



The email address for all correspondence is
officerlk@robertlekyng.bluekitetrust.org

Your child's attendance at school is important and mandatory.

We are receiving a high number of absence requests from parents and many of these are for visiting a relative who is unwell. Lots of these requests are for days/weeks added to the beginning or end of a term. Can I please remind you that absences in term time can only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances' listed in a guidance I follow from Swindon Borough Council (SBC). Visiting an unwell relative abroad would not usually constitute an exceptional circumstance. However, each request will be considered on an individual basis but will generally not be approved. Flight prices can never be taken into consideration.

SBC can give each parent a fine of £80, which rises to £160 each if you do not pay within 21 days. If you do not pay the fine after 28 days you may be prosecuted for your child's absence from school.

Please help us to ensure your child's education is not impacted negatively by absences for holidays taken in term time.

Thank you



Bev, Donna and Koren - our catering staff - will be cooking a lovely Christmas dinner on

Wednesday 18th December.

If you would like your child to enjoy a Christmas dinner with their friends, please order on School

Gateway as normal. Dinners cost £2.45 but the minimum payment required on School Gateway is £12.25 therefore you will be in credit for any future orders. Alternatively, please bring £2.45 into the office in a named envelope and we can pass it to Coombs Catering. Please note, children in KS1 and those in KS2 entitled to benefit based free school meals do not need to pay for school dinners.

Parent Support Advisor

A huge thank you to everyone that donated to the Toy Appeal, it filled my car to the brim! Lots of lovely gifts were delivered to be sorted and then some of the families that have been referred will have the chance to choose a gift for their children.



There is also a similar scheme that I can refer to during the year, that may be able to help provide a birthday present for children that would otherwise not receive one. If you, or someone you know would like your child to be considered for the birthday present scheme, please email me or pop in and I can arrange a referral for you.

School Uniform

Thanks to the success of our recent uniform events, supplies in school of good quality, used uniform are running low. We are particularly low on Reception/Year 1 sized trousers and underpants. If your child is sent home in school clothes after having a toilet accident in school, please wash and return them, or donate any that your children may have grown out of. Thank you

As always, I am here to offer support and advice to all parents of children here at RLK. Parents/carers do not need to be referred but instead can contact me directly via the school office, or by emailing psa@robertlekyng.swindon.sch.uk

Drop in sessions happen every Tuesday. Please email me or ring the office if you would like to book a slot to discuss any issues, big or small, regarding parenting.

In addition to Tuesday morning drop in sessions, I also open the school library on Mondays until 4pm where I am also available to discuss any issues.

Tara Ward - Parent Support Advisor



Parent Support Advisor

English Course (ESOL)

This week was the last week of our adults beginners English course.

I hear that everyone has made great progress and is looking forward to the next course in January.

There are a few spaces on January's course - details are shown if anyone is interested in joining us!



Everyday English Speaking and Listening

Course Dates: Wednesdays
15th January to 26th March

Times: 9:15am to 11:45am

Location: Robert Le Kyng Primary School

This course is for people who can already speak a little English and who want to build their skills to enable them to listen and speak clearly in simple situations.

By the end of this course, you will be able to speak clearly to be heard and understood in simple exchanges; Make simple statements of fact clearly; Make simple requests clearly; Follow and give simple instructions.

To request a place on this course:



01793 466482



acl@swindon.gov.uk

Find details of more Adult Community Learning courses using the QR code above or www.swindon.gov.uk/adultlearning

* To be eligible to enrol on these free courses you need to: be over 19 years old as of 31st August 2024; have lived in the UK or EU for at least the last three years, or be a refugee (or asylum seeker and lived in the UK for at least 6 months); be a Homeless or Families for Ukraine visa holder; be an Afghan ASAP or ARAC visa holder; be a Hong Kong BNO visa holder (only for English for Speakers of Other Languages courses); be unemployed, or working and earning less than £25,000 a year. For more information about our eligibility criteria please visit our website www.swindon.gov.uk/adultlearning



SAFEGUARDING

LEAVING CHILDREN HOME ALONE

Being a parent is a demanding, 24 hour a day job. Parents are under so many pressures, it is not surprising that many find it hard to cope. Most parents have to spend some time away from their children, whether it is to go to work or out for the evening. It can be hard to find someone suitable to look after a child, and it can also be expensive. But children rely on adults to protect them and parents are responsible for making sure that their children are happy and well looked after in their absence.

What does the law say?

The law does not say an age when you can leave a child on their own, but it's an offence to leave a child alone if it places them at risk. Parents can be prosecuted if they leave a child unsupervised 'in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health'. If your child has an older sibling, you might feel you can leave them home together, especially if one child is older. There's no legal age a child can babysit – but if you leave your children with someone who's under 16, you're still responsible for their wellbeing.

What do the NSPCC recommend?

- Babies and toddlers should never be left alone.
- Children under 12 shouldn't be left home alone for long
- Children under 16 shouldn't be left alone overnight and children over 16 years shouldn't be left alone frequently for long periods of time or for multiple nights.
- Children should never be left in a home **that could put them at risk**- like with no electricity or heat, or with dangerous objects.

For more guidance follow this link: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1110/home-alone-guide-keeping-child-safe.pdf>

What is Neglect?

If a parent or carer fails to meet a child's basic needs, such as food and warm clothing, **or constantly leaves a child alone**, this is known as neglect. Neglect is as serious as other forms of child abuse because the effects on children can be just as damaging and long-lasting.

Neglected children may appear withdrawn, unhappy or unusually aggressive and their school work or friendships may suffer. To find out more about Neglect, follow this link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/neglect/>



Cool Milk
**Free & Subsidised
SCHOOL MILK**
Register your child today!
www.coolmilk.com

Is your child registered for
SCHOOL MILK?

Child UNDER 5 **Child OVER 5**

Every child under the age of five is entitled to free school milk. Simply register your child online.

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised cost of around £20 per term. Register your child and pay online.

Children in receipt of benefits-based free school meals are eligible for free school milk. Speak to the school for further information.

Free milk for under 5s is funded by the Department of Health and milk for over 5s is subsidised by DfERA.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY

Register online
www.coolmilk.com

Need help?
Send us a message
at www.coolmilk.com/contact
or give us a call on **0800 321 3248**

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA - SEARCH COOLMILKSCHEME

**UPCOMING EVENT
DATES**

**SWINDON
COFFEE MORNING**

Support for Parents and Carers of Autistic Children - No Diagnosis Required

Our drop in group for parents and carers of autistic children (no diagnosis required). Come along and meet our Peer Educators and others who are there to listen and might be able to offer advice.

No need to book, just turn up!

Goddard Arms, Old Town
Swindon, SN1 3EG

Located in the semi-private area to the right as you walk in the main front door.

**Monday 16th
December
10:30-12:00**

THANK YOU

YOUR POPPY SUPPORTS THE ARMED FORCES
COMMUNITY PAST AND PRESENT

To: Robert Le Kyng

Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal.
Together we raised:

£ 47.50

To find out more about how your donation helps,
visit rbl.org.uk

SUPPORTERS NEWS

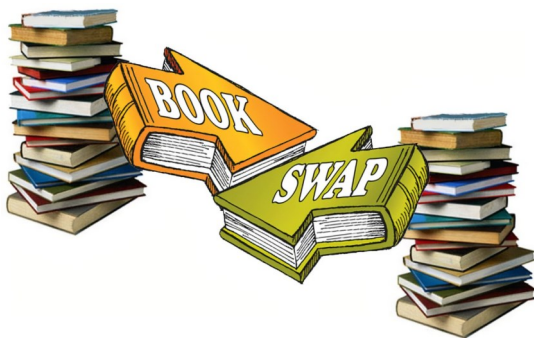


The Christmas Fair is nearly here! Thank you for all the donations received today as part of our non-uniform day. Further donations can be brought in until the day before the fair. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please can all ticket stubs, ticket money and unsold tickets for the prize draw be returned by the end of the school day on Friday 13th December.

Asda 'Cashpot' fundraising scheme

A big thank you to all those who have taken part in the Asda 'Cashpot' scheme which has now finished. The final total raised for the school is over **£316**. The school will receive the money early in the Spring term.



Reading for Pleasure – The RLK Book Swap

The RLK Book Swap is back! We will be holding our book swap on **Friday 31st January 2025**. If you are having a clear out of your children's books during the Christmas holiday, please keep them to donate to the Book Swap. Watch out for more information in the Book Swap letter early next term.

If you would like to find out more about what the Supporters do or you are interested in joining the Supporters, please contact us at the following email address below or see Mrs Beale in Class 4.

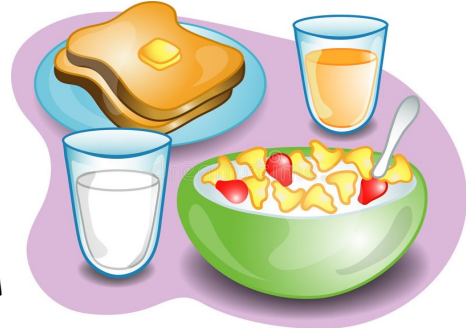
supporters@robertlekyng.bluekitetrust.org



Our breakfast club is open from 7.45 am every school day. Please contact the office if you'd like to book a space for your child.

A number of different activities are available each day and of course breakfast.

Booking and paying in advance for the next term attracts a 20% discount on the price.



Did you know that we have a Facebook page?



Just search for 'Robert le Kyng Primary School' on Facebook, look for the RLK school logo and select 'Like' to follow our page.

We use this page for general updates, photos and sharing of useful education based Facebook links.



Please note that the main platform for school communication is Parentmail, telephone calls and the school office email address. (The Facebook page does not allow messages between parents and school)



2024 -2025 remaining TD DAYS

14th February

24th February—School closed
Blue Kite Trust
Collaboration Day

27th June