



Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

<p><u>Wellbeing & Mental Health Vision</u></p> <p>To support everyone’s wellbeing and mental health, so that they can be the ‘Best they can Be,’ are happy together, resilient, ready to learn and succeed.</p>	<p><u>Mission Statement</u></p> <p>Following Jesus’ footsteps and inspired by St Robert Southwell, we work hard, aim high and treat everyone with honesty and gentleness.</p>	<p><u>Vision Statement</u></p> <p>Vision: Aiming for Excellence: Being The Best We Can Be.</p>
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Pope Francis



The funeral of Pope Francis took place last weekend.

Prayer:

O God, faithful rewarder of souls, grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy forever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May is the Month of Our Lady – We pray...

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



Remembering VE Day



Next Thursday, 8th May the children may wear their own clothes. Children in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 may also bring a maximum of £3 to purchase something from the break time tuck shop, which will include small items like keyrings as well as sweets and drinks.

We will be honouring VE Day in a range of ways. Children will learn about the values of freedom, unity, and peace, and create symbols of hope. We will also have a coffee morning after Celebration Assembly next Friday, 9th May. All welcome.

Message



This week has been a packed week in school. On Tuesday night Year 5 went to the theatre to see 'The Lightning Thief', by Percy Jackson and were fortunate enough to have particularly good seats near the stage. The general public were full of praise for all the children for their amazing behaviour in the theatre and on the tube.

All the children have met with our developmental robot who was in school this week and have been teaching robot LeX new skills. A big thank you to the Friends' Association for funding the computing and technology experience for the whole school, this week.

We also had our Phonics information meeting for the parents and carers of our Reception pupils. The turnout was excellent. By working together for the children in our school we can help them achieve their absolute best.

London Marathon 2025

About 40 of our children took part in the mini marathon in London last Saturday. They had an amazing time and there was lots of wonderful feedback about the children and the event. Well done to everyone who took part.



Our Own Elite Athlete



Miss Morris ran the London Marathon on Sunday and finished in 5 hours 16 minutes. This is an amazing achievement.

Miss Morris was running to raise funds for the London Air Ambulance service and so far, has raised £7736 for this very worthy cause, which is of particular significance to her.

Thank you to all who supported her with sponsorship and good wishes. Both were much appreciated. Congratulations from the whole St Robert Southwell community. We are very proud of you!

Girls Active

Mr Thorogood has been working with a group of Girls who are part of the National Girls Active project. Girls Active is a commitment to fostering girls' participation in PE, sport and physical activity. The programme aims to tackle the barriers girls experience and through cultivating a movement of girls and young women, empower them to take positive action through influencing, leading, and inspiring their peers.

The St Robert Southwell Girls Active group wrote the piece below for the Newsletter:

We are Girls Active, a project encouraging girls to play more sports. We are a team made up of 10 girls: Olivia, Saoirse, Elena, Tatiana, Alba, Casey, Amy, Tilly, Sinead and Leena. We all have different hobbies and interests but, we have one thing in common that we all love to do...SPORTS! We are doing this because girls need to stay fit and active but shouldn't feel uncomfortable while doing so. We want to help girls who find sport difficult and unenjoyable because everyone deserves to have some fun while doing sports. We need to let girls know that sports is for everyone and that staying fit is extremely important. It is crucial for your physical strength, mental health and wellbeing.

As girls, we have many athletic women who we can look up to. Some of them are: Kelly Holmes, Jessica Ennis-Hill, Nicola Adams, Beth Mead, Emma Raducanu, Rachael Makenzie and Rebecca Adlington. We met Rachael on our trip to the Kia Oval. We are planning to run clubs at break time with girls who want to do it from KS2. Maybe if you start doing sports now you could become an athlete! For our KS1 girls, we will help groups of children during their P.E lessons. Girls can and should be active. Go girls....

Do you read to your child every day? Does your child read to you?

At St Robert Southwell reading is at the heart of everything that we do. We aim to foster a love of reading with story time and a rich selection of well-chosen books from our Nursery class to Year 6 every day. Our class libraries are well stocked, well used and well loved. We teach children from their very first days in Nursery the key skills in phonics, the letter sounds that they need to enable them to become fluent readers themselves. Higher up the school, we continue to actively teach reading strategies in our reading lessons. We want our children to be not just competent readers, but hope that they will become avid readers, so that the wonderful world of books is open to them and they can enjoy reading for pleasure for the rest of their school and adult life. Reading is a necessity for learning and a lifelong skill. We know that children who struggle to learn to read have a much harder, steeper path in all other areas of learning. It affects their social skills, well-being, attainment and progress. This in turn means that a child who does not succeed with reading has a poorer life chance and fewer opportunities as an adult. As a parent, you are of course, your child's first teacher. The single most valuable thing that you can do to help your child's attainment and progress is to read to them and with them every single day.

Children enjoy being read to, even when they can read for themselves. Listening to your child read and sharing a book daily is so important. That precious 20 minutes every day is time very well spent. Children at the early stages of reading bring home phonic based reading scheme books (at an appropriate level) each week. Fluent readers bring home a reading scheme books at their level every week. Please follow this link for a list of high-quality books that you might find helpful:

[100 best children's books | BookTrust](#)

Non-Uniform Days – This term

Thursday, 8th May VE Day – Own clothes day – Party clothes - bring a donation for our fundraising for an all-weather surface and for the special break time tuck shop for children in Years 3-6.

Friday, 16th May International Day. Come in international or cultural dress or the colours of the flag of your country of heritage.

Friday, 6th June Pentecost celebration day come in the colours to represent symbols of the Holy Spirit

Nursery & Reception	Red - to represent the symbol of fire
Year 1 & 2	Blue - to represent wind and water
Year 3 & 4	Black or white - to represent the spiritual hero inside all of us
Year 5 & 6	White - to represent peace

World Mental Health Week -Theme community



World Mental Health Week or Mental Health Awareness Week is a week to focus on Mental Health. This week happens annually in the middle of May and gives us all a chance to focus on achieving good mental health and opening up a conversation about mental health and wellbeing. This Mental Health Awareness Week we want to celebrate the communities that support us to protect and nurture good mental health.

We know that we thrive when we have strong connections with others and supportive communities around us. We also know that people who are more socially connected to family, friends, or their community are happier, physically healthier, and live longer, with fewer mental health problems than people who are less well connected. Communities can provide us with a sense of belonging, safety, support in hard times, and give us purpose.

We are having our annual International Day at the end of Mental Health week. What better way could there be to bring our community together and to celebrate together.

Friends' International Day

Thank you to those who have offered to donate food or decorate and run a table. The Friends' Association always need help so if you can help on the drinks table or to set up or clear away then please come along at 1.45 pm on Friday, 16th May or talk to member of the Friends' Association. All donations of food gratefully received on the day.

Attendance

Congratulations to the 93 pupils who had 100% attendance last term (spring) and the 52 children who have had 100% attendance for the whole year so far.

Currently school attendance for the year to date is 95.2%. With continued commitment we could achieve 96% for the school as a whole by the end of the year.

I will meet with all the 93 pupils who had full attendance last term one day next week to congratulate them in person.

Final Prayer



O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those men and women who have died in active service, particularly in the Second World War, whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe. As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.