

Newsletter

18th September 2026

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Upcoming Events

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

This week, we completed our Meet the Teacher sessions. I hope you found it useful to meet the staff, understand your child's day and the curriculum they are learning. Parent consultations will be coming up soon (week beginning 5th October) for more detailed conversations about your individual child. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our new lunch time arrangements are going well. In addition to the longer playtime, we have made improvements to the lunch hall so that it feels calmer and more welcoming. Sound absorption panels were installed over the summer and these have made a big difference to the acoustics. The layout of the lunch offer has also been altered to encourage children to eat a wider range of fruit and vegetables. Additionally, the longer lunch hour means that the pace of serving and eating is less rushed. Feedback from the children has been overwhelmingly positive and the whole experience feels more sociable.

We have an important message about attendance in this newsletter (page 2). Every lesson and every day at school counts, which is why we are working closely with our Education Welfare Officer to overcome barriers. The link between progress, attainment and attendance is clear, and we want the best for all our children. Please ensure that you only keep your child off school if they are genuinely unwell.

As our new Reception children get settled in, Year 6 are already thinking ahead to secondary school. On page 11 you will find links to admissions guidance for Year 7. I am pleased to say that the Headteacher of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School will be coming in personally to speak to our girls on 25th September, to answer their questions and give a flavour of life at EGA. Please remember, the closing date for secondary applications is 31st October.

Sara Liney, Head of School

House Points

Year totals so far...

70

Paradise park

110

Clock Tower

60

Cally Bridge

40

Market Road



Attendance
Every Day Counts

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

A strong attendance focus for 2026–27

Our message to families

We will always work with families where there are genuine barriers to attendance. However, avoidable and unauthorised absence will be followed up closely.
Please report absence before 9:00am and keep us updated. If attendance begins to cause concern, we will contact you early so that we can discuss how to improve the situation.

No contact? We will follow up.

If your child is absent and we cannot make contact with you, we will continue to try to establish the reason for the absence. If there has been no contact within 3 days, our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) will be informed and a home visit will be made.

This is part of our responsibility to safeguard children and ensure that every absence is accounted for.

Approximately how much learning is missed?

Based on approximately 5 hours of teaching and learning per school day

3 DAYS	5 DAYS	10 DAYS	15 DAYS	20 DAYS
~15 HOURS	~25 HOURS	~50 HOURS	~75 HOURS	~100 HOURS

Even a few days of absence can quickly add up to hours of missed teaching, learning and classroom experiences.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Being in school means:

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



Celebrating Reading
A Book for Every Child!

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

We are delighted to announce that, to kick-start the new school year and celebrate the **National Year of Reading**, we will be hosting a **Scholastic Book Fair**, generously sponsored by **The Bookmark Charity**. It will begin next week, from Thursday 24th September for a week.

As part of this exciting initiative, every child in our school will be able to choose a book of their choice to take home completely free of charge! We hope this will encourage children to discover new stories, explore different genres and, most importantly, develop a lifelong **love of reading for pleasure**.

We are incredibly grateful to **The Bookmark Charity** for helping us put books into the hands of every child and supporting our school in making reading a central part of our children's lives. We can't wait to see which books our children choose!

SCHOLASTIC Book Fairs



Supporting the National Year of Reading 2026 GO ALL IN.



NURSERY and UNDER 3s

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Safer sleep : new requirements



Safer sleep guidance, based on recommendations from **the NHS and The Lullaby Trust**, aim to help families create a safe and comfortable sleep environment for their baby at home.

Babies should be placed **on their back to sleep**, on a **firm, flat and clear sleep surface**, and kept at a comfortable temperature.

Avoid pillows, duvets, loose blankets and soft toys in the cot or bed, especially for children under 2 years old.

Autumn outfits

As the weather becomes more changeable, please send your child in **comfortable, easy-to-wear layers** that can be added or removed as needed. Autumn can bring a mix of **warm, sunny days and cooler, wet weather**, so please provide a **suitable coat and waterproof clothing** for outdoor play.

To help your child become more independent, we encourage **simple clothing that is easy to manage**, such as elasticated waist trousers and shoes with Velcro.

Please also remember to **label all clothing, coats, shoes and spare clothes** with your child's name.



Allergies & Dietary requirements

For children with dietary requirements or allergies, parents are kindly asked to complete the form here

Bright Start Activities



Bright Start Islington offers a range of free activities for children to enjoy outside of school. From sports and creative activities to SEN, outdoor, fun learning and social sessions, children can explore and develop new interests and make new friends !

For more information: Bright start Autumn timetable

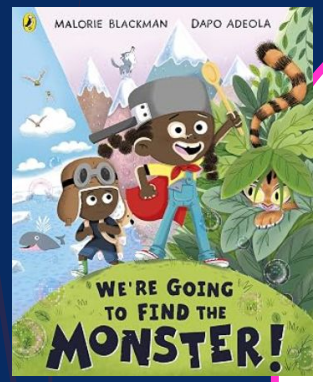
Still space available for a September 2026 start !

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/



EYFS



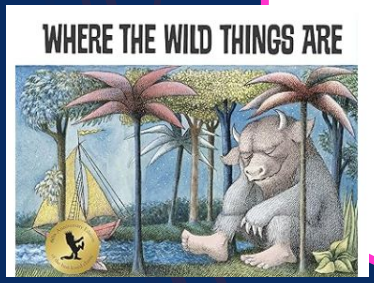


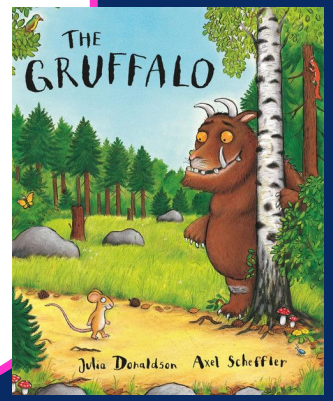
This half term, Reception will be going on a monster adventure! We will be exploring some much-loved monster stories, starting with *The Gruffalo*, followed by *The Colour Monster*, *Where the Wild Things Are* and finishing with *We're Going on a Monster Hunt*.

Through these exciting stories, the children will develop their speaking, listening and storytelling skills by talking about the characters, retelling stories and using props and role play.

We will also be learning about different feelings and emotions, helping the children to recognise and talk about how they are feeling and how others might feel too.

Our monster theme will inspire lots of creative activities, including making monster masks, designing our own monsters and exploring a variety of materials.







Years 1 and 2

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

This half term, our KS1 topic is London Landmarks! The children have been reading 'Katie in London' and exploring some of the capital's most iconic sights from a bird's-eye view.

To bring this to life, we took a trip up to the rooftop to enjoy our wonderful view across the city, spotting the London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral and the Shard along the way. We even took our art lesson outside, sketching the skyline as we saw it.

We can't wait to build on this next, creating a London skyline collage together as a class!







Years 3 and 4

ROBERT BLAIR SCHOOL

Year 3 and 4 have had a great start to the year and have settled in really well, already keeping incredibly busy in their lessons. In science, Year 3 had a fantastic time playing real-life scientists during a hands-on owl pellet investigation, dissecting and identifying the tiny bones of various animals as part of their unit on animal skeletons. Meanwhile, Year 4 artists have been exploring colour tones, carefully experimenting with warm and cool shades to prepare for creating vibrant artwork inspired by the iconic style of David Hockney. We are so proud of the children's hard work and enthusiasm!













Year 5 & 6

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

As part of this topic, we will learn about climate zones, weather patterns and natural disasters such as volcanoes, earthquakes and floods.

We will be visiting the Natural History Museum on **Monday 21st September** to learn more about volcanoes and earthquakes.

We are building model volcanoes in our DT lessons. Please collect and bring in newspapers, clean plastic bottles and cardboard. Thank you!









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.



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



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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28						

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