



St Robert's Catholic First School

We care, we serve, we learn together in the love and truth of Jesus

19th January 2023

Next week's statement to live by: I listen to what you say. I show that I am listening to you.

TEACHER STRIKE ACTION: As you may well have heard in the media, the National Education Union (NEU) has announced that its ballot of teacher members in England has met the thresholds required to commence industrial action. Planned dates for planned strike action in our region have been announced as: **Wednesday 1 February, Tuesday 28 February, Wednesday 15 March, Thursday 16 March.** We don't believe that this current strike action will have any impact upon our ability to operate school at full capacity. We hope to remain open to all pupils. However, if this changes we will ensure that we give you as much notice as possible to what impact that will have upon the school. We will contact you as soon as we have any further information.

SILVER ARTSMARK AWARD: We are extremely proud that we have been awarded Artsmark Silver, our certificate is now proudly displayed outside the school office! The staff and children have worked really hard over the past 2 years to achieve this and it is lovely to get recognition for everything we do in the creative arts.

NURSERY: Thank you to all the staff and parents for making Miss Small feel very welcome in her first week as our temporary Nursery Teacher.

TRAINEE TEACHERS: Miss Good has joined us in Year 2 as she completes her placement, while Mrs Conroy completes her placement at St Aidan's.

ROAD SAFETY ASSEMBLIES: On Wednesday, Carol Watson, Road Safety Coordinator for Northumberland County Council, visited school and led Road Safety workshops across the school. Year 4 however were not part of this as she has asked them to be involved in a very exciting opportunity to develop Road Safety learning. Year 4 will work with Northumbria University to develop a Road Safety project using Coding. I'm sure Year 4 will share their experience with you later in the year.

DOG TRUST ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS: On Thursday Rachel from the Dog's Trust visited school and lead us in an assembly. All the children were then involved in workshops designed to ensure the children know how to keep themselves safe around all dogs.

NUFC LITERACY WORKSHOPS: NUFC are back in school running literacy workshops for both Year 3 and Year 4 this half term.

LITTLE MOVERS: It is lovely to have Katie (parent to Jonathan and Benji) in EYFS running her little movers sessions for our pupils for this half term.. For more information about Little Movers [Click here.](#)

ADMISSIONS: The admissions portal for September 2023 Reception places is now closed (closing date was 15th Jan 2023). If you think you have missed the deadline, please contact school as soon as possible.

SWIMMING: A little reminder that Year 3 will be swimming on Mondays throughout this term.

CHANGE TO SCHOOL HOURS: A reminder that there has been a very slight change to the school day for Reception to Year 4. The door will open at 8.45am (children should be in and ready to start learning at 9am) and the end of the school day will be 3.15pm instead of 3.10pm. There will not be any change to the Before or After School Club sessions or prices. Nursery hours remain the same with the door opening at 9am and children leaving at 3pm.

PE KITS: A reminder to all parents that we ask for non branded tracksuit bottoms. All pupils (including Nursery) should wear black shorts and white t-shirts (or polo shirt) along with their school jumpers on Tuesdays.

UPCOMING DATES: Internet safety Day 7th February 2023. Mrs Sykes will be sharing various information to support parents with protecting their children while online.

| Upcoming Diary Dates: | |
|-----------------------|---|
| MON 23/1 | Swimming Y3 Keyboards |
| TUES 24/1 | PE - NUFC Dodgeball Club (Y3/4) |
| WED 25/1 | |
| THURS 26/1 | NUFC literacy Y3/4 Little Movers (EYFS) Violins |
| FRI 27/1 | Rocksteady |

ATTENDANCE: National Expectation 96%

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| Whole school | 96.6% |
| Reception | 97.1% |
| Year 1 | 94.6% |
| Year 2 | 99.2% |
| Year 3 | 97.5% |
| Year 4 | 94.9% |

ABSENCE PROCEDURES:

- If a pupil is absent, parent/carer must contact the school by 9 a.m on the first day of absence on the school absence line and give the reason for the absence.
- The parent/carer should contact the school every day their child is absent to discuss the absence further.

ATTENDANCE AWARD: We are delighted that our school attendance is in the top 10% of schools. FFT collects daily attendance data from over 10,500 schools. Thank you for your support as parents!

