

Blessed Robert Widmerpool Catholic Voluntary Academy

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School Mission Statement

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

December 2023

Dear Parents,

The end of the Autumn term has arrived. I would like to take this opportunity to share and celebrate with you our news and updates from the last half-term.

Anti-Bullying Week

Our House Captains planned and confidently led some informative meetings this half-term on the subject of bullying. This marked the start of Anti-Bullying week, during which we wore Odd Socks to raise awareness and learned more about what bullying is and what to do if we think it is happening. Our whole school mantras were revisited:

- **STOP** – Bullying is: **Several Times On Purpose** and
- **STOP** – What to do: **Start Telling Other People**.

Throughout the year, we will continue to revisit this important issue to ensure children continue to feel happy and safe in school.

Coffee Mornings

We have been really excited this term to host a number of coffee mornings. These included a useful presentation from the National Numeracy Strategy followed by workshops with Years 2 and 6 children to raise the confidence of children and parents in maths. We also enjoyed a final Christmas Coffee morning that allowed us time to sit back, relax and chat to fellow parents. Thank you to those parents who have been able to support our coffee mornings – it has been lovely to welcome you into school. We hope to continue this each half-term and would love to hear from you about any ideas for future sessions. Please share with the office anything you would find useful to see, do or learn about at our coffee mornings.

Advent Celebrations

Advent has been a joyful time at BRW! Years 4, 5 and 6 began our season of waiting with a beautiful Advent Celebration including the Advent story and some wonderful singing.

EYFS all the way through to Year 3 continued our celebrations with a brilliant range of nativities. It was a joy to see our children narrating, singing and dancing so confidently.

DATES

**Thursday 4th January
2024**

First Day back at school

Monday 8th January
Individual and Family
photographs

22nd-26th January
Talent Show Audition
Window

Wednesday 7th February
KS2 Talent Show

Thursday 8th February
FS/KS1 Talent Show

We have also enjoyed our traditional Carols Around the Tree, where each class showcased a carol. It really helped us to get into the festive spirit. We were so pleased to have Mr Wheat support us with piano. Well done to each and every BRW pupil for their incredible performances, and thank you to their families for supporting them with lines, lyrics and costumes in this season of Advent.

Year 4 and Year 5 Carol Service

Years 4 and 5 have been working hard this term in choir! Mr Davies, from the Cathedral Choir, has worked with both classes on some traditional songs and modern carols. Their commitment to singing led us to St. Barnabas's Cathedral, where the children performed in front of two other schools and many family members. I know there were several proud parents in the audience, as well as proud teachers! We look forward to working further with the Cathedral next term!

Christmas Card Competition Winners

We had some lovely Christmas Cards for our local MP's card competition this year. Well done to all those who had a go, and a special congratulations to the following designs:

- Dominic and Maya in Year 5 and Lily in Year 3, who won highly commended
- Mia G in Year 5, who won a special merit
- Lilienne in Reception, who won Best In Show!

The children were awarded their certificates and celebrated in our final assembly on Friday!

Advent Fundraising

Thank you so much for your generous donations this year to the Operation Shoe Box Appeal, Save the Children, Cafod and the BRW Library Collection. So many of you have donated wonderful gifts for Christmas to families in need, as well as raised money by wearing Christmas jumpers. On top of this, our Faith In Action team have raised further funds by making and selling hot chocolate and candy cane reindeer *and* running the Chocolate Tombola at the Parish Fair ! We are grateful to all pupils and families for donating items, money and their time to helping the Catholic Life of our school.

Masses

Several of our BRW pupils took part in World Youth Sunday at Corpus Christi Church this term. This was celebrated all the way around the world and reminded us that children are one of the foundation stones of our faith and church! Our children represented us beautifully by reading in Mass.

We also celebrated our final Advent Mass of the year on Thursday 21st. Our children spoke and sang with joy as we lit the Advent Wreath in preparation for Christmas. Thank you to those who were able to come and celebrate the end-of-term with us.

I wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas with your loved ones and look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 4th January 2024

Kind regards

Mrs Maylard-Mason

Head Teacher