and general school information. We hope to be blogging with schools around the world by the end of the year. Watch this space!

Walking to and from school policy

In Year 6 throughout the year and for the children in Year 5 in the summer term only children may walk to and from school on their own All other younger children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. For year 6 children who attend after school clubs in the autumn term, once the clocks go back and it gets darker, arrangements must be made for these children to be collected.

Further Information

To help us all I have put together some of the procedures here at Blessed Robert Widmerpool. To answer some of the most frequent enquiries. Needless to say if there is anything you require further please contact the office. This letter serves as a reminder of our procedures – please take time to read it.

Disability Equality

If you have any special requirements regarding disability access at any of our school events *e.g. Parents Evening, Sports Day*, please let us know.

Charitable Giving

During the year we support a number of charities. The children are always keen and very generous with their time and talents. Last year we raised money for Emmanuel House, 'Cafod' and the Nepal disaster. Thank you very much for your support

Vouchers for School

The school is very grateful for all the vouchers that you have helped us collect over the past year. We have collected vouchers from Sainsbury's, Tesco and Morrison's.

A big thank you to everyone for your continued support. Please keep sending them in.

School Times

School begins at 8.55am for children in Key Stage 2 and 9.00am for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. The doors are open from 8.45am. Children are encouraged to walk in and settle into the classroom from this time. Doors for Year 1 and Foundation Stage are open from 8.50am. If there are any messages to pass on to the class teacher, please do this through the adults present on the playground during this time. Lunchtime is from 12.00noon – 1.00pm for FS/KS1, 12.15pm – 1.15pm for KS2. Children are dismissed at the end of the day at 3.30pm.

School Absence

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness or family reasons, please contact the school office before **9.30am**. Messages can be left on the school answer phone. Any pupil absence from school, other than sickness or urgent family reasons, is to be discouraged. Please try to avoid taking holidays during term time. Where this is unavoidable, a holiday form should be picked up from the school office. The South Nottingham Academy Trust Education Welfare Officer will review each request for leave of absence in accordance with Academy policy. Leave of absence will **not** be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. The Education Welfare Officer will contact you after an application is received. Leave of absence requests must be made at least a month before the absence starts.

Punctuality

Arriving late can make children miss vital lesson time and can cause anxiety. Please make sure your child arrives at school on time each day – thank you.

Change of details

Please inform school of change of address/telephone number. It is important that we have up to date numbers and contact details in case of emergency.

Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment during school time, they should be collected via the school office, in the interest of your child's safety no child will be allowed off the school premises unless accompanied by an adult.

Safety in School

The safety of our children is paramount. Teachers are in their classes 10 minutes before the start of the school day. At the end of the school day teachers in Foundation and Key Stage 1 will hand over your children to you, the parents, or to a person nominated by you. Please inform your child's class teacher or the office if there is any change to the usual end of day going home arrangements. In the event of any delays please telephone the school office.

In the interest of safety please keep pre-school children close by you at the start and end of the day and away from school equipment.

If you need to deliver anything to your child, please drop it off in the school office.

Communication with Teachers.

Teaching staff are always willing to communicate with parents but it is not always convenient for them to do so. If you wish to communicate with a teacher for any reason, please make a note in your child's reading diary or homework diary or through the school office.

Administration of Medicine in School

Professional advice to teachers is that they should not administer medication.

Parents are responsible for the administration of medicines to their children. If your child requires medicine in the middle of the day please come to school to administer it. When a pupil becomes unwell in school they should be collected as soon as possible. If a child become seriously unwell or is injured, an ambulance will be called and parents or relatives informed.

Self-Medication

Where a child suffers from a condition such as asthma or diabetes, arrangements can be agreed for the child to self-administer medicines. Please ensure that up to date inhalers are available in school.

School Meals

We purchase the service of the catering company Eat.com. Meals provided in school are of a high quality with a wide selection of choice available. Menus can be found on the school blog.

The cost of a school meal is currently £1.80 per day (£9.00 per week).

Cheques are acceptable, payable to Nottingham City Council and may be paid half termly in advance.

All payments for meals should be for the individual child and it is essential that it is enclosed in an envelope.

Please refrain from including nuts in packed lunches as a number of children have severe allergies to them. Sandwich boxes should be as compact as possible and clearly marked with your child's name. Please ensure lunch boxes contain a healthy, nutritional balanced lunch. All our children are encouraged to drink water at lunch time.

Food Allergies – If your child has a food allergy please confirm, in writing to the school office which foods affect their child.

Drinking Water

Research shows that children benefit from drinking water. This can help with concentration. At Blessed Robert Widmerpool children have access to drinking water throughout the day.

Head Lice

This is always a problem in every school. The only way to control head lice is **for all parents to check their child's hair thoroughly at least once a week**. Please encourage your child to brush their hair regularly and vigorously every night. The eggs are easier to spot than the lice. **If seen, action must be taken immediately**. Treatment is available from the chemist or on prescription from your doctor and the direction should be followed carefully. Only treat infected heads, DO NOT use preparations "just in case". The most important advice is to remove the NITS (eggs attached to

the hair) either by a fine toothed comb or by hand using your thumbnail against your forefinger. As head lice are becoming more resistant to the preparations and parents are increasingly anxious about using insecticides the following advice can be tried BUT it must be done thoroughly.

1. Wash and rinse hair thoroughly.
2. Apply conditioner to make combing easier.
3. Comb through with fine toothed comb.
4. Rinse conditioner off.
5. Repeat the process three times a week for TWO WEEKS.
6. Treat all the family and try to ensure all nits are removed as above.

A natural alternative to the conventional chemicals is tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*) oil. Put 20 to 30 drops of tea tree oil in a pint of warm water and use this as a final rinse for the hair after wet-combing and after regular washing each day.

Lost Property

Lost property is situated in a large tub by Year 3 and 4. If your child has mislaid any uniform please collect it from there. At the end of each half term it will be checked and any un-named items will be sent to a local charity shop.

Educational Visits, External Providers and Out of School Activities

We are committed to providing first hand experiences to children and use visits and outside providers to enhance the curriculum. Visits may involve travelling costs, entry fees and providers charge for their services. The cost of any visit is kept to a minimum and we try to provide as much notice as possible. Should there be any difficulty with any educational visit please see the office. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to support in meeting the costs of such visits.

P.E. & Games

Please ensure that your child has the correct P.E. uniform in school from Mon- Fri. Please make sure that it is all labelled with your child's name, including school uniform.

Helpers in School

We always appreciate the help of parents/grandparents/guardians/friends of our school. If you are able to help in school please contact the office.

Social Networking

We are aware that many of you use social networks such as Facebook to communicate with friends and family. I take this opportunity to remind you that should it come to our notice that any derogatory remarks about the school or staff have been posted on a social network legal advice will be taken on the behalf of the school. This is very serious and will be taken as such.

Please take note of the attached dates.

I look forward to the year ahead.

Many thanks for your on-going support

Miss Ferrara