

Newsletter

11th September 2026

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Week Beginning 14th September

Meet the teacher - Years …

Week beginning 21nd September

Mon 21st Y5/Y6 Natural History Museum

Thurs 24th Bookfair sponsored by Bookmark

Thurs 24th FLU VACCINATIONS

Week beginning 28th September

Mon 28th Y5/Y6 Football tournament

Thurs 1st October Year 6 Class Assembly

Week beginning 5th October

Parent Consultations this week

Thurs 9th October Year 5 Class Assembly

Week beginning 12th October

Mon 12th Y3/Y4 Football tournament

Thurs 15th Year 5 Class Assembly

Week beginning 19th October

Mon 19th Flu Vaccination (catch-up)

Thurs 22nd Year 4 Class Assembly

Monday 26th - Friday 30 October 2026 Half Term Break

Monday 2nd November Inset Day - school closed to children

9th-13th November Year 6 Cardfields residential

Friday 18h December: last day of Autumn Term

Message from Ms Liney

Welcome back to Robert Blair! It has been a busy eight days and I think we can now say everyone is well settled and back into the school routine. Year 6 have taken their place as the most experienced class of the school and are doing a great job of modelling **mindful, ready and safe** behaviours (our school rules) as well as displaying the **Habits of Mind** (p6). We warmly welcome all our new families - I hope you are already feeling part of the Robert Blair community.

It is wonderful to greet the whole school at Blundell Street each day. Thank you to the vast majority of families who have supported this transition. If you do have a question for the office at that time, leaders are available to take a message and pass it on.

We are looking forward to our smart new gates as well as storage for the bikes and scooters. Our Year 1, Reception, Nursery and Under 3's families are now greeted at their new classroom entrances which all give direct access to the outdoors. Lots of work took place over the summer to reconfigure and improve the indoor spaces on the ground floor, and Nursery are enjoying their brand new classroom. Meanwhile, the older children unanimously approve of the improvements made to the toilets near the playground which have had a complete refurbishment (p4)!

I was pleased to see many parents at our Meet the Teacher visits this week. This was a valuable opportunity to share our curriculum themes as well as information about how you can support your child. Read on for details of this term's curriculum themes and teaching team at Robert Blair. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, working together for the success of the children.

Sara Liney, Head of School

House Points

Year totals so far...

70

Paradise park

110

Clock Tower

60

Cally Bridge

40

Market Road



Robert Blair Team

Under 3's: Folami Ashade, Susan Smith, Laura Asimeng-Gyan, Shanikah Drewitt-Ayre

Nursery Teacher Aisha Zada
Reception Teacher Kirsty McGurgan
Year 1 Teacher Sozen Mehmet
EYFS and Year 1 Teaching Assistants: Lyn Walls, Seda Bildin, Elsie Akthar-Hossain
Year 2 Teacher Carol Plower
Year 2 Teaching Assistant: Nafisa Khanom

Year 3 Teacher Rosie Wassink
Year 4 Teacher Anjuma Begum
Lower Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistant: Shazeda Akthar-Chowdury
Year 5 Teacher Kharima Rahman (Key Stage 2 Phase Lead)
Year 6 Teacher Lloyd Davies
Upper Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistants: Abida Begum, Sarah Duff

Learning Support Assistants: Delrose Ryan and Sam Mitchell

Meet the Teacher meetings took place at Robert Blair this week. Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended. If you missed the meeting, please read the teacher presentation which can be found on Google Classroom. We shared important information about our curriculum, our expectations for the year and how to support your child. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year!



Robert Blair Team

SENCo: Nicola Cush-Etter (Mon, Tues, Weds)
Pastoral Care Manager: Atradies Peart
Assistant Head: Emma-Louise Maguire
Assistant Head Under 3s, EYFS and KS1: Carla Jones
Head of School: Sara Liney
Executive Headteacher: Lisa Horton

Premises Manager: Ron Jackman
School Business Manager: Jamie Lucas
Administration Officer: Migena Azemi

Rightway Sports coaches: Matt, Milly and Otis
Environment Officer: Caroline Watson (Thursdays)



Renovated Toilets

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

I love the new toilets! They are so much fresher and a lot cleaner.
Millie

I really like them because they are much better than the old ones.
Alkeo







Our new Nursery toilets!



Themes for Autumn 1

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Nursery and Reception



This half term, our theme is Monsters. We will also be thinking about our feelings, friendships, personal growth and our school values through stories, discussion and creative activities.

Year 1 and Year 2



We will be learning about **London Landmarks.** This will include learning of London's location, landmarks including physical and human geographical features, and local geography.

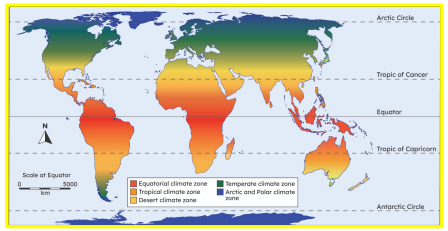
Year 3 and Year 4



Our theme this half term is **Going Underground.** This is a geography focus unit and will include learning about identifying how transport networks, particularly the London Underground, shape cities by connecting settlements.

Year 5 and Year 6

Our theme this half term is **Disaster!** This is a geography focus and will include learning about climatic zones in the world and the effect of climate change.



The Habits of Mind

Managing Impulsivity



Take your time!

Thinking before acting; remaining calm, thoughtful and deliberative.

Listening with Understanding and Empathy



Understand others!

Devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas. Making an effort to perceive another's point of view and emotions.

This term, we will focus on developing 4 habits which will support us in our learning as well as enabling us to work together effectively. They are important skills which help us succeed in all areas of life.

Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations



Use what you learn!

Accessing prior knowledge; transferring knowledge beyond the situation in which it was learned.

Thinking About Your Thinking (Metacognition)



Know your Knowing!

Being aware of your own thoughts, strategies, feelings and actions and their effects on others.



Behaviour for Learning

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Good behaviour is essential for effective teaching and learning to take place. A sound approach to behaviour management is a vital foundation for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children. At Robert Blair, we believe that pupils and staff have the right to work in an environment that is safe, friendly, peaceful and fair. Good behaviour must be carefully developed and supported. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to work with the school in helping their children to behave well.

The School has high expectations around learning behaviour. We have three school rules:

- **Be mindful**
- **Be ready**
- **Be safe**

At Robert Blair, our behaviour system has different stages

Gold card when a child has demonstrated exceptional behaviour. When a child gets 15, 30, 50 and 100 gold cards, their achievement is acknowledged in assembly with specific rewards.

Green card Each child will start the day on green. If they remain on green all week they will get a green sticker on Friday.

Blue card After a clear warning, the card will be changed to blue card. It is expected that the child will improve their behaviour; when the behaviour improves, they will be moved **back to green**.

Orange card When a child receives an orange warning, they are sent to the reflection table for a fixed period of time. During this period, they will reflect on their behaviour choices.

Red card When a child receives a red warning, the Pastoral and Welfare Lead is informed. A restorative conversation will take place during lunch time as a form of reflection. Parents will be informed of the red sanction and a letter will be issued. Behaviour will be logged on our behaviour system. Parents may be contacted to discuss the behaviour further if needed.

Each class will also have in-class rewards

















Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Why attendance matters and what we are doing to improve it

At Robert Blair, we know that every day in school matters. Research shows that even a few days of missed school can significantly affect a child's learning and long-term opportunities. With a national drop in attendance, we are committed to ensuring our pupils are in school regularly and on time.

We work closely with our Attendance and Welfare Officer, Bright Futures and Early Help to support families whenever needed. Our aim is to remove barriers to attendance and help every child thrive. To celebrate and encourage excellent attendance, we offer a range of rewards:

- **Weekly** recognition for the class with the highest attendance
- **Half-termly** recognition at assembly for those who are on target
- **Termly** awards for individual pupils with 98–100% attendance
- An **end-of-year treat** for pupils who achieve 99–100% attendance

We are proud to see our numbers of high-attending pupils grow year after year, and we're excited to see even more children reach these milestones this year.

Let's continue working together to give every child the best chance to succeed — because **every day really does count**.

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

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.**

How much could I be fined if my child misses school?

In the majority of cases, the school and the local authority will work to support families to help improve attendance. If that is not effective, parents may be fined or issued a court warning for poor attendance. Parents are also fined for taking pupils on holiday during term time. Under national rules, all schools are required to consider a fine when a child misses 5 days of school for unauthorised reasons. Fines for all school absences across the country are £80 per child per parent (if paid within 21 days) or £160 per child per parent (if paid within 28 days).



Attendance and Punctuality Matters

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

"Success in school begins with showing up. Your attendance shapes your academic journey".

Your child can attend school with…

Toothache
Earache
Headache
Sore throat
Conjunctivitis
Glandular fever
Head lice
Threadworm
Tonsilitis
Athlete's foot
Cold sores
Hand, foot and mouth
Molluscum Contagiosum (Viral skin condition)
Warts and verrucae

Please be reassured that we will contact you immediately, if we feel your child is too unwell to remain in school

If your child is diagnosed with following:

Chicken pox- child can return back to school when all the spots have crusted over
Diarrhoea and vomiting-child can return to school 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Influenza (flu)-child can return back to school when they have recovered
German measles (Rubella)- Keep child off school 4 days from onset of the rash
Impetigo-until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics treatment
Measles- keep child off school for 4 days from the onset of the rash
Mumps-keep child of school 5 days after onset of the swelling
Scabies-Child can return to school after first treatment
Whooping cough-child can return to school 48 hours from commencing antibiotics treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotics treatment

A doctor's note will be required for all the above.

Medications in Schools.

If your child requires administration of medication in school. Please note we will only administer prescribed medication from GP. You will be asked to complete a care plan.
When a child is administered medication in school parent will be notified via the Medical Tracker.
All medications needs to be handed to the school office and please ensure that the medication is in its original box with it's label on.

Where possible, please try to make appointments after school and during the school holidays

Reporting your child's absence

We ask all parents and carers to contact the school **before 9:00am** to report any absence.
Call us on 020 7607 4115 and select Option 1 to leave a message.
If we do not receive a message from you, a member of staff will contact you to find out the reason for your child's absence. This helps us ensure that every child's absence is recorded correctly.
Please note:
If your child is absent for **three consecutive days**, you will be asked to provide evidence to support the absence (e.g., a doctor's note, appointment card, or prescription).
Thank you for your support in helping us keep accurate attendance records and ensuring the wellbeing of all our pupils.



Flu Vaccinations at Robert Blair

Thursday 24th September

Monday 19th October (catch up)

VACCINATION UK

Little Noses, Big Protection!

FREE Flu Vaccination at School

*Vaccinated at school, protected for winter - an easy and convenient way for your child to receive their **free flu vaccine** during the school day.*



This autumn, your child will be offered a **FREE NHS flu vaccination at school.**
The flu vaccine helps protect your child from getting seriously unwell and helps stop flu spreading to family and friends.

- ✓ FREE at school
- ✓ All eligible year groups invited
- ✓ Parents/carers will receive an email asking for consent

Most children receive a **quick nasal spray vaccine.**
A **gelatine-free injectable vaccine** is also available for children who cannot have the nasal spray or where parents choose this option.

Please complete your consent form as soon as you receive it.

For more information about vaccines:
www.schoolvaccination.uk

Part of the NHS School Aged Immunisation Service

NHS



NURSERY and UNDER 3s

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Settling-in : how can you help at home ?

Starting nursery is an exciting milestone for your child, and some kind and gentle steps can help them feel happy, secure, and confident as they settle in.

- Talk about nursery in a positive and happy way. Share your excitement about the new experiences they will enjoy, the activities they will take part in, and the friends they will make.
- Ask positive questions such as, “What did you enjoy today?” or “What was your favourite part of nursery?”
- Make nursery part of your child’s routine by talking about it during the week and before bedtime.
- Reassure your child that they are safe and cared for at nursery, and that you are happy while they are away, whether you are working, staying at home, or enjoying your own activities.
- Remind them that you will always come back to collect them and that nursery is a special place where they can learn, play, explore, and grow.

Sharing your special moments



Children love sharing their home experiences with their friends and key person.

Please feel free to upload photos of holidays, weekends, special moments, favourite toys, or activities from home on Tapestry. During circle time and one-to-one sessions, children enjoy sharing their stories, talking about the people and things that are special to them, and celebrating their experiences from home.

Still space available for a September 2026 start !

Please apply now for your child for Baby room (16 month to 2’s), Toddler room (2 to 3 years old) or Nursery room (3 to 4 years old)

Apply online on https://www.robertblairschool.com/childrens-centre/admissions/

All about me

This term our topic is **All About Me**. We will be:

- Creating self-portraits and talking about what makes us unique.
- Sharing our likes, dislikes, families, holidays and favourite activities.
- Learning that everyone is different and that we all belong to our nursery and wider community.
- Exploring colours, shapes and textures through art and sensory play.
- Singing nursery rhymes, sharing stories and developing our communication and language skills.
- Building independence through everyday routines and learning through play.



A little request: Please upload on Tapestry some family photos, showing your child's favourite people (and pets!).



Applying for Year 7 for September 2027

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Information for Year 6 parents applying for a secondary school place for September 2027

Islington Council Secondary Admissions Information can be found here.

Admissions Secondary Admissions Guide 2027/2028 can be found here.

2027/2028 Determined admissions criteria can be found here.

If you have any questions or require any support with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact the Pastoral Care Manager, Ms Peart.



ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

2026 – 2027 term dates

August 26

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30	31					

September 26

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October 26

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November 26

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December 26

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January 27

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February 27

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March 27

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April 27

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May 27

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June 27

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July 27

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Inset Day
(no school for students)

Bank Holiday

School Holidays