



## **St Robert's Catholic Primary School**



### **Newsletter- Week 1**

Welcome back to a new school year at St Robert's. I hope you and your families had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the term ahead. As the new Headteacher, I am very much looking forward to getting to know our children, families and wider school community, and to working in partnership with you all. A special welcome goes to the children joining Reception and to those who are new to St Robert's across the school. Thank you for choosing St Robert's as part of your child's educational journey. I am delighted and excited to be here, particularly because I have such a strong personal connection with the school. St Robert's is where my own teaching journey began, volunteering as a reader, and it is also where my own children were educated. I have already been so impressed by the children's fantastic attitude to their learning and by how polite, welcoming and helpful they have been. Thanks to the warm welcome from everyone, I am already feeling very much at home. Best wishes, Miss Rhodes

### **Mobile Phones and Smart Devices**

In line with Department for Education guidance, St Robert's is a mobile phone and smart device free environment. Pupils should not bring mobile phones into school or wear smart devices, such as smart watches, during the school day. We recognise that there are exceptional circumstances where access to a device may be necessary and we will make reasonable adjustments for pupils who require this due to medical monitoring (for example, diabetes), SEND needs, disability, young carer responsibilities, or safeguarding circumstances. These requests will be considered on an individual basis in consultation with Miss Rhodes, Mrs Forster and Mrs Ward.

We understand that some that for Year 6 pupils, who have written permission to walk home independently, carrying a mobile phone provides reassurance to parents. In these circumstances, pupils may bring a phone to school provided it is switched off before entering the school grounds and handed in to the school office on arrival. The phone can then be collected from the office at the end of the school day.

Our Mobile Phone and Smart Device Policy will be available on the school website shortly. Expectations and consequences will be applied consistently, fairly and in accordance with our Behaviour Policy, updated for September 2026. A first breach will result in a warning. A second breach will result in the phone being confiscated and parents/carers being informed. Repeated breaches will result in a meeting with parents/carers and an appropriate consequence in line with the Behaviour Policy. Serious breaches, such as recording others without permission, harassment, or the

misuse of technology, will result in a meeting with parents/carers, involvement of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and, where appropriate, police notification.

We would also respectfully ask that parents, carers and family members do not use mobile phones on school grounds, including the playground. We hope that you will support us in creating a safe, focused and positive environment for all children.

### **Allergy Safety**

As part of recent changes in national guidance, including the introduction of Benedict's Law, schools are now required to ensure that staff receive training in recognising allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, and that spare Adrenaline Auto Injectors (AAIs) are available on site for use in the event of an unexpected severe allergic reaction. We are pleased to share that all school staff have received training on recognising the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, responding appropriately in an emergency, and administering an AAI if required. As a matter of good practice, we will be seeking parental consent to administer a spare AAI in the unlikely event that this is needed. Further information and consent documentation will be shared with families shortly. Our Allergy Safety Policy will also be available on the school website in the coming weeks for parents and carers to view.

In addition, we will be completing an Individual Healthcare Plan for any child who has a diagnosed allergy and is prescribed allergy medication. Parents and carers will be invited into school to meet with Miss Rhodes to discuss their child's needs and help us develop a clear plan to support their safety and wellbeing while at school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

### **After School Clubs**

We are currently exploring the feasibility of introducing a range of exciting after-school clubs at St Robert's, delivered by Wharfe Valley Active at a competitive price. The company is owned by Mr Gibson, who has worked successfully alongside Miss Rhodes for the past four years, providing high-quality after-school clubs at Sacred Heart. Mr Gibson also delivers clubs at St Joseph's, Harrogate, and a number of other Trust schools. Clubs on offer could include a wide variety of activities such as Harry Potter Club, Lego Club, Arts and Crafts, Dance, Girls' and Boys' Football, and Dodgeball, although this list is by no means exhaustive. To help us gauge interest and plan provision that best meets the needs of our children and families, we would be grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to complete the short questionnaire using the link below by **the 15<sup>th</sup> September**. Your feedback will be invaluable in helping us shape future opportunities for our pupils.

[St. Robert's Harrogate After-School Club Interest Survey](#)

### **New Junior Basketball Academy in Harrogate**

Harrogate Raiders Basketball Club has launched a new Junior Basketball Academy, giving local children the opportunity to learn and play basketball in a fun and welcoming environment.

The first sessions are starting this week and there has already been lots of interest, so if your child would like to give basketball a try, you can find out more and register your interest here:

<https://www.harrogateraiders.co.uk/teams/marshalls>

All abilities are welcome - including children who have never played basketball before!

### **Parking**

A polite reminder to all parents and carers that the school grounds should not be used for parking unless you hold a valid Blue Badge and have prior permission to do so. We also ask that the school car park and driveway are not used as a turning area. Vehicles moving around the school site during drop-off and collection times present a significant health and safety risk to our children, families and staff. We hope you will support us in keeping our school grounds as safe as possible for everyone. When parking on the surrounding streets, please be considerate of our neighbours by parking responsibly and avoiding blocking driveways or access points. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **Bike Sheds and Scooter Racks**

An enormous thankyou to Mrs Power and Mrs Pearson for their hard work securing a grant from Active Travel allowing us to buy and install a new bike shed and scooter rack. We are hoping that work will start very soon so watch this space.....

Have a lovely weekend