

Be Mindful
Be Ready
Be Safe

Upcoming Events

Week 12th January

Thurs 15th Application deadline for Reception places

Week 19th January

WEDNESDAY 21st 9am

Year 6 Assembly and SATS meeting for parents

Week 26th January

Thurs 29th Year 5 Assembly

Week 2nd February

Thurs 5th Year 3 Assembly

Week 9th February

Watch this space!

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
P2-4, National Year of Reading
P5 - Pop up bookshop
P6-7 - Attendance matters
P8-9 - Starting Reception

Newsletter

9th January 2026



Message from Ms Liney Happy New Year!

Welcome back to school. We have all returned refreshed and ready to pick up where we left off before the holidays.

Our New Year's resolution is to rekindle our love of reading. 2026 is the National Year of Reading and we will be participating fully in our drive to develop reading skills, with a focus on reading for pleasure.

Another aim for 2026 is to establish a "no hands up" approach, to ensure all children develop the confidence to put forward their ideas. This is supported by giving children time to think and discuss ideas with a partner, as well as developing an ethos where it feels safe to have a go so that mistakes are seen as an important part of the learning process.

"Soft start" 8:45 – 9:00

You will see that our teaching staff are now all in class at the start of each day. This is to work with individuals and small groups as soon as they arrive. Additionally, teachers always prepare "soft start" activities based recent learning. I encourage children to arrive promptly to make the most of this - Blundell Street is open from 8:45. If you have any messages to pass on at the start of the day, please speak to one of the leadership team who will still be available.

Wishing everyone a good weekend, hopefully with some warmer, calmer weather ahead.

Ms Liney, Head of School

House Points

3,040

Paradise park

3,390

Clock Tower

3,040

Cally Bridge

2,970

Market Road



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2026 NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

WHY THIS MATTERS

Fewer children are reading for pleasure

It's disappearing from daily life

Across the UK, children are reading less than they used to and stories aren't getting the same space they once did. And it's happening across all age groups, from toddlers to teenagers.

Children feel the impact

When reading drops, confidence, imagination and learning take a hit as well. Reading helps children focus, express themselves, develop their curiosity, and it gives families an opportunity to connect.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

A national push to get every child reading

In 2026, a national spotlight is being put on reading and on the simplest way to help children enjoy it: connecting it to what they already love. From dinosaurs to dancing, from comics to cooking, passions make stories feel natural and fun.

For families, the National Year of Reading also means more support, more ideas and more opportunities to weave reading into busy routines, whatever age your child is.

[National Literacy Trust - Reading for Pleasure Report](#)

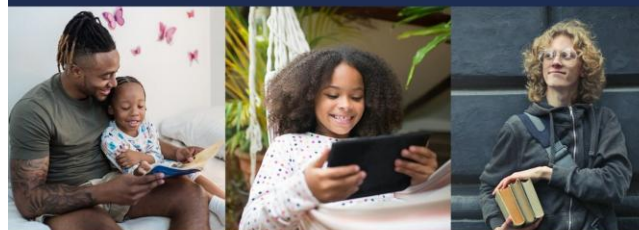
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2026 NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

Visit [Goallin.org.uk](https://goallin.org.uk) for more information about how to turn what your child loves into a love of reading.

Click [here](#) for tips on how to encourage and support your child.

National Year of Reading 2026



National Year of
Reading 2026



Books tied to films or TV series.



Books with visually appealing covers.



The freedom to choose what they
could read.



Hearing recommendations from
friends, family or teachers.



Encouraging reading through a
variety of formats.



Consider using digital formats.

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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 Somali.

Kala qaybsiga sheekoyinka

Adigu mar walba uma baahnid inaad qaybsataan ereyoyinka. Isla eegida iyo ka wada hadalka sawirada buugaagta waa hab fiican aad ilmahaada ku dhiirrigelin kartid ku raaxeysiga sheekoyinka. Haddii guriga ku hadasho luqad kale, luqadaada isticmaal markaad ka hadlayso sawirada iyo sheekada buugga.

Markaad buug kala qaybsaneysaan waad isla madadaali kartiin:

- Ka hadla daboolka buugga iyo u tilmaam magaca buugga.
- Ilmahaada u oggolow inay buugga gacantooda ku haayaan iyo geddiyaan bogagga.
- Ku dhiirrigeli inay ka hadlaan sawirada buugga.
- U isticmaal codad kala duwan jilayaasha sheekada buugga. Dhawaaqyo samee sida dhawaaqa biiyaha, hoonka baabuurka ama dhawaaqa xayawaanada.
- Markii ay sheekada dhamaato, waxaad ka codsan kartaa haddii ay ka heleen iyo jilaha ay ugu jecel yihiin sheekada.

Talada xiddigta

Teendho isla sameeyaa (maro saar miis korkiisa), si booska labadiina idin deeqo. Waxaad teendhadaada ka dhigi kartaa qayb ka mid ah sheekada - wuxuu ahaan karaa guri yar oo bahal ku jiro, dayuuradda hawada sare tagto, ama munaaradda boqoradda.

Miyaad ogeed carruurta ay waalidkooda si joogto ah wax u aqriyey markii ay ahaayeen shan jir waxay si ka fiican ugu guuleysteen imtixaanada xisaabta, aqoonta ereyoyinka iyo hikaadinta xarafyada markii ay gaaraan 16 jir markii loo barbardhigo carruurta sidaan loo caawinin?⁵

Miyaad ogeed in carruurta badanaa ay leeyihiin sheeko ay ka jecel yihin inay maqlaan si noq-noqod ah? Kani wuxuu ku caawinayaa barashada sida ereyoyinka u kala hormaraan iyo waxay sheekada ku xiraan ereyoyinka qoran – kuwaaso ah tallaabayinka kooraad ee lagu barto wax aqrinta!

Fikrada sheekaysiga

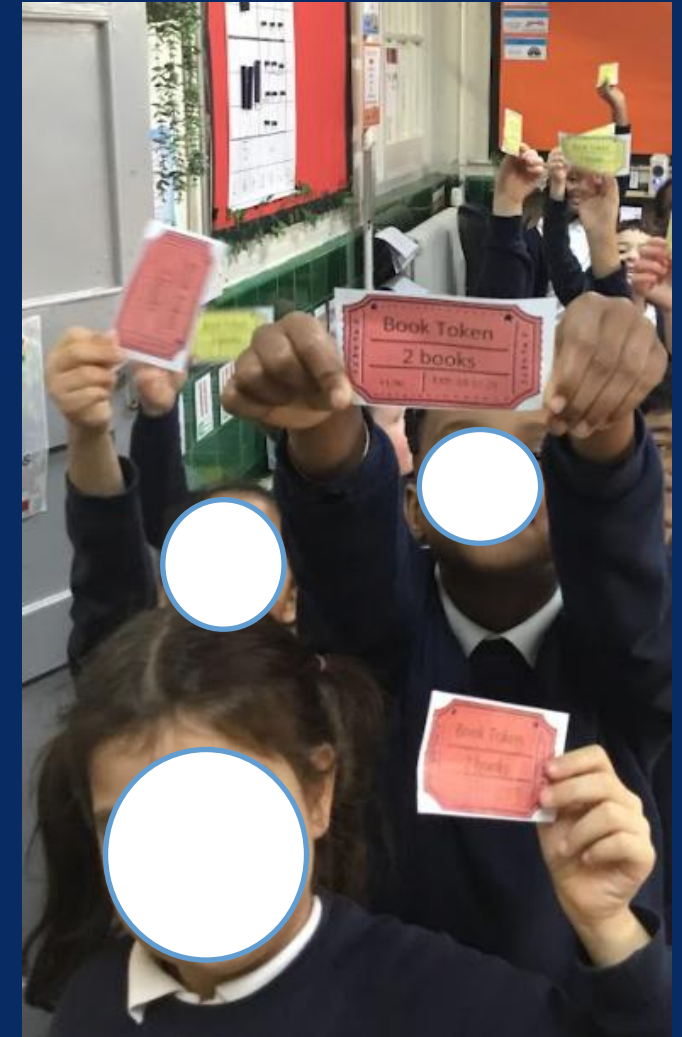
U sheeg ilmahaada wixii aad sameyn jirtay markii adigaba ilmo ahayd. Qoyska oo dhan ha ka qayb-galo - awoowayaasha ayaguba waxay lahaan karaan sheekoyin ku saabsan markii ay ilmo ahaayeen!

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POP UP BOOKSHOP



Our Pop Up Bookshop was a huge success in December. Huge thanks to Ms Rahman for working with the Children's Book Project charity to organise this. There was a real buzz of excitement as Early Years and Key Stage One went upstairs to "shop" on the top floor with their book tokens. They were able to choose from a wonderful range of donated, brand new books. We hope they enjoyed reading them over the holidays. What a great start to the National Year of Reading!



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Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Attendance Leader Board

Africa class (REC)	86.3%
Antarctica (Year 1)	91.9%
Oceania (Year 3)	93.0%
Europe (Year 4)	94.1%
Asia (Year 5)	87.6%
North America (Year 6)	95.1%

This week winner is:

South America (Year 2) 97.1%

Well done Year 2!

“Here today, ready for tomorrow.”

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

Our whole school attendance this week is: 92.5%

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.

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Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Attendance is everyone's responsibility

Here is why attendance is so important:

- Children who attend school regularly achieve more in both primary and secondary education.
- Missing just few days can quickly add up to weeks of lost learning.
- Every hour in the classroom is an opportunity for growth that cannot be replaced.

Attendance threshold matters:

- Below 95% is a concern.
- Below 90% is class as persistent absences by the Department of Education
- Below 85% is a serious concern.

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.

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Starting Reception in 2026

Is your child starting school in 2026?

The deadline to apply for a reception place for September 2026 is midnight on January 15th 2026.

Applications have been open since September.

Read on for information about applying to **Robert Blair**.



Putting Children First

Offer day:
16 April
2026

Islington Schools: Inspiring Learning and Achievement

Your guide to the school application process
for children born between: **1 September 2021**
and **31 August 2022**

Closing date: 15 January 2026

Click on the links below:

[Apply for a primary school place](#)

Please call the school on **0207 607 4115** to contact Ms Salik if you would like support with your application.

[Islington Primary School Admission Guide](#)

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Why join us at Robert Blair School?

There are many reasons to choose Robert Blair School. We are a small, vibrant community where **we care for each other and work together**. Take a look at our website and our latest Ofsted Report.

Robert Blair School Ofsted Report November 2024



“Pupils are proud to be members of this diverse school community. They are safe and happy and know that staff listen to them.”

“Pupils behave well. Clear routines and expectations are in place to support this. Pupils are polite and helpful. They are focused on their work and are keen to answer questions.”

“The school has high expectations for all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and provides an ambitious curriculum.”



Come and see for yourself – join us for a **tour** with Ms Liney, Head of School

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:30

Call the school office to book a place on 0207 607 4115.

Everyone is welcome, including families with children already in our Nursery or Children's Centre.