

Newsletter

16th October 2026

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Upcoming Events

Week beginning 19th October

Mon 19th Flu Vaccination (catch-up)

Thurs 22nd Year 5 Class Assembly

Monday 26th - Friday 30 October 2026 Half Term

Week beginning 2nd November

Monday 2nd Inset Day - school closed to children

Tues 3rd School reopens for children

Week beginning 9th November

9th-13th November Year 6 residential

Week beginning 16th November

Thurs 19th Y2 class assembly

Week beginning 23rd November

Thurs 26th Y3 class assembly

Week beginning 30th November

Thurs 3rd December Y1 class assembly

Friday 18h December: last day of Autumn Term

Message from Ms Liney

Next Monday, Katy Potts, Islington's Online Safety Lead, will be running an evening **online workshop** for families of Robert Blair to support with online safety at home. We are very lucky to have Katy's expertise, as she advises nationally and has up-to-date information about what our children experience online as well as advice for how to negotiate that landscape. At a time when it feels increasingly hard to know how to protect children online, I hope you will find her input useful. I am grateful to Katy for running this "out of hours" event at 7pm, to enable as many families as possible to attend. There will be no obligation to speak but you will have the chance to ask questions if you would like.

October is **Black History Month** and so, in addition to our diverse curriculum, we have a special focus on sharing, celebrating and understanding the impact of people from African and Caribbean backgrounds on British History. I am really looking forward to next week's presentations to learn more about people whose contribution to society has previously been overlooked. October 31st is also the deadline to apply for **secondary school**. **Y6 parents**, please see a member of the leadership team before half term if you would like support with applying. That deadline is fast approaching! November sees the introduction of our hearty Autumn/Winter lunch menu - read on for full details so you know what's on offer. And, with that, the half term break is upon us. It has been a great start to the year. School will be closed for INSET on 2nd November for our staff training on safeguarding and inclusive teaching. I look forward to seeing the children well-rested when they return on **Tuesday 3rd November**.

House Points

Year totals so far...

2220

Paradise park

1870

Clock Tower

1440

Cally Bridge

1980

Market Road



ROBERT BLAIR ONLINE WORKSHOP for PARENTS and CARERS

7pm Monday 19th October

Join Katy Potts, Islington Online Safety Lead
for
Essential Online Safety
for parents and carers to:

- Understand the landscape, how children are using the internet, the benefits and dangers that children are vulnerable to online.

- Recognise the importance of Online Safety education, family boundaries, technical (parental) controls and differences for younger children and older children (including within UK 2027 Social Media ban).

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/376737774396888?p=z0wnWprMligmmNp9N6

Meeting ID: 376 737 774 396 888

Passcode: aA6Pi79K

Katy Potts, katy.Potts@islington.gov.uk

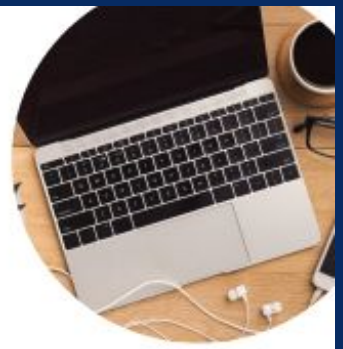






ISLINGTON
For a more equal future

Bright Start ISLINGTON



Information, Advice & Guidance Surgery

For Islington families with children under 5

Our Family Support Surgeries give families the opportunity to receive support and advice from a Family Engagement Worker for a range of family issues such as:

- Parenting
- Money worries and debt
- Returning to or starting work/training
- Children's behaviour
- Feeling low or sad
- Housing
- Any other challenges you are facing with your family

Stay and Play drop-in:

Mondays
10:00AM-11:30AM
Archway Children's Centre,
N19 5HE

Wednesdays
10.00-11.30AM
Willow Children's Centre,
N7 0BF

Telephone service
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
9:00AM – 12:00PM
0207 527 8376

Best Start in Life | Family Hubs | UK Government | Whittington Health NHS Trust | Islington – For a more equal future

Bright Start ISLINGTON



Extra Boost (SEND)

For Islington Parents with children under 5 with additional needs

Extra boost is a specialist group activity for under 5's with additional needs and who benefit from a quieter space where their individual needs can be met.

Sessions will help your child to:

- Feel comfortable playing and exploring in a small group
- Build attention during play
- Experience taking turns when playing

Sessions will help you to:

- Learn more about how your child communicates and further support your child's communication development
- Share any concerns and experiences with the practitioners and other parents
- Interact with your child in a calm environment

Mondays

10-11.30am

Family Hub North at Hornsey Road Children's Centre,
N7 7EN

For more information email:
brightstart@islington.gov.uk



YEAR 6 - SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
Deadline 31st October

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.

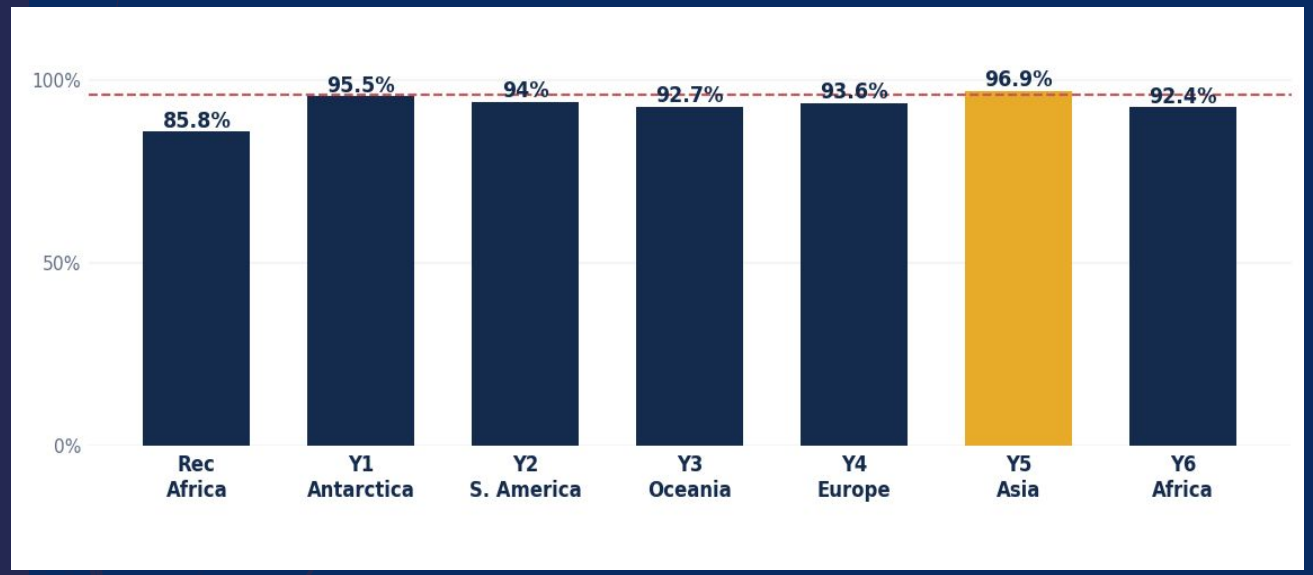
If you have any questions or require any support with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact the **Pastoral Care Manager, Ms Peart.**





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL



ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

YEAR 5

96.9%

Being in school means:

- ✓ more learning
- ✓ stronger routines
- ✓ time with friends
- ✓ better progress

We will always work with families where there are genuine barriers to attendance. If attendance is becoming difficult, please speak to us early so that we can work together to support your child.

92.6%
Whole-school attendance this year to date

95.6%
National average



BREAKFAST CLUB

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

A Great Start to the Day! 🌞

Our **FREE Breakfast Club** is still going strong! Children are enjoying yummy breakfasts, fun games, board games, playtime and spending quality time with their friends before the school day begins!

💙 **Don't forget!** Breakfast Club is completely **FREE, open from 08:00 daily** and parents can book their child's place through **Arbor**.









Black History Month Homework Project

To strengthen the links between learning at school and at home, all year groups will be completing a **Black History Month homework project** this week.

Black History Month is celebrated every October in the UK to recognise and celebrate the achievements, contributions and experiences of Black people throughout history and in our society today. It provides an opportunity for children to learn about important historical figures, explore different cultures and understand the impact Black individuals and communities have had on our world.

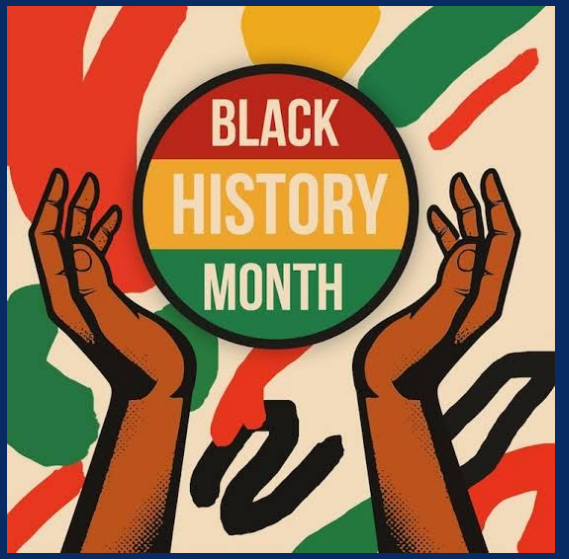
Each class teacher has set a task tailored to their year group, giving children the opportunity to explore an aspect of Black history in more depth. We encourage all children to return their completed homework by **Wednesday 21st October** so they can share their learning with the rest of the class.

Teachers will celebrate children who have gone above and beyond with their projects, awarding house points to the **1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners** in each class.

Winners will be announced during assembly on **Friday 6th November**, alongside the announcement of our overall house totals.

We look forward to seeing the children's fantastic work and celebrating their learning!

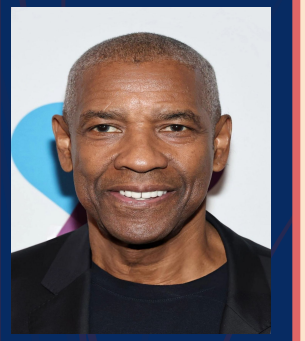






Celebrating Black History Month at Robert Blair







Learning, celebrating and recognising the contributions of Black people throughout history.

This October, we are celebrating Black History Month through our curriculum, linking learning to each year group's **History theme for this half term**. Children will explore significant Black individuals, events and contributions, deepening their understanding of Black history and its impact on our world today.

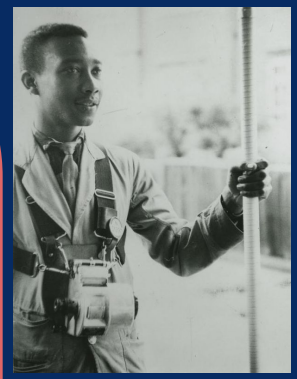
What and Who will children be learning about?

- **Year 1:** Dido Elizabeth Belle and Kenwood House
- **Year 2:** Claudia Jones and the Notting Hill Carnival
- **Year 3:** Garrett Morgan – inventions and underground safety
- **Year 4:** Black Londoners who helped keep London moving, including transport workers and the Windrush generation
- **Year 5:** Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock – scientist and space scientist
- **Year 6:** A timeline of significant people and events in Black British history during the 2000s

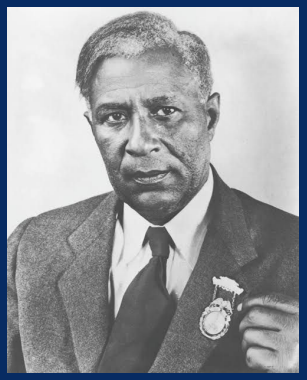
Sharing our learning

Children will explore their allocated topic during History lessons, recording their learning in their History books. Representatives from each class will then share their research through a poster or Google Slides presentation with their phase in special phase assemblies next week, celebrating the achievements, contributions and lasting impact of the people and communities they have studied.

We look forward to celebrating the children's curiosity, learning and understanding of Black history through their learning in school and at home!









A message from School Council



Hello to Parents and carers,

We have been picked for school council 2026 and we wanted to introduce ourselves and send you a message to let you know what we have been up to.

Over the last week we have been discussing job opportunities within the school council and have been applying for roles. These jobs include:

- ~ Playground Buddy
- ~ Lunchhall Monitor
- ~ School Ambassador
- ~ Arts, Marketing & Media Manager
- ~ Eco & Environment Monitor

Many of us have applied and are looking forward to working in our new roles. This week we have been discussing themes such as Black History Month and plans for an Anti-Bullying Week assembly.

We are looking forward to making the school a better place so everyone is happy. We look forward to giving you further updates in the future!

From:
Alkeo, Iona, Saeed, Idris, Isaiah,
Evana, Elijah, Zahra, Eliza and Micah

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL



NURSERY and UNDER 3s

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

What's on for families this month in Islington

Information, Advice & Guidance Surgery
Family Support Surgeries provide families with advice and support from a Family Engagement Worker on a range of issues, including parenting, money worries, employment or training, children's behaviour, emotional wellbeing, housing, and other family challenges.
Mondays 10:00am-11:30am Archway Children's Centre



Under 1's Breath, Stretch & Flow
Take part in gentle stretching, core-strengthening, and cardiovascular exercises to boost energy, improve wellbeing, and restore muscle strength and fitness.
Wednesdays, 11:15am–12:15pm at Andover Community Centre

0-5's Reggae Aerobics
Move to the beat, build confidence, develop motor skills, and enjoy quality family time through fun reggae-inspired movement, simple aerobic exercises, music, and a welcoming environment for all abilities.
Wednesday from 9:45–10:45am at Andover Community Centre

Getting ready for nursery: potty training

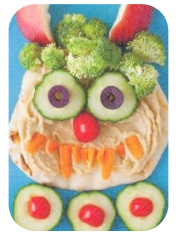
As your child gets ready to move into nursery class, we encourage parents to start thinking about potty training.

We expect children to be fully potty trained after their third birthday, so starting early and taking things at your child's pace can help make the transition easier and more positive.



Every child develops at their own pace, so patience, encouragement and praise are important along the way.
If you have any questions or would like support, please speak to your child's key person, who will be happy to help.

Half-term cooking at home: Hummus Monster



Make a spooky Halloween hummus monster using hummus cucumber, carrot, cherry tomatoes and wholemeal crackers or pita.
Let children create the monster's face, then pretend to be Halloween chefs and serve their creations at a Spooky café !



Activity in the rooms

In October, children explored a sensory activity using rice, playdough, and orange paint.
They enjoyed touching, squeezing, and mixing the materials with their hands. The children used their creativity to make orange colours and different textures. This activity encouraged sensory exploration, fine motor skills, and imaginative play.

<u>Still space available for an November 2026 start</u>

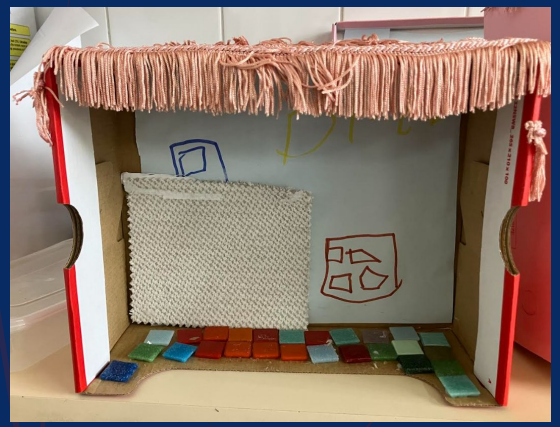
Please apply now for your child for Baby room (16 months to 2's), Toddler room (2 to 3 years old) or Nursery room (3 to 4 years old).

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





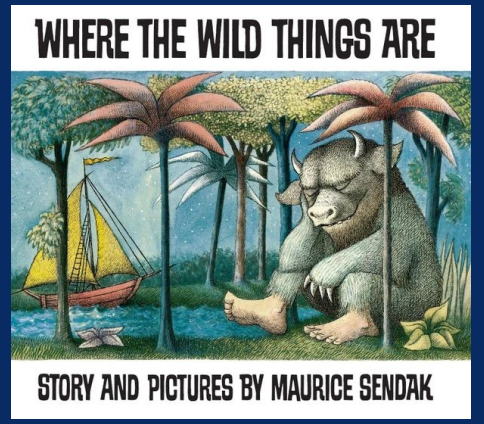
RECEPTION CLASS





This week, Reception children explored the story **Where the Wild Things Are** by Maurice Sendak. They created their own crowns inspired by Max, using their creativity to design and decorate them. The children also used junk modelling to create Max's bedroom, selecting and joining different materials to bring their ideas to life.

In our water tray, the children investigated which objects would sink or float, making predictions and observing what happened when different materials were placed in the water. Through these activities, the children developed their creativity, fine motor skills, problem-solving abilities and early scientific understanding.

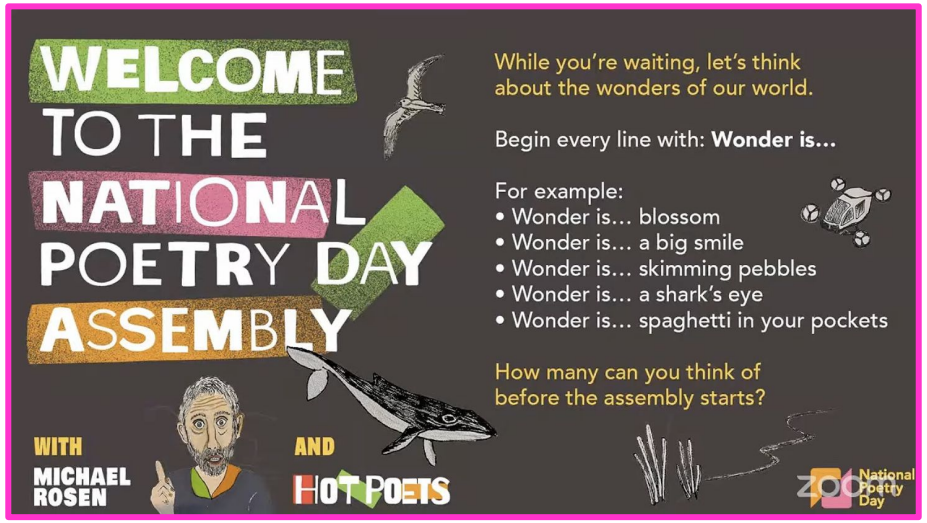




Years 1 and 2

To celebrate National Poetry Day, the children enjoyed a special poetry session following an online assembly with Michael Rosen. They explored ‘Woodlice’ by Simon Mole, went on a mini-beast hunt and used their discoveries to inspire a creative art activity!







Reception Places

Reception 2027

If you have or know of a child due to start Reception in September 2027 and would like to find out more about school life at Robert Blair please do book onto one of our upcoming school tours. All tours start at 9:30am with an introduction from the Head of School

- Wednesday 4th November
- Wednesday 18th November
- Wednesday 2nd December

Please do contact the school office to book onto one of the tour dates.

Places for Reception 2027 spaces can be made following the link below:

https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/how-to-apply#guide-sections

Current Reception class vacancies

We have a few remaining spaces in our Reception class this year. If you know of anyone looking for a space, please do encourage them to contact the school office to book a school tour.

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS IN ISLINGTON

Throughout the school holidays and in partnership with Islington Council, we are proud to be able to offer a variety of free swimming lessons for children and families. Lessons will run during Easter, May Half Term, Summer and October Half Term. Sessions include:

- Adult and child swimming lessons: 6-week course for under 3's *Summer holiday only
- Swimming lessons for 4 -13-year-olds, intensive lessons, Monday - Friday for 1 or 2 weeks
- Teen swimming lessons 13 -16-year-olds, intensive lessons, Monday - Friday for 1 or 2 weeks
- Family swimming lessons, 6-week course for up to 2 adults and 2 children to learn to swim together and enjoy the pool together *Summer holiday only

To apply please scan **QR code** or visit website at **better.org.uk/free-swimming-lessons**

You can email for more information at **summer.lessons@gll.org**



Free Swimming Lessons during the October half term

Booking Details:

To apply please scan **QR code** or visit website at **better.org.uk/free-swimming-lessons**

You can email for more information at **summer.lessons@gll.org**



Lunch Menu
from 2nd November

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

ISLINGTON AUTUMN WINTER MENU 2026 / 2027

caterlink feeding the imagination

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE W/C 2nd Novemb 23rd Novemb 14th Decemb 18th January 8th February 8th March	Option One	Macaroni Cheese (V)	Vegetable Tagine with Rice (VE)	Lentil Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (VE)	Saucy Tomato and Bean Pasta Bake (VE)	Red Pepper Frittata with Chips & Homemade Tomato Sauce (V)
	Option Two	Autumn Harvest Lasagne (V)	Hearty Beef and Lentil Bolognaise with Spaghetti	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice and Turmeric Bread	Battered Fish with Chips & Homemade Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Broccoli (VE) Carrots (VE)	Green Beans (VE) Cauliflower (VE)	Sweetcorn (VE) Green Cabbage (VE)	Butternut Squash (VE) Cauliflower (VE)	Peas (VE) Bake Beans (VE)
	Dessert	Apple and Raisin Flapjack (VE)	Apple Crumb Cake with Custard (V)	Yoghurt (V) Fresh Fruit – Platter (VE)	Strawberry Jelly with Mandarins (VE)	Yoghurt (V) Fresh Fruit – Salad (VE)
WEEK TWO W/C 9th Novembe 30th Novemb 4th January 25th January 22nd Februar 15th March	Option One	Tuna Pasta Bake	Lentil and Basil Whirl (VE) with Wedges(VE)	Lentil and Roasted Vegetable Pasta (VE)	Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice (VE)	Tomato Butterbean Pasta (VE)
	Option Two	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges (V)	Chicken & Sweetcorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	BBQ Chicken with Seasoned Potatoes & Sweetcorn Salsa	Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Breaded Fish or Fishfingers with Chips & Homemade Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Green Beans (VE) Cauliflower (VE)	Carrots (VE) Sweetcorn (VE)	Broccoli (VE) Peas (VE)	Carrots (VE) Courgettes (VE)	Peas (VE) Baked Beans (VE)
	Dessert	Peach Upside Down Cake (V)with Custard (V)	Chocolate and Banana Oaty Square (VE)	Yoghurt (V) Fresh Fruit – Platter (VE)	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble (VE) with Custard (V)	Yoghurt (V) Fresh Fruit – Salad (VE)
WEEK THREE W/C 16th Novem 7th Decemb 11th January 1st February 1st March 22nd March	Option One	Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice (VE)	Hearty Spaghetti Bolognaise (VE)	Planet Friendly Sausage and Roast Potatoes and Gravy (VE)	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice (VE)	Cheese and Bean Pasty with Chips (V)
	Option Two	Macaroni Cheese (V)	Chicken Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Roast Potatoes	Minced Beef Cottage Pie	Fishfingers with Chips & Homemade Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Sweetcorn (VE) Peas (VE)	Carrots (VE) Broccoli (VE)	Green Beans (VE) Cauliflower (VE)	Carrots (VE) Butternut Squash (VE)	Baked Beans (VE) Peas(VE)
	Dessert	Yoghurt (V) with Fresh Fruit – Platter (VE)	Pear Crumble with Custard (V)	Yoghurt (V) and Fresh Fruit - Platter(VE)	Wholemeal Orange and Cinnamon Shortbread (VE)	Chocolate and Apple Sponge and Chocolate Sauce (V)

MENU KEY:

- Whole grain
- Plant based
- Added plant protein
- **(VE)** Vegan
- **(V)** Veggie

AVAILABLE DAILY: Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings (V/ VE), Salad Bar (V/ VE), Freshly Baked Bread (V/VE), Fresh Fruit (VE), Yoghurt (V)

If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.

Weeks commencing

2nd November

23rd November

14th December

18th January

8th February

8th March

Autumn Winter
2026 2027
Week 1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Macaroni Cheese 	Vegetable Tagine with Rice 	Lentil Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 	Saucy Tomato and Bean Pasta Bake 	Red Pepper Frittata with Chips 
OPTION 2	Autumn Harvest Lasagne 	Healthy Beef and Lentil Bolognaise 	Roast Chicken Stuffing Roast Potatoes and Gravy 	Chicken Tikka Masala 	Battered Fish with Chips 
DESSERT	Apple and Raisin Flapjack 	NEW Apple Crumb Cake with Custard 	Fruit Platter 	Strawberry Jelly with Mandarins 	Freshly Fruit Salad 

*VEGETABLES AND SIDES MAY DIFFER THAN THOSE SHOWN

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Weeks Commencing:

- 9th November
- 30th November
- 4th January
- 25th January
- 22nd February
- 15th March

Autumn Winter 2026 2027 Week2

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Tuna Pasta Bake 	Lentil and Basil Whirl With Wedges 	Lentil and Roasted Vegetable Pasta 	Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice 	Tomato and Butterbean Pasta 
OPTION 2	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges 	Chicken and Sweetcorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice 	BBQ Chicken with Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa 	Beef Lasagne 	Breaded Fish or Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce 
DESSERT	Peach Upside Down Cake 	Chocolate and Banana Oaty Square 	Fruit Platter 	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard 	Freshly Fruit Salad 

*VEGETABLES AND SIDES MAY DIFFER THAN THOSE SHOWN

caterlink
feeding the imagination

Weeks Commencing:

16th November

7th December

11th January

1st February

1st March

22nd March

Autumn Winter
2026 2027
Week3

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
OPTION 1	Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice 	Health Spaghetti Bolognaise 	Planet Friendly Sausage with Roast Potatoes and 	Caribbean Stew with Golden Rice 	Cheese and Bean Pasty with Chips 
OPTION 2	Macaroni Cheese 	NEW Chicken 50% Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges 	Mild Caribbean Chicken with Roast Potatoes 	Minced Beef Cottage Pie 	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Ketchup 
DESSERT	Fruit Platter 	Pear Crumble with Custard 	Fruit Platter 	Wholemeal Orange and Cinnamon Shortbread 	Chocolate and Apple Sponge and Chocolate Sauce 

*VEGETABLES AND SIDES MAY DIFFER THAN THOSE SHOWN

caterlink
feeding the imagination

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

2026 – 2027 term dates

August 26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Inset Day
(no school for students)

Bank Holiday

School Holidays