



# St Robert Southwell School Newsletter



No. 3 - December 2025

Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be

<p><b><u>Wellbeing &amp; Mental Health Vision</u></b></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><b><u>Mission Statement</u></b></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><b><u>Vision Statement</u></b></p> <p>Vision: Aiming for Excellence: <b>Being The Best We Can Be.</b></p>
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## Opening Prayer

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## Catholic Life – Advent



The liturgical year is ordered to lead us through the great mystery of salvation won for us in Christ. Each year begins with Advent, a season of waiting and hope, as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

The word Advent means coming. It is the period before Christmas in which we prepare our hearts for Christmas Day. Advent begins on the Sunday four weeks before Christmas.

The four candles of the Advent wreath represent the four Sundays of Advent and symbolise hope, peace, joy and love. As the light grows brighter each week, we are reminded that Christ is the light of the world, coming to dispel darkness and bring hope to all.

## End of Term Message

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful privilege to watch our children retell the Christmas story in different performances, echoing its timeless message of peace and goodwill. They shared the story with joy, reverence and respect, demonstrating a deep understanding of its meaning and of one another. We are very proud of them all.

The Christmas Fayre was an amazing success. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes, volunteered their time, ran stalls and supported the event on the day.

A special thank you to Father Christmas, who visited children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

## **Highlights of This Term**

There have been many highlights this term:

- The Eco Council winning the London Eco Award
- Achieving the Oscar Romero Participator Award
- Class Book Area Competition
- The Friends' Association Christmas Fayre, which raised an incredible £7,000 for the Friends' Association Fund

## **Help and Support**

As a school, we are keen to support families who may be experiencing financial challenges.

Our Food Bank is available to all families during term time. Please contact [tkirwan@robsouth.org](mailto:tkirwan@robsouth.org) if you need support.

Families on a very low income who are registered with their local council may be eligible for Pupil Premium and food vouchers during school holidays.

If you live in Brent, you can apply using the link below:

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/education-schools-and-learning/free-school-meals#howtoapply>

## **Attendance & Punctuality**

A huge well done to all children who achieved 100% attendance this term.

Children return to school on Tuesday, 6th January, and all pupils are expected to attend on this date. Good attendance and punctuality are vital to children's learning, confidence and progress.

Children attend school for 190 days each year. There are 175 days outside of term time which families can use for holidays and other activities. There is no legal entitlement for holidays during term time.

Attendance rates:

- 97% and above – excellent
- 95% – good
- 90% or below – persistent absence (a cause for concern)

Requests for special leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Holidays are not considered exceptional. Please do not be offended if proof of absence is requested; this is in line with our policy, particularly when absences occur before or after school holidays.

Government Update – Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN):

If a child has five unauthorised days of absence within a 10-week period, a fine may be issued by the local authority:

- £80 per parent if paid within 21 days
- £160 per parent if paid within 28 days

Term dates for the academic year 2026–27 are available on our website. Please check term dates before you book a holiday.

### **School Tours for Prospective Parents**

The final school tour and opportunity to meet the Headteacher will take place Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 1.45pm. Please complete the form under Admissions on our website to book your place: [www.robsouth.org](http://www.robsouth.org)

### **Safeguarding**

Should you need to contact us during the Christmas holidays, please email: [safeguarding@robsouth.org](mailto:safeguarding@robsouth.org) A member of the senior leadership team will respond as soon as possible.

For safeguarding concerns outside of school hours:

- Brent Family Front Door (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm): 020 8937 4300 (Option 1)
- Emergency Duty Team (out of hours): 020 8863 5250

Christmas can be a difficult time for some families, and there is often an increase in domestic abuse during the festive period. Domestic abuse can include coercive control, emotional abuse, physical abuse or sexual abuse. If you or someone you know needs help, please visit: <https://refuge.org.uk/>

### **Online Safety**

Please help your child stay safe online during the Christmas break, especially if they receive a new device:

- Set up parental controls and age-appropriate filters
- Encourage open conversations about online activity

Helpful guidance can be found here:

Device setup checklist: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/>

Gaming consoles: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>

Social media: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

### **Superkind**

We are very aware that there have been many requests for donations during Advent, and we are truly grateful for your generosity. Giving to others lives out Catholic Social Teaching.

Thanks to you:

- £7,000 was raised at the Christmas Fayre for the Friends' Association
- Donations were made to the Brent Food Bank Winter Appeal
- £483.85 was raised for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day

From concert collections, you raised:

- £120 for the St Robert Southwell Foundation
- £298.41 for The Mayhew for supporting and training therapy dogs likes Lulu.
- £70 from the Nursery concerts for St Luke's Hospice
- £217.72 charity to be decided by our new Mini Vinnies

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

## **Raising Money for the Friends' Association, Your Child and the School Community**

You can support our school at no extra cost to you by using Easyfundraising:



1. Go to [Friends of St Robert Southwell - Kingsbury Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)
2. Every time you shop online, go to easy fundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you have checked out, the retailer will donate to our school at no extra cost to you whatsoever!
4. There are no catches or hidden charges and we will be really grateful for your donations

Any friends or family members can use 'easy fundraising' and select our school as the nominated charity for donations. Just searching 'easy fundraising' each time you purchase online could lead to extra funds for our school.

### **National Year of Reading**

The government has designated 2026 as the National year of reading – please click on the link to access information on our Reading Curriculum on the website <https://robsouth.org/reading/>

Reading Leaders: Miss Farci and Miss Kessler

### **Communication**

For any queries, please email:

[admin@robsouth.org](mailto:admin@robsouth.org)

[cmcevoy@robsouth.org](mailto:cmcevoy@robsouth.org)

Please include your child's name and class in all correspondence.

## Closing Prayer – Christmas Blessing



May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the wise men,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ Child  
be yours this Christmas.

And may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

On behalf of the children, staff and governors, thank you for your continued support, kind words and generous gifts. They are greatly appreciated.

**WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY, HOLY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS  
AND  
GOOD WISHES FOR 2026**