

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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Dear Parents,

Christmas cheer and festivities are in full flow at BRW. It is hard to believe that the Autumn term is now drawing to a close. This is my final newsletter of 2017!

School Mission Statement

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

Parish Fair

The Parish Christmas Fair started our Christmas season this year. It was a great event and it was lovely to see so many of our parish and school community there. The BRW Chocolate Tombola managed to raise £131 which will go towards Parish Funds. Thank you to all the keen Year 6 volunteers who helped on the stall, they ensured we sold out before the end of the fair.

Day of the Eucharist

On Friday 23rd November, we celebrated the Day of the Eucharist. The Liturgy Team led the whole school alongside parents in reflection. It allowed for some quiet space and time to truly encounter Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. During the day, the children watched a live link up with Bishop Patrick and learnt about the true meaning of the Eucharist. It was a really spiritual occasion where the entire school community were invited to listen, watch, learn, think and pray.

Advent Celebration

It was a joy to see Years 4, 5 and 6 perform in this year's Advent Celebration. Their passion, enthusiasm and talent shone through in every song they performed. It was a spiritual and uplifting event which gave us an opportunity to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming this Christmas and to reflect on what this really means to us as individuals. Well done to all the children taking part and thank you for supporting this memorable event.

Christmas Market

As an Academy Trust, we continue to concentrate our efforts on raising funds to support the Building Hope project which aims to build a school in Bunkpurugu, Ghana. The Christmas Market event, hosted by The Becket, was once again a huge success. The BRW stall was well stocked full of decorative candle jars which have been made by the Faith in Action group and some of our wonderful parent helpers. This is the second year of this event and there was a fantastic atmosphere all round. Every school performed Christmas songs for guests and our very own BRW Choir performed a selection of Advent songs. Marsha has informed me that the event has raised £2000 so far! Money is still coming in. Thank you so much for your support and thank you to the Year 6 pupils who were there to man the stall so professionally.

Liturgy Celebrations

On Thursday 16th November, Years 5 and 6 led an inspiring Liturgy service with the theme of 'Calling.' Every child had an important role to play and all pupils worked together seamlessly. Parents, staff, and children were left feeling peaceful, reflective and inspired. We listened to scripture from the Bible that told us to listen to God and allow his voice to speak to us and tell us what to do. There was time provided for us all to reflect on our own personal vocations. Children provided everyone with a time to reflect and respond to God's calling.

DATES

8th January

Back to school

9th January

School Photographs

11th January

Whole School Mass

25th January

Year 2 Assembly

1st February

Year 4 Class Mass

8th February

KS2 Talent Show

9th February

FS/KS1 Talent Show

February 14th

Ash Wednesday Mass
at Corpus Christi Church

February 16th

INSET Day
Break up for Half Term

February 27th

Return to school

March 1st

World Book Day

March 9th

Year 1 Assembly

On 23rd November, parents and visitors gathered together to celebrate a special Liturgy which was prepared by Years 1 and 2 to remember Jesus our King. The hymns, psalms, prayers and special readings from the Bible which they had prepared allowed us to reflect on Jesus as a shepherd who will keep his flock in view and will find them if they get lost. The children were true witnesses to their faith and showed such confidence.

Nativity Performances

We have been immensely proud of all of those children who took part in such wonderful Nativity performances this year. The children in FS1, FS2, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3 re-told the Christmas story in a variety of ways and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas. The performances were magical and the children demonstrated so much confidence and talent throughout. We witnessed performing angels, sleepy shepherds, funky dancers, confident speakers, magnificent kings and gameshow hosts throughout the week. Every performance was inspiring and I have spoken to many parents and families who were incredibly proud of their children. Well done to all those children taking part and thank you to all of the parents and families who came to watch and participate as fantastic audiences!

Year 6 Visit to the Briars

The Year 6 visit to The Briars took place this month and has provided the children with many long lasting memories. The children returned having had an amazing and enjoyable experience. They were a credit to the school and made the most of all opportunities on offer. Their stop off at Mount Cook on the way with Year 5 allowed them to experience some outdoor adventure, team building and den building, they had a great time. Myself, Miss Ferrara and Miss Cotter went over to The Briars to be part of their Mass celebration and join them for a dance at their disco. A big thank you to Miss Lee and Mrs Doherty for organising this special visit and helping to ensure the children had such a fantastic experience.

Basket Ball

The BRW All Stars have gone from strength to strength this term! This new team, who have only been playing together for a few weeks, have come across fierce competition in the opening weeks of the season. We have taken part in several home rallies and represented BRW at the Nottingham City Basketball Rally in November. Their determination and passion for the game are unparalleled. The team will be back on the court early in the spring term and will be hosting several home rallies. Watch this space – all are welcome to support and cheer us on!

BRW Choir

Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 have been working with Miss Courtney this term to develop their singing talents as part of a school choir. The choir members have been lucky enough to take part in a workshop run by Sara King who works for the Nottingham Music Hub to learn and rehearse some new and exciting songs. This culminated in a visit to The Royal Concert Hall where they performed four songs: Heal the World, Oremi Jekajo, Power in Me and Somewhere over the Rainbow alongside other Nottingham City School choirs. This was an enriching and memorable experience for all the children who took part. Well done, we look forward to hearing more of your work in the New Year!

Advent Reconciliation

The Advent Reconciliation service took place last week led confidently by the children in KS2. Fr Michael helped us to celebrate this service and there was an opportunity for children to pause, reflect and then make confession during the season of Advent. I was most impressed with the singing and the way all children performed Blinded by Your Grace at the end.

Academy Concert

The whole of our Academy Trust joined together for our festive Christmas Concert at The Albert Hall in Nottingham this year. Miss Ferrara's incredible choir consisting of children in Years 5 and 6 took the concert by storm with their acapella version of Save the World/Don't You Worry Child. Incredible! The children gave everything they had to confidently and passionately perform the song. The Beat Box accompaniment stole the show and made it a memorable occasion. Thank you to all those children taking part and to all our parents for your support. Every school taking part performed so well, we were all very proud to be part of such a fantastic event. I saw some of our BRW parents and families in the audience singing along to the Christmas Carols. There was a wonderful atmosphere.

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

Relationships

Reflectiveness

Resourcefulness

Responsibility

Resilience

Carols Around the Tree

This was a fantastic evening and it was a pleasure to see so many children, staff, parents and families singing along to some Christmas favorites in their Christmas jumpers. There was a wonderful atmosphere. The children from FS to Year 6 sung enthusiastically showcasing their talents. Year 6 finished the night off with the traditional rendition of 12 days of Christmas along with actions and dancing! We missed Mr Wheat on Piano this year and wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

Sickness

It is that time of year where we see an increased amount of sickness in school. In order to ensure that these sickness bugs are not passed on to others, we have a school policy in place which stipulates that children must remain at home for at least 24 hours from the last point of sickness. This is to prevent illness from spreading to other children and adults in school and allow for recovery time.

Staffing

Mrs Cook will be leaving to start her maternity leave on 22nd of December. We wish her the very best and can't wait to meet her new arrival in the New Year. Mrs McGurk and Mrs Fitzgerald will teach Year 1 for the duration of her maternity leave. Miss Ferrara will teach in Year 2 and Year 3 for one day next term.

School Blog

Please remember to look on our school blog for more information about what is happening in school and listen to announcements and top tips of the day presented by our Digital Leaders on the school radio at: www.brwacademy.com

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

School opens on Monday 8th January. Enjoy the break!

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Maylard-Mason

Head Teacher

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Continuing our focus on the health and wellbeing, here is another Wellbeing Tip for you to try out...

TIP 3: Meditate

At this very busy time of year, meditation could be a useful support to aid relaxation and reduce anxiety for children and adults

There are many benefits of Meditation including: reduction in depression and anxiety, an increase in creativity and brain function and an increase in happiness and confidence.

Why not try a guided meditation on your own or with your family? There are many different websites and clips online which provide useful information to assist with meditation.