

Be Mindful  
Be Ready  
Be Safe

# Newsletter

## 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Upcoming Events

#### Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> October

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Class Assembly

#### Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> October

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Flu Vaccination catch-ups

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Phonics Workshop for Families 2:30pm

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 Half Term Break

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Inset Day - school closed to children**

#### Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> November

10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> November Year 6 Cardfields residential

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Year 1 and 2 visit Tower of London

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> November Year 4 Class Assembly

#### Week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> November

Watch this space...

#### Week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> November

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> November Year 2 Class Assembly

#### Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> December

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> December Year 1 Class Assembly

8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December Zonation Project

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December: last day of Autumn Term

See our website or click here for all [term dates](#)  
for the academic year 2025/2026.

### Message from Ms Liney

It is great to be at the stage in the term where families start coming in to school. This week, we were delighted to welcome you all for parent consultations. It was heartening to hear so many positive comments about how the children enjoy their learning and respond so well to their new teachers. Similarly, the teachers were happy to have the chance to meet you face-to-face, to share next steps and resources so you can support your child at home. I hope you will find them helpful. As the children will tell you, my biggest piece of advice is to hear them read every night, if you can, and then read to them too.

On that note, please send your child to school with their school bag containing their reading book every day. It is important that they have this book to hand for opportunities to read. Additionally, we will be holding a workshop for parents on 20<sup>th</sup> October to explain our phonics scheme, with advice on how to support your child's early reading. More information can be found on page 2.

Class assemblies are also well underway. Thank you for continuing to come along to celebrate the learning. We always get a great turn out and this really encourages the children.

October is Black History Month – read on for the theme of **standing firm in power and pride**. We will share some outcomes of the learning in our next issue. As Autumn sets in, we are still making the most of full play times in the fresh air. We are lucky to have our PE coaches twice a week who lead games at lunch time, as well as Caroline on Thursdays, harvesting the fruits of our gardens with the children.  
Sara Liney, Head of School

### House Points

#### Year totals so far...

1,220

Paradise park

1,120

Clock Tower

1,200

Colly Bridge

1,110

Market Road



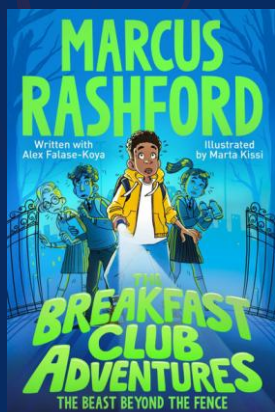
**In the Newsletter today:**  
P1- From Ms Liney  
P2 Black History Month  
P3 Phonics Workshop  
P4 –National Poetry Day  
P5 –Working with Families  
P6 –Attendance Matters  
P7 –Kids' Choir  
P8 – Habits of Mind

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# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025

Standing Firm in Power and Pride

This year, we are acknowledging Black History Month by researching and celebrating the lives of black individuals who have made a significant impact on British society. These include Floella Benjamin, Marcus Rashford and Walter Tull.



Children will also be studying the work of influential black artists such as Frank Bowling and Alma Thomas. They will be creating a piece of art in their artist's style. We can't wait to see their work displayed in the lunch hall!

## What is Phonics?

Phonics helps children learn to read by teaching them the sounds that letters and letter groups make. They learn to blend these sounds together to read words (for example, c-a-t makes cat).

At school, we use the Read Write Inc. programme to teach phonics.

### Parent Workshop:

Monday 20th October 2025  
@  
2.30pm

Through this scheme, children learn to:

- Recognise letter sounds and letter groups (like sh, ch, ay)
- Blend sounds to read words
- Break words into sounds to help with spelling
- Read with expression and understanding

Children take part in fun, fast-paced lessons every day to build their reading confidence.

They also bring home Read Write Inc. books that match the sounds they are learning in class.



# Phonics



## How You Can Help at Home?

**Read Write Inc.**  
Phonics

- **Listen to your child read** their Read Write Inc. book everyday . Re-reading helps build confidence and fluency.
- **Encourage “sounding out”** – ask your child to say each sound and then blend them together to read the word. **Use the pattern** – special friend – Fred talk – read the word.
- **Use “Fred Talk”** at home – for example, say “Let’s get your c-*oa*-t” and let your child blend the sounds.
- **Praise their effort** – celebrate when they try their best, even if they make mistakes.
- **Watch short parent videos** these videos will be uploaded weekly onto Google Classroom as part of homework. Watch them with your child and learn together!

Together, we can help your child become a confident and happy reader!



### Key Terms for you to know:

**Fred Talk:** sounding out words one sound at a time (e.g. c-a-t).



**Special Friends:** two or three letters that make one sound (e.g. sh, ch, igh).



**Green Words:** words children can sound out and read.



**Red Words:** words that can't be sounded out easily and need to be remembered (e.g. said, the, was).



I	the
you	your
said	was



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# National Poetry Day

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025



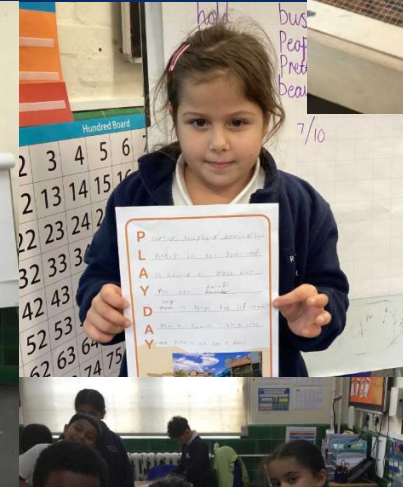
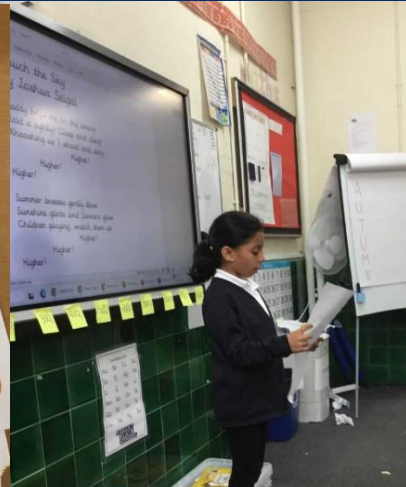
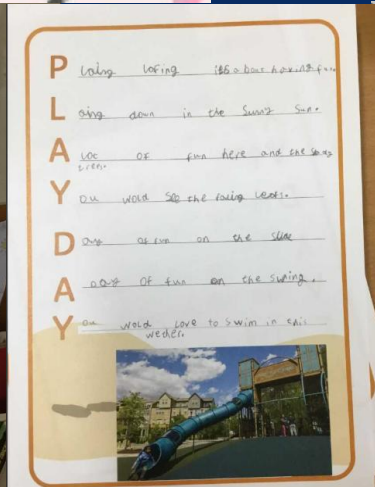
National Poetry Day is the country's largest celebration of poetry, begun in 1994 to encourage people to experience and share poetry. The event has a different annual theme, and for 2025, the theme was "play". At Robert Blair, all children spent the afternoon exploring a range of poems, with a focus on performance poetry.



Year 1 listened to Michael Rosen reading his classic book 'I'm going on a Bear Hunt'. We discussed the different sounds that he made throughout the book and how that makes the story feel like a poem. Using the same style, we created our own story based at Robert Blair, the children were very excited to find out more about the tortoise who lives in our school. We thought about the different obstacles we might come across on our hunt and the different sounds that each of them would make. Later on, we went on the tortoise hunt, chanting our poem, battling through the fallen coats in the corridor and quietly creeping into the year 3 classroom to find Tallulah!



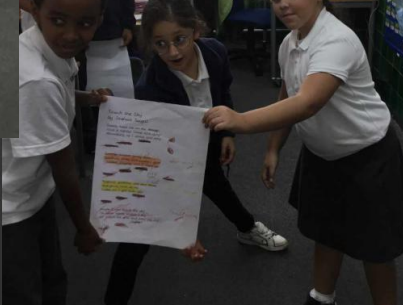
Year 5 and 6 explored the poem 'word play' by Michaela Morgan. They also had a go at performing the poem with expression and tone of voice. The children discussed what compound words we could 'play with' and created a humorous bunting with their words and drawings.



Year 3 and 4 explored and annotated the poem 'Touch the Sky', looking for moments of performance. They also had a go at performing the poem. After this, the children wrote their own Acrostic poem which they also performed.

say it with  
a poem

#nationalpoetryday





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# Kids' Choir 2025

## Thames Festival

**ROBERT  
BLAIR  
SCHOOL**  
& CHILDREN'S CENTRE

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, Robert Blair children enjoyed an afternoon of singing with other schools around the city. Primary schools from across London spent six months learning eight specially selected songs and we were so proud of the enthusiasm the children showed in learning the music. It was an uplifting and joyous concert.



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# Working with Families

## Parent consultations

Thank you to all the parents who attended the parents consultation meetings with their child's class teachers this week. We had a great turn out and heard some lovely positive feedback about how happy children are with their new class teachers, how much the children are enjoying learning and coming to school. This is a testament to our parents and your support in ensuring children come to school ready for learning.

If any parents have not been able to attend the parent consultations, please can you speak to your child's class teachers and arrange a convenient time to meet.

Families for Life Community  
Champion Application Form - 2025



## Families for Life Champions

Do you want to help families live healthier lives while building your skills and making new friends?






### Join us as a Families for Life Champion!

We're looking for enthusiastic parent or carer volunteers to help promote healthy lifestyles in schools and communities. Whether it's chatting at the school gate, running fun workshops, or sharing events on WhatsApp - you can make a real difference!

#### What you'll do:

- ☒ Spread the word about health programmes like Family Kitchen and Taste Education
- ☒ Support school gate activities (flu jabs, oral health, parent surveys)
- ☒ Run parent workshops on healthy snacks, lunches, and breakfasts
- ☒ Share info through your networks and help families thrive

#### What you'll get:

-  Free training & certificates
-  Travel reimbursements
-  Boost your CV & explore paid opportunities
-  Build friendships & community connections
-  Learn more about local services and healthy living

**Flexible commitment:** Just **one** activity per half term, with full support and training provided.

#### Ready to get involved?

Just fill out this short application (<https://forms.office.com/r/8paXEmFvBS>) by scanning the QRCode below.

Don't hesitate to email [margherita.locatelli@islington.gov.uk](mailto:margherita.locatelli@islington.gov.uk) for more information!

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# Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Take pride in your attendance, it reflects your dedication for education!

Class with the highest attendance this week is:  
**Antactica Class (Year 1)**  
**99.6%**

**Well Done!**

Well done everyone for your fantastic effort to be in school and come on time!

Our home-school partnership is key to successful outcomes for our pupils

Our whole school attendance this week is:  
**97.3%**

## Holiday during term time.

A reminder that, like all Islington schools, we do not authorise holidays taken in term time. Some parents may believe that there is a right to a certain number of days holiday during term time. This is not true. **You may be served with a Penalty Notice or a summons to court for your child/ren's unauthorised absence** once your child turns 5 years old and will incur a fine from the Local Authority.

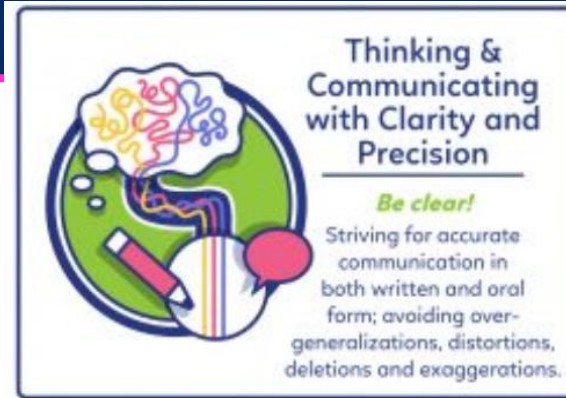
## Extended Day Provision

8-8.45 am Breakfast club  
8.45-9am Soft Start  
9am Registration  
(any child arriving after 9am is marked as late)  
3.15pm Collection time  
3.30-4.45 Enrichment clubs  
3.30-6pm extended day provision.



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# The Habits of Mind



Our focus remains **Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision** – being as clear as we can!

**So how can we become more skillful in thinking and communicating with clarity and precision?**

**Slow down when you are emotional.** When we get angry or exasperated, our rational brain closes down and our emotional brain takes over. We are often tempted to respond impulsively when we lose our cool. Take a deep breath. Count to ten. Give yourself a chance to think before you say something.

**Listen to others.** Listen to the words they choose. Seek to understand. When you hear:

- Vague nouns and pronouns such as in “they” - ask who specifically.
- Generalizations, such as “Everybody?” or “All the time?” Check if that’s really true.

We discussed these ideas and thought about when these skills will help us. In the playground, they can be particularly useful.