



BLESSED DOMINIC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Love Learn Believe



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Great Strand Colindale London NW9 5PE

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Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk

Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to welcome you back to school. I hope you had a lovely summer break and are enjoying this unseasonable glorious weather. The children look very smart in their school uniform and have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share. Today, we had our beginning of Year school Mass and it was lovely to pray together as a community once again.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all those who are new to the school and we very much look forward to working with you in the coming year

Best Wishes as always,

Mrs Pears

PRAYER FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Loving Father,

As you bring us together for a new school year,

We thank you for the joy of seeing our friends
and the excitement of being back in school.

Fill us with confidence, that with you as our guide,
we will grow each day in wisdom and love.

Inspire us through your Holy Spirit,
that we may be curious to discover new things.

Give us courage to try again when we make mistakes,
and generous hearts, always ready to help others when they struggle, too.

Bless our teachers and staff;

help them to know how important they are to us and to our community.

Bless our families and parish;

teach us how to grow together in faith, hope, and love.

Father of all, hear our prayer for our brothers and sisters around the world
who are unable to go to school.

Encourage us to work as a family, so that all your children can live life to the full.

We make this prayer through Christ your Son.

Amen.





Meet the Teacher Meetings



Meetings for parents /carers of pupils in Years 1 to 6 will begin next week. Please see the dates below:

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Wednesday 13 th September – | Y4 - 9:00am |
| Wednesday 13 th September – | Y3 – 2.45pm |
| Thursday 14 th September - | Y6 – 9.00am |
| Monday 18 th September - | Y2 – 9.00am |
| Monday 18 th September - | Y1 – 2.45pm |
| Tuesday 19 th September - | Y5 – 2.45pm |
| Wednesday 4 th October - | Reception – 2.45pm |

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

This year, at Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we will be supporting the MacMillan cancer charity by holding a MacMillan fundraiser day on **Friday 29th September**. Children will be able to buy cakes donated during their morning break. We are asking for a **minimum donation of just £1**. For those who would like to make a donation, please send your child in with an envelope labelled Macmillan donation.

Please bring donated cakes to the school reception no sooner than the morning of 28th September 2023

More information to follow

Following school uniform policy

It is essential that your child wears their school tie everyday as it is part of their school uniform. Also, a reminder that your child must wear the **school PE kit on their PE day**. Other sports clothing from home is not permitted. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

School Uniform is available to order and buy through our 'Parent Pay' shop

See link below <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=1131>

Prospective Nursery /Reception Meeting



For September 2024
Thursday 1st November at 5.30pm
or
Friday 2nd November at 9.05am
Please see flyer attached below

Consultation Evening

18th October Parent Consultation Meeting 5.00-8.00pm
19th October Parent Consultation Meeting 3.30-6.30pm



Attendance and Punctuality Update – Please read

Next week, you will receive a letter explaining in detail, the school's expectations regarding PUNCTUALITY and ATTENDANCE. We will be implementing the fixed penalty notice scheme for both persistent ABSENCE and persistent LATENESS.

Term time holidays

Our Attendance policy follows the policy outlined by the Education Secretary, stating that children are not to be **absent from school for holidays or other non-essential reasons during term time**. Only in exceptional or mitigating circumstances will an absence be approved.

Illness

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school or absent from school for any reason, please phone the school on 0208 2053790 before 8.40 am or email attendance@blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk

We have an answerphone where you can leave a message before the office opens, please speak clearly with your child's name, class and the reason your child is unwell.

You can use the absence line from 8.00am to speak to a member of the office.

If we do not receive any information from a parent/carer in the morning, we will contact parents/ carers asking them to phone the school. If we do not hear from you we will pursue all contacts regarding a child's absence as part of our safeguarding procedures. Please leave a message by 9.00 am each day of their absence.

Medical and Dental appointments

We ask that you please make every effort to avoid booking medical and dental appointments during school time. Where this is unavoidable, parents/carers should put this in writing to the school office and attach a copy of the appointment card or letter before the date of the appointment. Please also include the time you will need to collect your child. If arriving late, please ensure that your child is accompanied and signed in by an adult at the school office for safeguarding reasons.

Other Absences

Requests for absence during term time **will not be authorised** unless there is deemed to be an exceptional circumstance. Local authorities have the power to serve parents with a Fixed Penalty Notice if a child has significant or repeated days of unauthorised absence.

Being Punctual

School starts at **8.55am** each day. It is important for your child to be on time if they are to get the most out of their education. Local authorities have the power to serve parents with a Fixed Penalty Notice if a child is persistently late within a period of one month.

5 minutes late every day means missing 3 days of school every year.

Punctuality is continually monitored. The gates open at 8:40am and the school day begins at 8:55am. If your child arrives after this time then they will be recorded as late in the register!

CHILDLINE - WHO WE ARE!

Childline is here to help anyone under 18 with any issue they're going through.

You can talk about anything. Whether it's big or small, our trained counsellors are here to support you. Childline is free, confidential and available any time, day or night. You can talk to us:

- by calling [0800 1111](tel:0800 1111)
- by [email](#)
- through [1-2-1 counsellor chat](#)

Whatever feels best for you.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/childline/>



E-Safety Updates

Please use the following links to keep up to date with online safety and what you can do to keep your children safe online.

[E-Safety: Help & Advice](#)

[Social Media & Mental Health; the positive and negative impact](#)

[Screen Addiction: A Parents Guide](#)

[A Parents Guide to Call of Duty \(COD\)](#)

[FIFA](#)

[FORTNITE](#)

Please click link below for tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>



End of day Collection

For most pupils, school finishes at 3.15pm. We ask that you arrive on time to collect your child. Younger children can become upset and distressed if they are not collected punctually at the end of the day.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Helpful information for Parents on sickness absence

Please see link below

<http://www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school-1.pdf>

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen the recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete concerns have been raised about its long term durability.

RAAC was not used in schools that were built after mid 1990's. We do not have any RAAC in our school building and therefore will continue to function as normal.

Attendance this Week

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Bluebells | 80% |
| Daisies | 95% |
| 1B | 91% |
| 1D | 88% |
| 2B | 99% |
| 2D | 92% |
| 3B | 92% |
| 3D | 93% |
| 4B | 87% |
| 4D | 94% |
| 5B | 94% |
| 5D | 97% |
| 6B | 97% |
| 6D | 98% |



Congratulations to 6D who achieved the highest attendance this week.

Universal Free School Meals for all Primary School Children

The Mayor of London is ensuring all primary school children who attend state schools in London receive free school meals for the full academic year, starting September 2023. This means that your child and all children in our school are entitled to a free nutritious school meal this academic year.

The Mayor knows families are really struggling with the cost-of-living crisis right now and so has taken the decision to provide funding to expand on the Government's limited existing Free School Meals offer. Every child deserves the chance to be able to grow up healthy and thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances. For this to happen, children must be able to access healthy, nutritious meals. We believe that this initiative will not only enhance our pupils' wellbeing but also foster a strong sense of inclusivity and community within our school.

Your child will receive their free school meal automatically, but it's really important to still complete the free Government's registration form in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth £1,455 per year. This is money we spend on extra tuition, additional resources for pupils and after school activities. The registration process is straightforward and confidential. Further information about registration can be found on our school website <http://www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk/parents/letters-and-forms>

Children that are eligible for 'benefit related free school meals will be entitled to BACE Holidays, discounted breakfast club, free after school clubs and help with the cost of school trips.

Diary Dates

September

Meet the teacher meetings from Wednesday 13th September. Please See separate letter for details or in this newsletter.

29th MacMillan Coffee morning 8.30am

OCTOBER

2nd SPEC Parents meeting 3.30pm
6th School Photos All Day
3rd Flu Nasal Spray Yr1-6
11th Black History Workshop/Day ALL DAY
18th Parent Consultation Meeting 3.30-6.30pm
19th Parent Consultation Meeting 5.00-8.00pm
20th Grandparents Afternoon Tea 1:45pm
30th INSET DAY ALL DAY
23rd-27th HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

1st All Saints
1st Prospective Nursery and Rec meeting 5.30pm
2nd Prospective Nursery and Rec meeting 9.05am
7th Year 6 SATS Meeting 3.30pm
14th SEND coffee morning (parents) 9.30am
15th Diwali Workshop ALL DAY
20th Anti-Bullying workshop ALL DAY

DECEMBER

1st Advent Reconciliation Service 9.15am
4th KS2 PANTO
5th KS1 PANTO
7th Christmas jumper day ALL DAY
12th Reception Nativity 9.30am
12th KS1 Nativity 1st Performance 2.00pm
13th KS1 Nativity 2nd Performance 2.00pm
18th Nursery Nativity 9.30am
19th KS2 Carol Service years 3-4 7.00pm
20th KS2 Carol Service years 5-6 7.00pm
20th School Christmas Lunch
21st End of Term 1.30pm





Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School

Class Information for prospective Nursery/Reception 2023 - 2024



Thursday 1st November 2023 at 5.30pm

or

Friday 2nd November 2023 at 9.05am

(Followed by tour of the school - optional)

Applications for Nursery and Reception Places are invited for Catholic children born between -

Nursery – **September 2020 and August 2021**

Reception - **September 2019 and August 2020**

Please visit our website for further information and to download application forms.

<https://www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk/our-school/admissions>

If you are unable to attend either of the meetings, please contact the school to arrange a tour at a mutually convenient time.

School Address:

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Great Strand, London NW9 5PE

Telephone no: 020 8205 3790

Email: office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website: www.blesseddominic.barnet.sch.uk



