



July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of what has been a fantastic academic year, I wanted to thank you for your continued support. It has been wonderful to get back to a more 'normal' way of working and it has been a pleasure to welcome parents and families back into the school.

Ahead of the summer holidays, I wanted to share with you some arrangements for the start of the next academic year.

The last day of term will be **Thursday 21st July** and school will close at **12.50pm**.

Start dates for the new academic year:

- Year 7 will start on Tuesday 6th September
- Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will return on Wednesday 7th September

Please find attached the full term dates for the 2022/23 academic year, which can also be found on our website: <https://www.robertsutton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/calendar-and-term-dates/>

Guidance ahead of next week's heatwave

As you may be aware, we are expecting very high temperatures next week and we would like to ensure your child is well protected from the heat. At the point of writing this letter, we are hopeful that all our trips/events will be able to go ahead. Should this change, we will of course let you know.

To keep students as comfortable as possible for next week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) we are permitting students to wear either their school uniform or school PE kit.

Tuesday will be a non-uniform day. However, students should be wearing clothing that is appropriate, that covers them up, as well as keeps them cool.

Before School

- Parents are encouraged to ensure students apply sunscreen before they come to school and to bring this with them to re-apply it when necessary.
- It is essential that your child brings a bottle of water to school.
- Students are permitted to wear a sun hat which covers their head, neck and ears. These should be removed for any indoor lessons.

During School

- Additional indoor spaces will be made available for students at break and lunchtime.
- Students will be encouraged to have their water bottles in the classroom and will be encouraged to drink at regular intervals.
- Students can re-fill bottles at break, lunch or between lessons. Students will not be permitted to leave during a lesson to get water, unless there is a medical reason.
- PE classes – If the heat is excessive, alternative activities will be arranged for your child inside.



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NOTTINGHAM

Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy
Bluestone Lane, Stapenhill, Burton-On-Trent, DE15 9SD
office@brs.srscmat.co.uk
Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Next Year - School Uniform and Equipment

School uniform for the next academic year remains unchanged. Please find the Uniform and Equipment lists attached - both lists can be found on the website:

<https://www.robertsutton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/dress-code-and-equipment/>

Students in Years 7 -11 will need a suitable school bag in which to carry their equipment/books.

Please ensure your child does not return to school after the summer break with any form of facial piercing – facial piercings are not allowed and students attending with facial piercings in the new academic year will be placed in internal exclusion.

The only jewellery permitted is – wrist watch, light chain crucifix, single stud earring or a set of plain stud earrings, one in each ear, worn in the lower ear lobe. No other piercings/jewellery is permitted. Nose-ring or earring retainers are not permitted.

We appreciate that financially these are challenging times for many of our families. If you are experiencing financial hardship, please do not hesitate to contact Jan Talbot (PA to the Headteacher) – office@brs.srscmat.co.uk

Attendance

For September 2022 the Department for Education has issued new guidance around attendance. In accordance with these National guidelines, we will not be authorising holidays during term time.

Any students taking holiday during term time, will be classified as unauthorised absence and may be subject to a penalty notice being served to each parent/carer that resides with the child by Staffordshire LA.

Summer Time Safeguarding 2022

Summer time, and particularly the summer holidays, can be full of hazards and risks to manage. Below we have produced a roundup of resources that may be helpful during this time.

[Concerned about a Child or Young Person - Staffordshire](#)

Call 0300 111 8007

Or in an emergency call 999

[Safeguarding Children Board \(staffsscb.org.uk\)](http://staffsscb.org.uk)

Open Water Swimming and Railway Safety

We urge students not to cool off by swimming unsupervised in open water. Even the strongest swimmers can find themselves at risk from the sudden change between air and water temperature and hidden hazards beneath the surface.

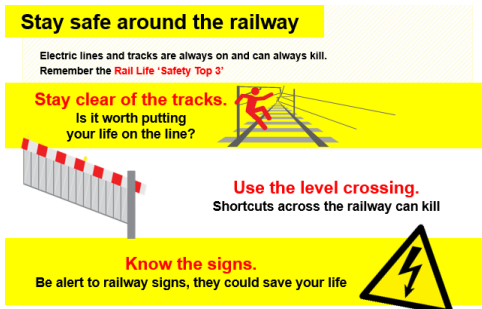


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Swimmers in lakes and reservoirs are also at risk from becoming entangled in underwater weeds and dumped rubbish or being caught out by unseen currents and other dangers, such as sudden increases in depth.

Safety around the railway is exceptionally important. Follow the three safety tips – Stay clear of the tracks, use level crossing and know the signs. Playing on the railway is exceptionally dangerous.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The MHST is open over the summer for self-referral if children are suffering from low mood, anxiety, sleep issues, worry or panic.

Other Mental Health Support can be found at the following websites:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.relate.org.uk/relationship-help/help-children-and-young-people/children-and-young-peoples-counselling>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Childline phone number: 0800 1111

<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

Golden Rules to Safe Internet Browsing

ICT is an everyday part of people's lives and schools are making increasing use of new technology.

- Children should ideally only add on social media sites people they know and trust in real life.
- Some predatory paedophiles can convincingly pose as another teenager and may spend months or years 'grooming' the victim until they meet face to face.
- Children must always be accompanied by an adult if meeting an online friend in person.
- Don't ban children from these sites; they will just use them at friends' houses or on their phone, personal media player or hand-held games console.
- Take an interest and suggest they add you as a friend so you can keep an eye on them when they first join.
- Have the main computer in a communal area of the home where there is passive supervision and be reasonable about time online. Talk if you feel it is getting out of hand (but remember how many hours you spent watching TV when you were their age – the internet is at least active not passive and they can learn a lot from it.
- If they have a wireless laptop and you want to stop them going online after a quota of hours is up, unplug the 'router' where the phone line comes into the house.

What to look for on a website

- The CEOP report button is the online equivalent of dialling 999.
- We need to train young people, just like we do with 999, to recognise it and know how to use it if they need to.
- Look out for good websites that have the button built in.
- Some websites refuse to add the button, so visit direct: www.ceop.police.uk

Online Bullying/Cyber Bullying

- Cyber bullying is the use of the Internet and related technologies to harm other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner.
- Children can be unkind to each other online. Bullying is not new but the technology has changed, making it is easier to track and prove who is responsible.
- If you suspect your child is having a problem, the evidence will be on your computer. If you can, print off copies of messages and screen shots of web postings (ctrl + prnt scrn).

Want to find out more about understanding and stopping Cyber bullying?

- Visit the CEOP channel on YouTube.
- Put this website in your favourites: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> and make sure every member of the family spends time familiarising themselves with the area aimed at them.

Other useful websites:

[Bullying and cyberbullying | Childline](#)
[Cyberbullying \(for Parents\) - Nemours KidsHealth](#)

Free School Meal Vouchers

Staffordshire County Council will be providing all students who receive FSM with a £30 voucher to support them over the Summer holiday. This voucher can be redeemed at the supermarket of choice for the family.

Over the past week our Admin team have emailed these voucher codes out to parents. If you have not received the voucher or have any issues with regards to FSM, please contact lwilson@brs.srscmat.co.uk

Support for students in receipt of Free School Meals

As well as the vouchers, students in receipt of FSM can also access the [Holiday Activities and Food - Staffordshire County Council](#)



Food Banks

Burton:

- YMCA Burton Reconnect- 01283 547211
- Salvation Army Community Food Bank Burton on Trent UK - Facebook
<tel:01283517116> burton.on.trent@salvationarmy.org.uk
- Burton Hope - Facebook Only (Not just Burton)

Swadlincote

- CVS - 07458 305314 projectsupport@sdcvvs.org.uk

Ashby De la Zouch

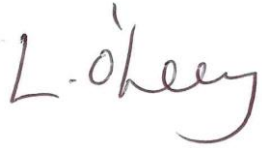
- 07542 118878 info@ashbyfoodbank.org.uk

Over the holidays if you have any safeguarding concerns or updates, please email:
safeguarding@brs.srscmat.co.uk

Again, thank you for your continued support this academic year, in what has been an incredibly challenging year for schools across the country. We are always so grateful for the support of the Robert Sutton community, which makes such a difference to our work every single day.

We wish all our students and their families a restful and peaceful summer break.

With kindest wishes,



Laura O'Leary
Headteacher