

Be Mindful
Be Ready
Be Safe

Newsletter

26th September 2025

Upcoming Events

Week beginning 29th September

Mon 29th Zoonation Dance Workshops

Thurs 2nd October Year 6 Class Assembly

Week beginning 6th October

Tues 7th and Weds 8th Parent Consultations

Thurs 9th October Year 5 Class Assembly

Week beginning 13th October

Thurs 16th Year 3 Class Assembly

Week beginning 20th October

Mon 20th Flu Vaccination catch-ups

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025 Half Term Break

Monday 3rd November Inset Day - school closed to children

10th-14th November Year 6 Cardfields residential

Thurs 13th Year 1 and 2 visit Tower of London

Thurs 10th November Year 4 Class Assembly

Thurs 27th November Year 2 Class Assembly

Thurs 4th December Year 1 Class Assembly

Friday 19th 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 has been an industrious couple of weeks as learning has got off to a flying start. We have placed a strong focus on establishing good learning behaviours and expectations right from the start. The children have responded well to the behaviour policy and feedback from staff has also been positive. House jars are filling up with gold coins outside my office – take a look on the leader board on the right!

Handwriting and presentation are another priority at the start of the year, as this has such an impact on the children being clear about their learning. To support this, our current Habit of Mind is **Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision**. In assembly, the children had some excellent suggestions about why and when this is particularly relevant – one child said the doctor might not know how to treat you if you are vague! They are beginning to understand that this will support them to avoid disagreements with their friends too.

We look forward to sharing information about your child's start to the year at parent consultations the week after next. Please book on our online system which will be open next week. Further details to follow. Class assemblies also begin next week with Year 6 where Ms Salik will be available if you have questions about Y6 at Cardfields.

Have a good couple of weeks.

Sara Liney
Head of School

In the Newsletter today:

- P1- Message from Ms Liney
- P2 – A message to parents and carers
- P3 – Handwriting and Presentation
- P4 – Attendance Matters
- P5 – Themes for Autumn
- P6 – Gardening Gold
- P7-National Poetry Day
- P8 – Habits of Mind

House Points

Year totals so far...

750

Paradise park

660

Clock Tower

760

Colly Bridge

610

Market Road



Are you a parent or carer with an adopted child or a Special Guardian?

Every child who has been adopted, with a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order, attracts funding for our child's school called **Pupil Premium Plus**. This is a special category of Pupil Premium funding especially to support learning and achievement of this group of children. It can be a vital source of funding for schools to ensure your child gets the extra support they need. However, unlike the Pupil Premium Plus funding for children in care, the school will only receive the funding if the child is recorded on the annual October school census. If they have not been registered, the funding will not be forthcoming from the Department for Education. Schools are not always aware which children have been adopted or have Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders, as they rely on parents or carers to tell them. We understand this can be a sensitive topic and want you to feel comfortable sharing, but we can assure you that the information you tell us about your child is kept confidential and handled sensitively. We kindly ask that you let us know this information about your child. We will need some written evidence from you to confirm your child's status; this could be document from social services or a copy of the child's adoption or special guardianship order.

Every school has Designated Teacher for looked-after children and previously looked-children and in Robert Blair School it is **Josephine Leal**, who would be happy to speak to you about this. Alternatively, speak to **Ms Salik**.

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Handwriting and presentation

At the start of the school year, we have a renewed focus on handwriting and presentation. The school uses the Nelson Handwriting scheme from Oxford Owl. Click [here](#) for helpful videos with tips for how to practise at home.



When we see that a child is writing with the correct joins and letter size consistently in all of their books, they will earn their Pen Licence. We will present Pen Licence certificates in assembly and the child will receive their personal pen.

Year 2

One day, there
lived three fluffy cats
in a big yellow house.



Year 6

As I walked deeper into the ^{never-ending} forest, the fog was like a soft, white blanket settling
a glow over the deep, towering trees. The environment was foggy and tidy, there were
mossy trees, and animals passing by like a kaleidoscope and the squelching of
rotten, decaying leaves under my feet. Suddenly, an unnerving silence filled the
forest as a jaguar stared at me. My zight, flight or glip kicked in and my

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Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Here today, ready for tomorrow!

Class with the highest attendance this week is:
Oceania Class (Year 3)
99.1%
Well Done!

Our whole school attendance this week is:
96.1

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

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).

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.

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

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.

Reminder gate timing

Morning drop off:

Blundell Street Gate:

- opens at 8:45am
- closes at 9am

Brewery Road Gate:

- will open at 8:55
- closes at 9am

Home time-collection

Blundell Street Gate:

- opens at 3:10pm
- closes at 3:25am

Brewery Road Gate:

- will open at 3:15pm
- closes at 3:30pm

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Gardening Gold!



Islington in Bloom Awards 2025

**Gold 1st Place Award
for**

Best Children's Planting

We were the proud winners of this award, presented at the Charterhouse on Monday. Thank you to Caroline, the children and parents who represented all our wonderful gardeners. Everyone at Robert Blair appreciates our beautiful gardens.

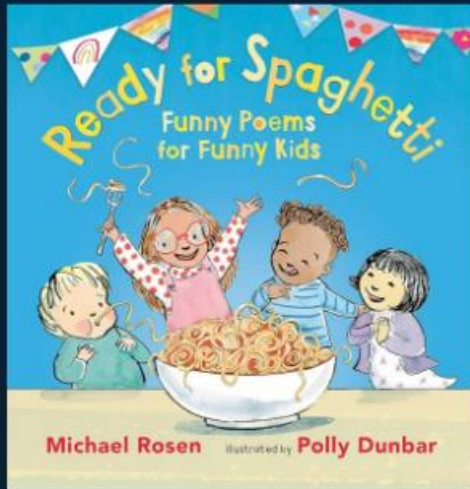


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National Poetry Day

We are looking forward to National Poetry Day on Thursday 2nd October. The theme this year is PLAY. We will be listening to, learning and performing a range of playful poems. Ask your child to recite you some poetry!

Click [here](#) to find out how you can get involved with games, activities and events.



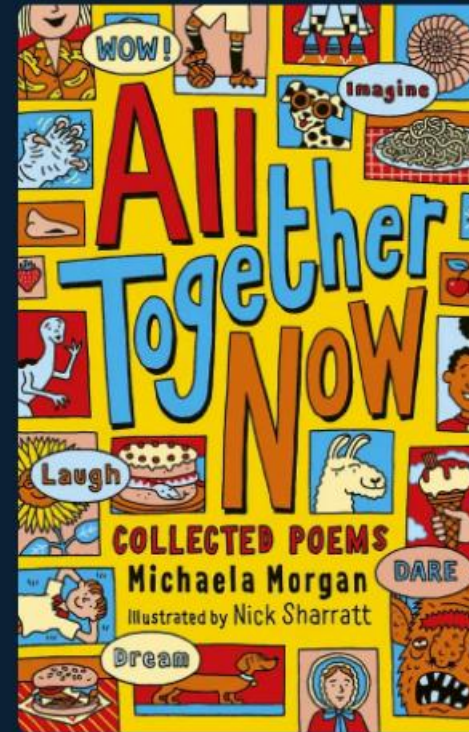
Throw a Ball

Michael Rosen



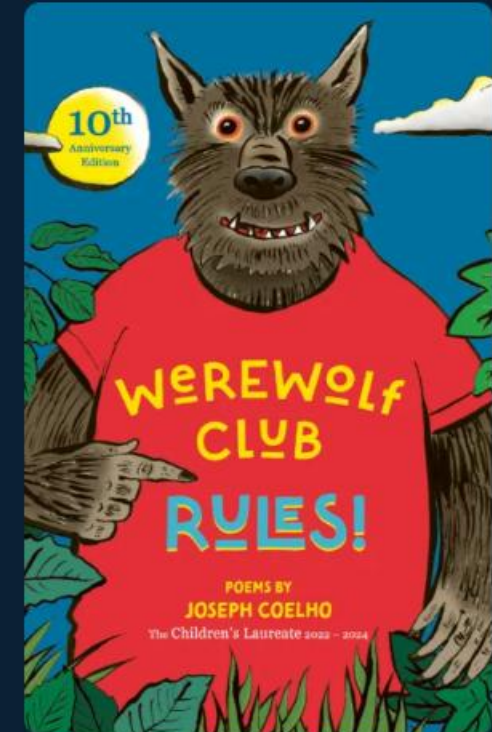
Monster March

Jane Newberry



Word Play

Michaela Morgan



Skateboarding

Joseph Coelho

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The Habits of Mind



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

We discussed how people tend to use vague and imprecise language. They describe objects or events with words like “*weird*,” “*nice*,” or “*OK*” rather than telling you more clearly what they were thinking. You might want to know what was “*weird*” about the movie or why the party was “*nice*.” They may call specific objects using such non-descriptive words as “*stuff*,” “*junk*” and “*things*.” The problem is that you do not know exactly what the person is referring to—what is the “stuff?”

Language and thinking are linked and inseparable. Our words represent our mind. When we strive to use precise language, it has a corresponding effect on our thinking. Our mind and our internal thinking maps become more precise, organized and focused.

The children thought about situations in which it is particularly important to be clear and precise, such as describing an illness to a doctor or giving directions. They are aiming to speak more clearly in lessons and around the school. This is supported by questioning from adults who can already be heard asking for more precise information. We hope you will start to notice an impact at home too!