



★ Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 9th February 2024 ★

Dear Parents,

Chinese New Year On

Tuesday we marked Chinese New Year with a day full of Chinese activities – including chicken chow mein for all staff and children! Read further down the newsletter for a full report. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in pulling everything together and making it such a special day.



Parking I've had a few parents speak to me about dropping off and picking up at the start/end of the school day. A reminder that parents should only be pulling over and dropping off children in dedicated parking spaces. It is not safe to stop on the corner where the children enter. This is a concerning area and I know that Mr Gilbey and now, myself, have raised this many times. We continue to explore options to make it safer but also want the parents to help us in ensuring children arrive and leave school safely.

Half term is now here – this term always feels quick but we have packed lots in and the children have been great, as they always are. If you are after an idea to help occupy the children, please don't forget the Science competition which is happening at the moment – details further down. Have a wonderful week and we will see you all again on Monday 19th February.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn
Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

Dates for the Diary

w/c 12 th Feb	Half Term
19 th February	Newark Swimming Gala
21 st February	Y5 Egyptian Day
1 st , 4 th 5 th Mar	Book Fair
13 th March	Y4 Residential Parent Meeting
21 st March	Y3 Trip to Lincoln
22 nd March	Y3/4 Equals Trust Football Event
25 th March	Parents Evening
26 th March	Parents Evening
27 th March	Equals Trust Choir Event
28 th March	School Disco
28 th March	Last Day of Term

School Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital to success at school. We track attendance closely and celebrate excellent attendance. Our target is for each child to have an attendance figure of at least 95%.

3B	97.4%
3J	97.7%
4H	95.6%
4G	94.3%
5AR	97.8%
5M	99.4%
6L	97.2%
6M	95.0%
All	96.7%



Congratulations to 5M who have the best attendance this week!

House Points

Children are earning House Points each and every day for showing the REACH values, making good choices and doing their very best. Each Friday in Honours Assembly, we announce the latest scores. The Spring 1 totals are below which means Jupiter class children today enjoyed a non-uniform day. Well done to all!

Jupiter	437
Mercury	384
Neptune	376
Saturn	396



Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year falls on different dates each year as it follows the lunar calendar. This year Chinese New Year begins on February 10th and continues for 15 days. Our school started the celebrations early! On Tuesday, we had many exciting activities taking place. Beautiful decorations adorned the school and staff wore red and gold to celebrate this wonderful festival. The day began with a special whole school assembly delivered by Mrs Greenway and her son. She told us all about the customs and traditions that take place during these celebrations.

Year 3 created beautiful lanterns that symbolize people letting go of the past year and welcoming the Chinese New Year with good fortune. Year 4 took part in an exciting workshop where they listened to traditional Chinese tales, acted out the parts and recreated the traditional lion dance. This dance is an important ritual to Chinese tradition as it is believed to bring good luck and drive away evil spirits. Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed making lots of noise to scare away the beast.

To make the day even more special, our wonderful kitchen staff, Mrs Dodd and Mrs Dove, along with the midday staff, transformed the hall into a Chinese banquet with traditional music playing and stunning red and gold tablecloths dressing the tables. They served sweet chilli chicken noodles and chicken chow mein followed by mandarin oranges in jelly. The children had great fun eating their delicious meal using chopsticks and it was lovely to see them all helping each other.

2024 is the year of the wood dragon in the Chinese Zodiac. The dragon represents authority, prosperity and good fortune. Year 5 made some wonderful dragon puppets which danced with style! Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed creating dragon masks full of colour and shimmer. All this wonderful artwork would brighten up any Chinese New Year celebrations. Dragons are well-known for their intelligence and loyalty. They are capable of incredible things when they set their minds to something – just like the children of Robert Miles Junior School. Happy Chinese New Year everyone! Gung hei fat choi!



Excellent work in the Spotlight



Year 4 have been continuing their learning all about the importance of the Amazon rainforest and this week produced detailed annotations on the layers of the rainforest, the condition and the biodiversity found in each. The children really enjoyed learning some amazing facts including that only 2% of sunlight makes it to the forest floor! It is wonderful to see the passion and interest from the children and I am certain we have some future geographers and explorers among us.

Monday 5th February 2024

What is it like in a tropical rainforest?

Emergent layer has the most extreme conditions

gets most sunlight and rain

Plants: Kapok trees
Brazil nut tree
coca
30m+ Emergent

Animals: birds, butterflies, iguana
The emergent layer can grow up to 70m (230ft) high

20 to 30m Canopy

Animals: monkeys, birds, snakes
Plants: rubber trees
Blue Mariposa, one of the world's largest butterflies

0 to 20m Understorey

Shade here is so little that algae
Animals: lizards, monkeys, frogs
& grows up in their fur
Plants: strangler fig

0 to 10m Forest Floor

2% of light
Butterflies, snail, many trees

Plants: lichens, epiphytes, orchids
All tropical rainforests grow between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
The dead leaves from a rainforest jungle called leaf litter.
Animals: alligators, jaguars, toucans, snakes, rodents, deer

Monday 6th February 2024

What is it like inside a tropical rainforest?

No Winter or Summer

rain fall and

20-30 meters tall trees

Emergent →
butterfly birds

flowers snake ✓

Canopy →
birds tall sleek straight elegant trees

Young trees

Understorey →
snail
snail dragons monkey anemone

Forest floor →

0-10 meters
dark = not so much light spiders ants
20% of life rivers tarantula live in rotting

Challenge:

Q1. What happens to dead leaves on the forest floor?

Q2. Why do young trees have to grow in the canopy?

Q3. Why do some plants grow on the forest floor?

Q1. The leaves on the forest floor

Q2. Young trees have to grow in the canopy as shelter.

Q3.

** Science Competition **

Half
Term
Fun!



The Annual Science & Technology Competition
2024

Marble roller-coaster run-off challenge



This week, we have launched our annual science and technology competition with an assembly explaining the challenge.

All children are welcome to compete and can enter individually or in teams of up to 4 children.

This is a project to complete at home and an opportunity to work with your child. However, they must be able to operate the marble roller-coaster independently when they bring it into school.

There are marbles available in school, or they can choose to use their own standard sized marble.

There is a detailed set of rules and a planning sheet to support the children's entries available from school. Please check the rules carefully, particularly the size and number of turns the marble needs to make. The children should bring their planning sheet into school prior to the heats, so that they can be included on the list of entrants. Please note, we are encouraging the use of recycled items, if possible.

The **heats** will be held in school on **Wednesday 28th February 2024.**

The **final** will be held on **Wednesday 6th March 2024.**

Honours Assembly

Congratulations to these children whose success was celebrated at Honours Assembly this week and some of their work was shared with all the children in the school.

3J	Esme Sentance & Max Reed
3B	Lucas Lee & Reuben Taylor
4G	Elethea Sandhu & Halia Chan
4H	Caleb Sanders & Elise Thompson
5M	Emmy Hardie & Max Wightman
5AR	Elliot Moskwa & Rory Wholey
6M	Dylan Bailey & Mia Davies
6L	Anna Hare & Evie Maltby

Rushcliffe Pupil Parliament

Last Friday, Sam and Hattie from Year 6 took part in their second visit to the Rushcliffe Pupil Parliament at County Hall in West Bridgford. The event started with a fascinating talk about the impact of food waste, with Sam drawing impressive intakes of breath from the watching adults with speedy and complex maths regarding just how much money could be saved through basic waste reduction. Both children have returned to school with a range of ideas about improvements we could make here at Robert Miles and are now planning how these can be put into action. Look out for updates with this!



This was followed by a debate about whether families should be able to take holidays in term time. There were lots of thoughtful and insightful comments from many children - including the Robert Miles duo - on both sides of the argument, with lots of strong and impassioned views being heard! The whole debate brought up lots of food for thought for the children involved, particularly bringing up points that might not have been previously considered. Overall, it was a hugely enjoyable and interesting afternoon which provided a great opportunity for Sam and Hattie to reflect on the issues, stretch their thinking and develop their ability to think on their feet and respond appropriately.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children who have topped the charts for their work on TTRS this week:

Most correct answers: Lucas, 4H

Most coins earned: Marcus, 4G

Biggest improvement in accuracy: Elias, 3B

Biggest improvement in speed: Teddy, 3B

Sports Update

Rushcliffe Athletics Finals Robert Miles attended the Rushcliffe athletics finals earlier this week and represented the school in a superb manner. We got off to a good start with all our field events, with some incredible individual performances from each member of the team. Supporting each other was a consistent priority from all, which made the event such an amazing one to attend. After the field events, it was time to tackle the track events which we dominated in the qualifying stages. Each relay we took part in, we came in at with a 1st or 2nd place finish! What an achievement to be in the top 2 teams consistently. The RMJS spirit really did come to life as each of the members were there to represent the other to the best of their ability. Overall, although we didn't walk away with silverware... the event will be one to remember. I hope that next year, we are just as successful. A super well done to the entire team. You were amazing!



Wollaton Park – Nottingham High Cross Country Event Last week, 17 Robert Miles children attended a very impressive cross country event at Wollaton Park. Around 1,000 children from different schools around Nottingham competed in the beautiful scenery – what a day! We entered 4 teams into the event and we performed to the best possible standard. The course was a tough one, as it did manage to steal a couple of our teams trainers half-way round. It was a windy, muddy and uphill course, but that did not scare away our determined roster. It was a fabulous day for members of the school to experience such a large scale event, and we are already planning on attending next year, with triple the squad size. Will you be part of the RMJS yellows running at Wollaton Park next year? A super well done to the team this year. You did yourselves and the school proud.



Local News & Information

We are happy to publicise local events and activities for children in the newsletter particularly ahead of holiday periods. (Please note the school is not endorsing these events as they are run separately.) Any enquiries should be made through the website address shown on the leaflet below.

KOALA KLUBS BINGHAM ARENA

BOOK NOW AT WWW.KOALAKLUBS.CO.UK

Who we are
We've been providing multiactivity holiday camps for children since 2010 and since then have welcomed thousands of children to our camps during the school holidays.

As a family run business we pride ourselves on creating camps that offer great value for money, a great mix of activities, flexibility when you need it but most of all that are great fun for your children.

Ten activities every day
Our camps offer one of the widest ranges of sports and arts activities for your child to choose from every day so you can be sure they'll never get bored throughout the Christmas Holidays, there's always something new to try. At Koala Klubs your child will get active, try new things and make new friends whilst developing their confidence and life skills.

Our Holiday Heroes
Our HAF programme includes lunch for your child and the opportunity for them to gain knowledge on healthy eating and the importance of an active lifestyle.

Our camps are only as good as the team who run them. That's where our 'holiday heroes' come in. We're proud to have a highly trained and dedicated team of people who run our camps for us. All our staff members are DBS checked and are passionate about providing a safe and fun environment with an unbelievable amount of energy – they really are true 'holiday heroes'!

Our team will take the time to get to know your child and will help them to make memories they'll never forget.

Dates and times
Our camps will be running at Bingham arena centre on 12-18th February

Contact us
Visit: KoalaKlubs.co.uk to find out more and book your place
Email: bookings@koalaklubs.co.uk for enquiries

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FEBRUARY HALF TERM MULTI SPORTS CAMP

Including All Traditional Sports & Outdoor Activities for Children AGE 5-11

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Time: **08:50-15:20**

£22.00
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Extra Activities:
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OR TRY OUR NEW QR CODE
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Get In Touch: 07398 215354 | 07354 032261 Email: bookings.nextlevelsports@gmail.com

We share E-Safety information from National Online Safety with parents in the Robert Miles newsletter. This is to help you in ensuring that your child can use technology safely. Please read the following information.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools ...

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Luke Ramsden is Senior Deputy Headmaster and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at the National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



Weekly Menu - w/c 19th February

All parents have received a link to a form where you can submit information about your child's dietary requirements. If you have not already done so, please complete the form here if your child has specific dietary requirements: <https://orders.lunchhound.co.uk/medicaldiets/request>

Monday

- Homemade Cheese & Tomato pizza, garlic bread, sweetcorn and peas.
- Loaded cheesy bean hot pitta parcel. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Apple & sultana crumble bar

Tuesday

- Hearty pasta Bolognese with peppers, green beans and carrots.
- Plant based Bolognese pasta with lentils, peppers and basil. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Homemade lemon cake with custard.

Wednesday

- Toad in the hole, roast potatoes, gravy, cauliflower and seasonal greens.
- Quorn sausage toad in the hole, roast potatoes and gravy. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Banana cake and fruit slices

Thursday

- Mexican style chicken, bean and sweetcorn burrito, mixed vegetables and sweetcorn.
- Homemade macaroni cheese. (V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Chocolate cookie

Friday

- Cod fish fingers, chips, baked beans or peas.
- Cheese & onion pastry roll and chips.(V)
- Jacket potato with tuna mayonnaise or cheese or beans.
- Fruity strawberry jelly

Upcoming Dates w/c 19th February

Monday 19th February 2024

- Newark swimming gala leaving school at 8am and returning for 1pm.
- Film club 3.30 - 5.15pm. The film showing this week is Luca, £2 charge for this club. Please pay for this using the School Money app. Soft drink and biscuit provided. No sweets or chocolate please.

Tuesday 20th February 2024

- Dodgeball for year 3 & 4 group two 8.15- 8.45am – last session.

Wednesday 21st February 2024

- Basketball club 7.45 – 8.45am.
- Year 5 Ancient Egypt day at school.
- Bible explorers at lunch time for all year groups.
- Equal trust choir rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm

Thursday 22nd February 2024

- Martial arts club 8-8.45am
- Basketball club 3.30-4.30pm.
- Colouring club for year 4 3.30 – 4.30pm.
- No swimming.

Friday 24th February 2024

- No honours assembly