



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

Tel: 020 8205 3790

E-mail [office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net)

Website [www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk](http://www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk)

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable break. It was lovely to see everyone last Monday and we have had a super start to the new term. You should have received the Spring Term curriculum newsletter and RE newsletters this week. Please read these as they contain important information about your child's learning. As always, we have a full calendar of enrichment activities planned this term with visits to places of significance as well as visitors coming into school. Please see the diary dates listed below.

### **Punctuality**

Please remember that the school day starts at 8.40am. As you know, being in school on time is extremely important for all children in order that they receive the best possible start to their learning. Arrival at 8.40am enables staff to support children in a range of activities, for example, time to have 'check ins' with teacher or TA for Emotional Health and Well Being support, individual reading with an adult, opportunity to practise spellings, maths facts or pre-learning for lessons and sharing class news together. All of these activities maximise the opportunity for a settled start to ensure children are ready for their first lesson straight after the register is taken.

### **Good luck and new staff**

We would like to wish Mrs Newfield (Bluebells class teacher), all the very best as she begins her maternity leave and she has promised to give us updates as to how she is doing. Next week, we welcome Miss O'Boyle who will take over her teaching responsibilities in Bluebells alongside Mrs Conneely.

I would like to welcome Miss Quick who is the new teacher in 5D. She will also be joining our team next week.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pears

---

### **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**

Gospel: John 1:35-42

On Sunday we hear how Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, which means "rock". Names are very important – we all have one and God knows all of us by our name. Let's think a bit more about names today.





## School Meals



All Primary school children in state-funded schools in London get free school meals for the 2023-24 school year.

*The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan provided the funding as an emergency cost of living support measure recognising that families are in urgent need of support and the meals will help families with the spiralling cost of living, making sure that children in state-funded London schools will receive free school meals in this academic year.*

We are happy to confirm that the Mayor is extending the funding for Universal Free School Meals for another academic year 2024-25

**Please do not pay for school lunch on Parent pay**

### Lost Property

Please clearly name all of your child's uniform. Anything that is named is returned directly to the children.

Lost property is stored in the school office. Children and parents are welcome to search for lost items at the beginning and the end of the day.

**Children should be encouraged to look after their belongings and we will positively encourage this attitude in school. Please also do this at home.**

### GOVERNORS' FUND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to everyone who has responded this term with either a termly or complete payment for the year. The Governors would like to thank you for your generosity and support. Only **18%** of parents have donated so far this term so please, if you haven't done so already, make your payment on 'Parent Pay'

**Your ongoing generosity and support is greatly appreciated. It means that we can continue to purchase high quality resources to support your child's learning and enable us to keep the Breakfast and After School clubs running.**

### Applications for Reception and Nursery 2024/2025

**Parents, please remember to complete the Barnet CAF online to Barnet Admissions team by Monday 15th January 2024**

**NURSERY** – A priest's signature is required on the Nursery application form along with other supporting documents. Please see the Nursery application pack for details.

**RECEPTION** – Following guidance from the Diocese of Westminster, the Certificate of Catholic Practice is no longer required. However, a Catholic Baptism certificate must still be provided along with the other supporting documents.

#### RECEPTION PLACES – 2024-2025

Parents, please remember to complete the Barnet CAF online to Barnet Admissions team by

**Monday 15th January 2024**

Blessed Dominic School Forms must be returned as soon as possible but no later than

**Monday 15th January 2024**



## Criteria for Attendance and Punctuality –



### Updates from our Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

**In an effort to improve attendance and punctuality across the school, we will be implementing the fixed penalty notice scheme for both persistent ABSENCE and persistent lateness.**

Recently, our Barnet Education Welfare Officer came to review our attendance. She was disappointed to see that attendance wasn't as high as it used to be pre-covid times.

There are quite a few children who have attendance below **90%**. *This figure is significantly below the national average and is considered as persistent non-attendance.* **96%** attendance is expected by the school and the Education Welfare Team for children to achieve their educational potential. Children who are unwell (e.g., sickness, vomiting or high temperature) should not come to school but children who are slightly under the weather should attend. Please be assured, that if we feel your child is ill, we will send them home.

When your child is absent for **more than three days**, we would expect all parents to substantiate with **medical evidence**. This could include:

- a stamped doctor's appointment card,
- information about the medication your child has been prescribed (a photo can be emailed to the office or brought in on return to school).

As you know, we can administer medication on site (if it is prescribed by the doctor).

The Education Welfare Team from the London Borough of Barnet regularly monitor our attendance. They may contact you if your child's attendance is significantly low (below 90%). This may be a letter or a phone call. Absences before and after school holidays will also be monitored. If there is not a sufficient reason to substantiate the absence, the Education Welfare Team will issue a fixed penalty notice.

Families should also be aware that the London Borough of Barnet will issue a fixed penalty notice to parents if children are consistently arriving late into school. Any 6 incidents of lateness within a four week period could result in this outcome.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with your child's attendance, please contact the school for further guidance.

I would like to thank you for your continued support with regards to attendance.

## **E Safety Workshops**

**On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January** we are holding Internet Safety Workshops and assemblies by Open View Education for E-Safety week.

Open view Education provides theatre based training, workshops and performances in educational settings and specialises in Internet Safety Workshops and assemblies.

Their mission is to equip students with the self-confidence and knowledge on how to stay safe online, they have also developed a collection of resources and videos to support parents and carers keep their children safe online.

You now have access to these resources please click the link below.

[Access Parent E-Safety Resources Here.](#)

## School Street – Coming soon!



I am delighted to inform you that a School street has been approved for Great Strand. This means that cars will not be allowed to travel down Great Strand during drop off and pick up times creating a safer space for pupils and their families from both Blessed Dominic School and St James'. Don't forget, you will be able to park at the RAF Museum free of charge.

The definition of a 'School Street' is below:

*A school street is a road outside a school with a temporary motorised traffic restriction on it during term time at school drop-off and pick-up times. Closure points are put in place using cones and road closed signage with a trained volunteer marshal covering closures at all times. Residents are provided with permits to pass through these closures and other key workers/ emergency access is also maintained. The restriction is to create a street environment which encourages cycling, scooting, or walking part or the entire school run and reduce motorised traffic.*

It is hoped that this School Street will be in place by May half term 2024 at the latest if not before. More information will follow nearer to the implementation date.

### CHILDLINE - WHO WE ARE!

Childline is here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through.

You can talk about anything. Whether it's something 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:08001111)
- 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>



### Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Safeguarding Team The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Ms Sulis - Deputy Head (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Mrs Pears - Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Officer)

Mrs Sowa – Inclusion Lead (Designated Safeguarding Officer)

Ms Keegan – Assistant Head (Designated Safeguarding Officer)

# Diary Dates

## JANUARY

15 <sup>th</sup>	3B School Trip	ALL DAY
19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 School Trip	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	3D School Trip	ALL DAY
29 <sup>th</sup>	E-Safety Workshops	

## FEBRUARY

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Candlemass	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultation Evening	3.30pm – 6.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultation Evening	5.00pm – 8.00pm



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – FEBRUARY HALF TERM. Pupils return on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

- 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday (Half term)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Bike ability Workshop 4D
- 29<sup>th</sup> Feb World Book Day

## MARCH

7 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival	
13 <sup>th</sup>	International Evening	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1D School Trip	
25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1B School Trip	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4 Easter Service	9:15am
27 <sup>th</sup>	Years 3 and 4 Easter Service	9:15am
28 <sup>th</sup>	Break up for Easter End of Term	1.30pm

## APRIL

17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	5B	SPEC
24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	5D	SPEC

## MAY

- 6<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATS WEEK
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – MAY HALF TERM

## JUNE

- 10<sup>th</sup> Year 6 PGL Trip

## Attendance this Week

Bluebells	85%
Daisies	92%
1B	91%
1D	96%
2B	96%
2D	96%
3B	91%
3D	98%
4B	99%
4D	91%
5B	95%
5D	91%
6B	98%
6D	95%



Congratulations to 4B who achieved the highest attendance this week.