



Robert Le Kyng Primary School

Newsletter Date – 4th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 5! As the mornings and evenings get lighter, we are beginning to look forward to some warmer weather and hopefully to get outside a bit more!

Mr Barnett has a full programme of sports planned and some other things have started. Year 2 started their forest school programme this week and Year 3 visited the Corinium museum. All of the children had a chance to hear some live music when the Swindon Music Service came in to play - the children liked the theme songs from the movies best of all. Next week year 4 will go on their visit which had to be postponed due to the storm last week. Mr Barnett is also planning the Legge House residential for Year 4 and Year 6 have had the information for their residential too - don't forget to sign up for this if you haven't already. Things are certainly getting busier!

Ukraine

Many of you will be aware of the current crisis in Europe and will be looking for ways to explain it to your children, to cope with their reactions to the images on the news or wondering what you can do to help.

Although this kind of situation is difficult and worrying for all of us, in school we are very used to coming across unexpected traumatic situations and finding a way to deal with them sensitively. That's what we are doing here. I have discussed with other heads the best way to help and have listened to those agencies and organisations who are providing support to Ukraine at the moment. It seems that currently, there is a backlog of parcels and aid which is having difficulty getting to them due to customs issues, and also the sheer volume of help being provided. At RLK, we hope to offer support in due course when it becomes clear how this can be provided most effectively.

Some advice on how to talk to your child about issues such as this can be found at:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

When discussing 'big' topics...

- Stay honest
- Keep it simple and age appropriate
- Normalise their feelings (and your own)
- Be led by their questions and give them opportunities to ask them

Reassure your child of their safety with you

If you have any immediate concerns, please contact your class teacher in the first instance.



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World Book Day

One parent has asked me why we do not dress up for World Book Day at Robert Le Kyng and I thought that if it was on the mind of one parent, there were probably a few more thinking the same thing.

In the past (pre-Covid) we have made a massive deal of World Book Day - as you know we value the children's enjoyment of reading greatly and do everything we can to promote children to, not only to have the skills to read, but also read a range of material and to find pleasure in reading for themselves. To this end, our usual book day activities involve delving deeply into a story, often with the staff acting out a version of it (to the great hilarity of the children) and the rest of the day off timetable moving around classrooms to visit different teachers and activities to deepen understanding. The finale is a whole school event where we look at the story from a different angle - again causing great hilarity.

Obviously, these types of events take a lot of planning and we end up crowding a lot of people into the hall, so given that the regulations around this only changed at half term, we felt that we were not ready for this extravaganza!

"So why not just do a dressing up day?" I hear you ask. Firstly, for many that is exactly what this becomes - a chance to wear their dressing up clothes to school. While for some this will be carefully thought through and related to a book that they have enjoyed, the reality is that for many, this is just a chance to wear their latest Disney Princess or Superhero outfit. While there are often books linked to these the prime source the children have is the film and this does nothing to promote a love of reading. We are also aware of the cost that this type of thing can cause a family. There is also the amount of distress it causes to some of our children - this can range from the mild disappointment or shyness for some children who do not enjoy dressing up or a change in routine, but can also cause extreme anxiety.

To this end, this year, we just spent some time in class enjoying quality fiction. We have the book fair coming next week and Mrs Beale has written more about this on the next page.

Mrs Townsend



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

I thought I would just finish by letting you know that Mrs Townsend will be leaving the school at the end of term. She has been here for many years and I know that she has taught many of the children here, but also their siblings and friends. We will be very sorry to see her go, but she is leaving for the very best of reasons. Over the last few years she has been completing her training to become a Priest within the Church of England. She has now completed this and has secured a post as the Priest in charge of 3 parishes. I know that you will join me in wishing her every success in her new post.



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This term our Year 2 children will be having Forest Schools on a Thursday morning. This is a great opportunity to get outside, enjoy the fresh air and to learn outdoors. The sessions are completely free. Next term Year 1 will get this opportunity and in term 6, Year 3 will have their chance.

Wyvern Theatre Dance Festival

Our Year 6 dancers put in an incredible performance at the Wyvern Theatre earlier this week. After weeks of practice with Kayla from 2Step Dance Academy, they bravely took to the stage and gave a superb performance. Well done to all the boys and girls involved. It was a brilliant experience!

All Year 5 children will have the opportunity this month to visit New College and use their fantastic sports hall.

The children will be learning how to play badminton and am sure they will have a great time!



Scholastic Book Fair



We are delighted to let you know that the Book Fair is returning and will be in school next week. We know how much it has been missed! It will be based in the hall after school on Thursday 10th, Friday 11th and Monday 14th March until 4 p.m. each day. In the past the school has benefited greatly from the commission on each book we sell and the children enjoy reading the new books that the school receives. As in the past the children will be able to use their World Book Day voucher at the fair. It will entitle them to £1 off the price of a book priced over £2.99. We will be able to take cash payments and we hope that you will be able to come along with your children and support us.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Beale