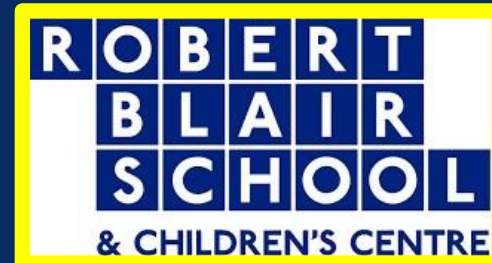




Newsletter

23rd January 2026



Upcoming Events

Week 26th January

Thurs 29th Year 5 Assembly

Week 2nd February

National Storytelling Week

Thurs 5th Year 3 Assembly

Week 9th February

10th Internet Safety Day

Children's Mental health week

Week 16th February

HALF TERM BREAK

Week 23rd February

MONDAY 23rd INSET DAY - school closed to children

Tuesday 24th - school reopens for children

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

In the Newsletter today:
P1- From Ms Liney
P2-3 National Year of Reading
P4 - National Storytelling Week
P5 - Digital Strategy
P6- Internet Safety Day
P7-8 - Attendance matters
P9 - Habits of Mind

Message from Ms Liney

This week, one of the highlights was the Year 6 assembly in which the children shared their memories and experiences from Cardfields. The rest of the school seemed to hang on their every word, especially Year 5 who were intrigued to know what to expect next year. Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us, and then stayed on to hear information about Year 6 SATs. We hope it was useful and that it put the tests into perspective.

As part of the National Year of Reading, we will be celebrating National Storytelling Week - see page 4. Ask the children to perform some of the raps they compose! 10th February is Internet Safety Day with a focus on the safe and responsible use of AI. We will be asking our Digital Champions to lead on this in the context of our whole school strategy to use technology effectively in our teaching and learning - see page 5.

Finally, I have some news to share about Ms Salik, our Pastoral Lead. She has been successfully appointed to a new job nearer home, in a similar role, which is a very exciting opportunity for her. Ms Salik has made a significant contribution to Robert Blair and been a valued colleague. She will be with us for the rest of this half term, up until the February break. I am sure you will want to take the opportunity to congratulate her and wish her the best.

Ms Liney, Head of School

House Points

3,310

Paradise park

3,920

Clock Tower

3,420

Cally Bridge

3,320

Market Road





Share stories together

You don't always need to read the words in books. Looking at and talking about picture books is a great way to encourage your child to enjoy stories.

TIPS FOR SHARING ➔

Have fun sharing books with these tips:

- Talk about the book's cover and point out the title.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage them to talk about the pictures.
- Use different voices for different characters. Add in sound effects like splashing in puddles, beeping car horns or animal sounds.
- When the story is finished, you could ask them if they liked it and if they had a favourite character.
- Make a den together, like a cloth over a table, with space for both of you to share. You can make your den part of the story – it could be a monster's cave, a rocket ship, or a princess' tower.
- Talk to your child about what you did as a child. Involve the whole family – grandparents may have stories to share from when they were growing up!

Ms Rahman, Y5 Teacher and English Lead

TIPS FOR SHARING STORIES TOGETHER



Share stories together

Click [here](#) for tips on sharing stories together. Advice is available in 22 different languages, including this one in Pashto.

کيسې شريکول

تاسو تل د کلمو لوستلو ته اړتيا نلرئ. انځوريزو کتابونو ته کتل او په اړه يې خبرې کول ستاسو ماشوم هڅولو لپاره يوه ښه لار ده چې کيسو څخه خوند واخلي. که تاسو په کور کې په بله ژبه خبرې کوئ، د انځورونو او کيسې په اړه په خپله ژبه خبرې وکړئ.

کله چې تاسو کتابونه شريک کوئ تاسو کولی شئ يوځای ساتيرې وکړئ:

- د کتاب د پوښ په اړه خبرې وکړئ او سرليک يې په گوته کړئ.
- خپل ماشوم ته اجازه ورکړئ چې کتاب ونيسي او پاڼې واړوي.
- هغوی وهڅوئ چې د انځورونو په اړه خبرې وکړي.
- د مختلف کارکټورونو لپاره مختلف غږونه وکاروئ. د خولې غږونه پکې اضافه وکړئ لکه په اوبو کې د شړپ شړپ، د موټر هارن وهل يا د څارويو غږونه وباسل.
- کله چې کيسه پای ته ورسې، کولی شئ له دوی څخه وپوښتنئ چې آیا دوی خوښه شوه او آیا د خوښې وړ کارکټور لري.

ايا تاسو خبر ياست هغه ماشومان چې په پنځه کلنۍ کې د مور او پلار لخوا په منظمه توگه ورته لوست شوی وي، په 16 کلنۍ کې د رياضۍ، لغتونو او املا په ازموينو کې د هغو ماشومانو په پرتله زيات ښه وي چې دا ډول مرسته ورسره نه وي شوی؟

ايا تاسو خبر ياست چې ماشومان اکثراً د خوښې کيسه لري چې دوی يې بيا بيا اوريدل غواړي؟ دا له دوی سره مرسته کوي چې د کلمو ترتيب زده کړي او ليکل شوې کلمه له کيسې سره وصل کړي - کوم چې د لوست د زده کړې لومړني گامونه دي!

د وړو خبرو فکر

د خپل ماشوم سره د هغه څه په اړه خبرې وکړئ چې تاسو به خپل ماشوموالي کې کول. ټوله کورنۍ پکې شامله کړئ - نياکانې او نيکونه کېدې شي د خپلې رالوېدنې په اړه د شريکولو لپاره کيسې ولري!

د ستورو مشوره

يو ځای يوه سمڅه يعني غار جوړ کړئ (لکه د ميز په سر يوه ټوکر سره)، چې تاسو دواړو لپاره کافي ځای ولري. تاسو کولی شئ سمڅه د کيسې يوه برخه جوړه کړئ - دا کيدای شي د ديوانو غار، د راکټ کښتۍ، يا د شهزادګۍ برج وي.



National Storytelling Week



What is National Storytelling Week?

National Storytelling Week is a celebration of stories.

Stories help children understand the world, share feelings, and enjoy reading and writing. During this week, children will listen to, tell, read and write stories. This helps build confidence, imagination and important language skills.



At Robert Blair, every class will be taking part in an online workshop throughout the week of 2-8th February to enjoy stories being read aloud.

Key Stage 2 will also be taking part in a writing competition which involves writing a rap around a theme. The winners get the chance to have their writing published! Good Luck to all!

What is the theme for National Storytelling Week 2026?

The theme for National Storytelling Week 2026 is Soundtrack your story. Everyone has their own musical story - whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world.

Vision and Values

We care for each other and work together.

Vision and Values →

Our Digital Strategy

ROBERT
BLAIR
SCHOOL
& CHILDREN'S CENTRE



We are excited to be launching a **Digital Champions** initiative for pupils in **Years 5 and 6**. This programme will give children the opportunity to take on a leadership role within the school, supporting the **creative** and **responsible** use of technology across classrooms.

Digital Champions will work alongside teachers and other pupils, acting as **role models for positive digital behaviours** and helping to shape how technology is used to enhance learning. They will develop valuable skills such as **communication, teamwork, confidence** and **digital responsibility**.

We will be inviting pupils who show **enthusiasm for technology, strong communication skills** and a **willingness to support others** to apply for these roles. Successful candidates will receive guidance and support to help them grow as confident **Digital Champions** and digital leaders within our school.

We look forward to selecting our new **Digital Champions** next week!

I like that the question can be read out loud. Hearing it helps me understand what to do and how to answer.

Aneesah,
Year 5

As part of our digital strategy, we use **Magma Maths** to support **high-quality** maths teaching and learning. Magma helps teachers quickly see what children understand, address misconceptions and adapt lessons so all pupils are **supported and challenged**. This means teaching is more responsive and children develop a deeper understanding of maths.

**Arthur
and
Sophia,**
Year 2

Magma Maths is really challenging but fun at the same time! It's really helpful because when you're stuck it gives you hints! We love having the help button because our teacher then knows to come and give us some extra support!



Internet Safety Day Tuesday 10th February

Internet Safety Day

will be celebrated on February 10, 2026, focusing on the theme "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI."

Overview of Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an annual global event dedicated to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet, especially among children and young people. It aims to raise awareness about online safety and encourage individuals to make informed choices while using digital technologies.

Theme for 2026

The theme for Safer Internet Day 2026 is "Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI." This theme emphasizes the importance of understanding and navigating the implications of artificial intelligence in our daily lives, particularly for young users who are increasingly interacting with AI technologies.

Top Tips for Parents

UK Safer Internet Centre is a great source of information for parents and carers. Please see link to access resources and quizzes to support children to understand how to be safe online.

[Homepage - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Have a conversation

It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online.

What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help.

Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet.

What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

Be Mindful
Be Ready
Be Safe

Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Attendance Leader Board

Africa class (REC)	84.8%
Antarctica (Year 1)	94.6%
South America (Year 2)	92.5%
Oceania (Year 3)	95.2%
Europe (Year 4)	94.9%
Asia (Year 5)	89.0%

Class with the highest attendance this week:

North America (Year 6) 95.9%

Well done Year 6!

"Here today, ready for tomorrow."

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

Our whole school attendance this week is: 92.8%

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.

**Be Mindful
Be Ready
Be Safe**

Attendance and Punctuality Matters

We need your support

We monitor attendance closely and will always take genuine illness into account. However, when patterns of absence emerge, we will contact you to offer support and work together to improve attendance.

Our shared responsibility

We have a duty of care, alongside the Local Authority, to challenge poor attendance. Unauthorised absences - such as term-time holidays - can lead to formal action, including fines or court order. We want to avoid this by working with you early to prevent problems.

Appointments and holidays

Please try to arrange medical or dental appointments outside school hours where possible. If your child must attend during the day, they should come to school before and return afterwards. Term-time holidays cannot be authorised and will be reported to the Local Authority if taken.

We need your help

Your support is vital. If you are facing challenges that affect your child's attendance, please talk to us. We are here to listen, advise, and help. Together, we can ensure your child gets the education they deserve.

How Attendance Affects Learning

	End of Autumn Term	End of Spring Term	End of Year
Attendance Range	69 Days 138 Sessions	124 Days 248 Sessions	190 Days 380 Sessions
100% - 98%	1.5 missed days this term 3 missed sessions this term 6 lessons missed this term	3.5 missed days this year so far 7 missed sessions this year so far 14 lessons missed this year so far	4 missed days each year 8 missed sessions each year 1 week missed each year 20 lessons missed each year
97.9% - 95%	3.5 missed days this term 7 missed sessions this term 14 lessons missed this term	6 missed days this year so far 12 missed sessions this year so far 1 week missed this year so far 24 lessons missed this year so far	9.5 missed days each year 19 missed sessions each year 2 weeks missed each year 20 lessons missed each year
94.9% - 92%	5.5 missed days this term 11 missed sessions this term 1 week missed this term 22 lessons missed this term	10 missed days this year so far 20 missed sessions this year so far 2 weeks missed this year so far 40 lessons missed this year so far	15 missed days each year 30 missed sessions each year 3 weeks missed each year 60 lessons missed each year
91.9% - 90%	7 missed days this term 14 missed sessions this term 1.5 weeks missed this term 30 lessons missed this term	13.5 missed days this year so far 27 missed sessions this year so far 3 weeks missed this year so far 50 lessons missed this year so far	19 missed days each year 38 missed sessions each year 4 weeks missed each year 80 lessons missed each year
Below 90%	10 missed days this term 20 missed sessions this term 2 weeks missed this term 40 lessons missed this term	18.5 missed days this year so far 37 missed sessions this year so far 4 weeks missed this year so far 80 lessons missed this year so far	30 missed days each year 60 missed sessions each year 10 weeks missed each year 200 lessons missed each year

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

What we are aiming for:

Our goal is for every child to achieve at least 95% attendance, with attendance of 96% and above is considered excellent.

90% attendance may sound good, but it is equal to 19 days off school, almost 4 weeks of learning lost. That is 95 hours of missed lessons.

Vision and Values

We care for each other
and work together.

Vision and Values →

The Habits of Mind

Our current focus is **Questioning and Posing Problems.**

We are learning to ask “powerful questions” which encourage a full answer. If we ask closed questions, the answer is limited to yes or no. We can find out so much more information with open, “powerful questions.”



Finding Humor

Laugh a little!

Finding the whimsical, incongruous and unexpected. Being able to laugh at one's self.



Thinking & Communicating with Clarity and Precision

Be clear!

Striving for accurate communication in both written and oral form; avoiding over-generalizations, distortions, deletions and exaggerations.



Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations

Use what you learn!

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



Questioning and Posing Problems

How do you know?

Having a questioning attitude; knowing what data are needed & developing questioning strategies to produce those data. Finding problems to solve.