

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It has been a wonderful start to the year and I can see that everyone is ready for an exciting year ahead. The children have been settling into their new year groups, getting to know their teachers and familiarising themselves with daily classroom routines. We started the year with an assembly which focused on 'Letting Our Lights Burn Bright' this year in all we do. We looked carefully at our school mission statement and discussed the school's core values: **RESPONSIBILITY, RESILIENCE, RESPECT, RELATIONSHIPS and REFLECTIVENESS.** We thought about the ways in which these values can help to guide us to make the right choices and act in the right way and how they help to build our learning power.

This year's curriculum theme is '**THIS YEAR I WILL.**' Miss Ferrara launched the exciting theme in an assembly last week where we discussed all the ways in which we can embrace this theme in every way. This year we will be challenging ourselves to: **Dare, Dream, Ask, Achieve, Believe, Be Adventurous, Be Risk Takers, Be Curious and Be Creative.** We will be thinking about how we learn best and using this to help achieve our goals. Each class has received a jar of special Learning Power Diamonds, which they will receive when they demonstrate they have been thinking carefully about how they learn best and shown resilient and resourceful approaches to their learning.

Embrace the Case

To accompany this exciting theme, this year's travelling item will be: '**Embrace the Case.**' This is a travel case full of fun, imaginative and creative games and learning opportunities for the family to embrace and enjoy together. We'd love to see photos of your family fun with the case. Please share these with @BRWSchool on Twitter.

The BRW Passport - '**50 Things To Do Before You Leave BRW!**'

At Blessed Robert Widmerpool, we believe that there are certain life experiences that are a MUST! This year we have created a BRW passport with a list of 50 things to do before you leave BRW. Compiled by the children, staff and parents of BRW, it is filled with all kinds of weird and wonderful learning experiences. From star gazing to stone skimming, there are so many glorious learning opportunities. Challenges can be completed individually or as a family and can be ticked off and dated once completed. Life is for learning and living! Enjoy the journey!

Football

Mr Kidger will be starting football training on Friday 14th September. He is looking forward to getting started and to developing the skills of the team this year.

New Uniform Supplier

We will now be using *Just-School Wear Ltd* as our uniform supplier. BRW uniform can be ordered online following the link below. There is a wide range of high quality uniform items to choose from and the ordering process is simple.

School Mission Statement

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

DATES

13th September

Mass in school

4th October

Year 6 Assembly

5th October

Building Hope Fundraiser

More details to follow

8th October

NSPCC Assembly KS1 and KS2

19th October

INSET Day

25th October

Harvest Mass 9:00am

International Evening 6:00pm

26th October

Last day of term

5th November

Return to school

Coffee Morning

The BRW Parent Coffee Morning which is run by our parent support worker, Anna Boulton, is a great opportunity for parents to come along to meet each other in an informal and friendly environment. Coffee morning will be hosted in our Jubilee Room in school at 9:00am on **Thursdays**. All are welcome, please come along for a cuppa and a chat, we will even provide you with biscuits!

Flu Vaccinations

Flu Vaccinations will take place on 21st November for Years 1 to 5. We have sent all parents a letter from the NHS which outlines more details about this.

Admissions

A reminder that if you wish to apply for your child's Foundation Stage 2 school place for 2018-19 then please apply to Nottingham City Admissions Department on 0115 8415568. Email address: <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions/>

Kerala

We have been very saddened to hear about the terrible flooding, which has taken place in India's southern state of Kerala. There has been more than one million people displaced, and more than 400 reported deaths. Aid agencies and government groups have been working hard to provide aid. We keep all those who have been affected by this disaster in our thoughts and prayers.

Secondary School Open Evenings

The Becket School open evening is on the 26th September. The Farnborough Academy YR5/6 Open Evening is on Wednesday 19th September from 5.45pm to 7.45pm

International Evening

A reminder that we will be hosting our famous International Evening on 25th October. This is a wonderful event, which brings together the whole of our school community to celebrate our diverse community and cultures. We will be asking parents and families to share food, customs and traditions from around the world. Please have a think about how you could support this event. There will be a planning meeting nearer the time to discuss details.

Congratulations and Welcome Back

I would like to say huge congratulations to Mrs Lambert who got married over the summer holidays. On behalf of the school, we wish you and Mr Lambert the very best of luck in your future together. We also welcome back Mrs Cook and Mrs Summers who return after maternity leave.

Ways a Parent Can Help a Child LEARN TO READ

- 1 Let your child see you reading!**
Have magazines and books in your home.
- 2** Look for appropriate word and reading games online to play with your child
- 3** Ask your child to draw a picture or write about what happens in a story.
Keep paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, markers and crayons available in your house.
- 4** When you're reading a magazine or newsletter, ask your child to look on the pages for pictures that start with a certain sound.
Do you see a picture of a thing that starts with "p"?
- 5** Set aside a time and place for reading - like a comfy chair with a reading light for bedtime stories
- 6** Visit your public library regularly.
Find and read together the books that were your favorites when you were a kid.
- 7** Enjoy reading with your child.
Laugh at silly pictures. Make goofy voices. **Have fun!**
- 8** Ask your child questions about the story as you read together:
 - What is the story about?
 - Why do you think he/she made that choice? Was it a good choice?
 - Why did that happen?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
- 9** Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or that start with the same sound
- 10** After you finish reading a story, look back at a page and ask your child to find common words.
"Can you find the word ___?"
Use words like: the, me, up, and, go, run, can, to, stop
- 11** Teach your child to recognize his or her own name

Read out loud to your child -
books, poems, nursery rhymes, recipes, billboards, newspaper articles, ads, signs - whatever words you see!

School Blog

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

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Maylard-Mason

Head Teacher