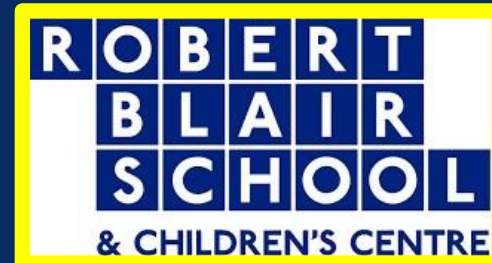


Newsletter

6th February 2026



Upcoming Events

Week of 9th February

9th Year 4 Union Chapel

10th Internet Safety Day

Children's Mental health week

Spelling Bee Competition

Week of 16th February

HALF TERM BREAK

MONDAY 23rd INSET DAY

Tuesday 24th - school reopens

Week of 23rd February

Week of 2nd March

4th KS1 Safety Workshop

5th World Book Day

5th Y5 Almeida Theatre

6th Y6 British Museum

Week of 9th March

Parent Consultations

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-Spelling Bee

P3- Total Communication

P4 - Primary Football League

P5 - National Storytelling Week

P6- Sharing Stories

P7,8 -Children's Mental Health Week

P6- Internet Safety Day

P7-8 - Attendance matters

P9 - Message from Ms Salik

P10 - Attendance Matters

Grey wagtail



Message from Ms Liney

Year 3 and Year 5 had a great turn out for their assemblies - we hope you enjoyed finding out about their learning. Class assemblies start at 09:05 so please be at the office from 9:00 and we can take you upstairs for a prompt start.

Next week sees the start of our Spelling Bee! The children have responded well to this fun way of motivating them to learn their spellings. See Page 2.

On our INSET day on 23rd February, Robert Blair staff will be engaging with training together with the Hargrave Park team. We will focus on aspects of the new Writing Framework, particularly developing our teaching of handwriting. We will also work on how we adapt our teaching to ensure learning is accessible to all pupils, drawing on different types of support. See page 3 for more information about our Total Communication Approach. Under 3s and Nursery will be learning to use Makaton, to come up with repertoire of signs to support early communication skills.

As part of the Big Garden Birdwatch, the children had a very exciting experience with Caroline in the ecology garden yesterday. They spotted a grey wagtail which is on the amber list of birds for conservation. This was a magical moment for the children, who seemed captivated by this tiny, rare bird in the centre of the city.

Please remember that there is no school for children on 23rd February. I wish you all a relaxing half term - fingers crossed for a glimmer of sunshine.

Ms Liney, Head of School

House Points

3,310

Paradise park

3,920

Clock Tower

3,420

Cally Bridge

3,320

Market Road



SPELLING BEE

Monday 9th - Friday 13th February 2026

Learn your spellings for a chance to represent your class
and win a book token!

This contest is open to everyone, practise at home using the spellings
attached to this post and you could be in with a chance.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE



Vision and Values

We care for each other and work together.

Vision and Values →

Total Communication Approach

We ensure these adaptations are available to all children who find them beneficial.

Visual Timetable	Calm Corner	Date/ Weather Visual	Now and Next Boards	Now, Next, Then Boards	This or that Board	Widget	Pencil Grips
Zones of Regulation	Pre-Teach	Wobble Cushions	Range of adapted Scissors	Finger Spaces	Sensory Box Activities	Movement Breaks	Sensory Circuit
Zones Emotions cards	Reset Card	Ear Defenders	Lego Therapy	Social Stories	Colourful Semantics	Sensory Room	Pupil Profiles
Five Minute Box	Numicon	Attention Builders	Predictable Transition Routines	Intensive Interaction	Lanyard symbols	Work Station	Task Planners
Decompression activities	Slant Boards	Coloured Overlays	Individual Reward Charts	Daily 'Check ins'	Special Time	Concept Cat	Independent work folder



IPFL - Islington Primary Football League

**ROBERT
BLAIR
SCHOOL**
& CHILDREN'S CENTRE

How to Play

Upon Arrival, the team will be met by an Arsenal Community coach who guides the team during the session, providing them with arrival activities, warm up and preparation for the upcoming matches.

Teams will receive up to 5 stars per Matchday based on their performance and actions on and off the pitch, adhering and practicing the Premier League Primary Stars Values and the Arsenal way of 'Always Forward'.



We are delighted to be taking part in the Islington Primary Football League (IPFL), sponsored and organised by Arsenal Football Club.

This fantastic opportunity allows our pupils to participate in free weekly football competitions against other local schools at Whittington Park. The league supports children in developing their football skills, teamwork and confidence, while enjoying the experience of representing our school.

We aim to rotate teams each week wherever possible, ensuring that every child who would like to take part has the opportunity to do so.

The Year 5 and 6 league is currently underway and will run until the end of April. From May to July, pupils in Years 3 and 4 will also have the chance to participate when the lower key stage league begins.



A huge well done to our boys who played against St Marks on Tuesday and scored 14 goals!



Be Mindful
Be Ready
Be Safe

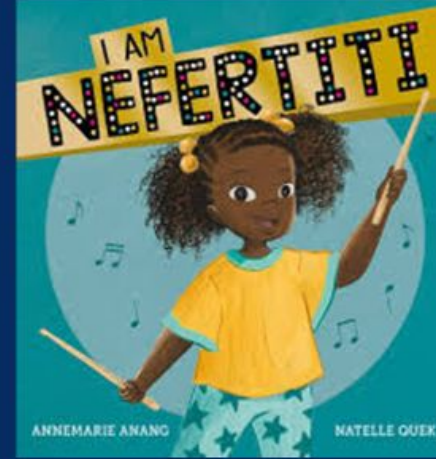
The National Year of Reading 2026

National Storytelling week

A Week of Narrative: National Storytelling Week at Robert Blair

It has been an **inspiring** week at Robert Blair as we celebrated **National Storytelling Week**! Our pupils dived into the art of narrative, exploring how stories can be told through more than just the written word. Key Stage 2 children joined a high-energy live workshop with the talented **Alim Kamara**, where they explored the rhythmic world of storytelling through rap. The children were buzzing with creativity, and they'll be putting those new skills to the test in our upcoming **writing competition** next week.

Meanwhile, Key Stage 1 children embarked on their own adventure with author and musician **Annemarie Anang**. In an interactive online workshop titled *"Building Stories Through Sound,"* our younger learners explored the theme **'Soundtrack Your Story.'** They practiced using rhythm, sound effects, and musical cues to bring characters to life, proving that sometimes a drumbeat or a whistle tells a story just as well as a sentence! It was wonderful to see our budding storytellers so engaged, and we can't wait to see how these experiences influence their future work.



Year 5 Spotlight: Read the lyrics to the "Superpowers" rap, written collectively by the class during their workshop, below!

**I've got the power of
teleportation
No hesitation, we save the nation
I've got the power of
manipulation
It allows me to use my
imagination
All these years doing meditation
Come on – Follow me to reach
your destination!**



TIPS FOR SHARING STORIES TOGETHER



Share stories together

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

This week's tips are in ARABIC.

مشاركة القصص

لا يلزم قراءة الكلمات دائماً! فالنظر إلى الكتب المصورة والتحدث عنها يُعد طريقة رائعة لتشجيع طفلك على الاستمتاع بالقصص. إذا كنت تتحدث لغة أخرى في المنزل، قم بشرح الصور وسرد القصة بلغتك الأم.

عندما تتشاركون الكتب يمكنك الاستمتاع معاً:

- تحدث عن غلاف الكتاب وأشر إلى العنوان.
- اترك طفلك يمسك الكتاب ويقلب الصفحات.
- شجعه على التحدث عن الصور.
- استخدم نبرات صوت مختلفة للشخصيات المختلفة أضف مؤثرات صوتية مثل صوت رش الماء في البرك أو أصوات بوق السيارات أو أصوات الحيوانات.
- عندما تنتهي القصة، يمكنك أن تسأل طفلك عما إذا كان أحبها وما إذا كان لديه شخصية مفضلة.

هل تعلم أن الأطفال الذين قرأ لهم أبواهم بانتظام في سن الخامسة كان أداؤهم في الرياضيات والمفردات واختبارات التهجئة في سن 16 أفضل من أولئك الذين لم يتلقوا المساعدة بهذه الطريقة؟⁵

هل تعلم أن غالباً ما يكون للأطفال قصة مفضلة يريدون سماعها مراراً وتكراراً؟ وهذا يساعدهم على تعلم ترتيب الكلمات وربط الكلمة المكتوبة بالقصة وذلك يُعد أولى خطوات تعلم القراءة!

فكرة محادثة صغيرة

تحدث مع طفلك حول ما كنت تفعله وأنت صغير. أشرك كل أفراد العائلة، فقد يقص الأجداد قصصاً قد حدثت أثناء مراحل نموهم!

نصيحة ذهبية

بادر بصنع حجرة مع طفلك (باستخدام قطعة قماش على طاولة) مع توفير مساحة لكل منكما. يمكنك جعل الحجرة جزءاً من القصة - قد يكون كهف وحشاً أو مركبة فضائية أو برج أميرة.

Vision and Values

We care for each other and work together.

Vision and Values →

Children's Mental Health Week

ROBERT
BLAIR
SCHOOL
& CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Children's Mental Health Week will take place 9th February -15th February 2026

This years theme is 'This is My Place'.

At Robert Blair, there will be series of activities throughout the week; writing, games and art work.

We will be looking at what belonging means, things that help us to belong and helping others to feel they belong. We will also hold a poster competitions for everyone to take part. Deadline for submission is **11th February.**

We will kick-start the week with a special assembly and finish the week with a **non-uniform day on Friday 13th February:** 'come as yourself.' Voluntary donations of £1 will be spent by school council to develop class calm corners.

Place2Be's
**CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK**

**THIS IS
MY PLACE**





Mental Health Week – Things Parents/carers can do



This years theme is 'This is My Place'.

TOP TIPS FROM OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON HOW TO HELP THEM FEEL A SENSE OF BELONGING

- Parents, Carers or Community Groups can help belonging by asking questions about things they see us becoming passionate about.
- By checking in with you, providing support and making you feel safe and important.
- By being there and being happy
- By doing things that make you feel happy and safe
- Letting us choose our likes and interests and letting us explore new things.
- Parents taking time to listen and speak to us, reassure us.
- Making a comfortable, welcoming place for us.

A FEW MORE FROM US:

Parents and carers can foster belonging by **providing a loving and consistent family environment**, encouraging strong connections with peers and other trusted adults, and collaborating with school. A child's sense of belonging starts at home and expands to include the wider community.

Emphasise positive, trusting relationships. Create a loving, secure base by being available, emotionally supportive, and consistent. Simple acts, like listening without judgment, sharing smiles, or offering hugs, help build trust and intimacy.

Show them you know and value them. Notice your child's personality and unique talents, and cheer for their achievements, no matter how small. This boosts their confidence and sense of self-worth.

Establish family rituals. Create a sense of security and connection through routines and traditions. These can be as simple as making a favourite meal, sharing stories in the evening, or having a special way of saying goodbye.

Encourage open communication. Create a safe space where our children and young people can share their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment. Talk to them about what belonging means and encourage them to explore their feelings when they feel included or excluded, using curiosity and open questions.

Embrace and celebrate heritage to keep our children connected to their roots. This is a powerful way to strengthen their sense of self and belonging.

Click on the link for more ideas of things you could do with your children.



Families and communities - Children's Mental Health Week

Message from Ms Salik

Dear parents and carers,

As half term is slowly coming to an end, it has really started to sink in that my time at Robert Blair is coming to a close. I just want to take this opportunity to say a truly heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for the warmth, support and kindness you have shown me during my time at the school.

The past three year and half years at Robert Blair have been an amazing experience. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside such a caring and supportive community. I have genuinely loved getting to know the Robert Blair community, the staff, children and families, and I will miss seeing you in the mornings, at home time and sharing conversations.

I will treasure the memories — the laughter, the jokes, the smiles, and the many special moments that have made my time here so enjoyable.

I will also miss the annual events and the wonderful sense of teamwork that makes this school so special. Your generosity, encouragement and commitment to the school have always been so appreciated, and it makes a real difference to both the children and staff. Thank you for everything you do and will be doing going forward.

This is not goodbye, but simply a farewell for now. I hope our paths cross again, and that I may see you all out and about in London.

With my warmest wishes and sincerest thank you!
Ms Salik.



Be Mindful
Be Ready
Be Safe

Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Attendance Leader Board

“Here today, ready for tomorrow.”

Africa class (REC)	82.7%
Antarctica (Year 1)	92.6%
South America (Year 2)	95.4%
Europe (Year 4)	93.0%
Asia (Year 5)	95.2%
North America (year 6)	98.5%

Class with the highest attendance this week:

Oceania (Year 3) 99.1%

Well done Year 3!

This is their second week with 99.1%. We wonder if you can reach 100% next week

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

Our whole
school
attendance
this week is:
94.2%

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.