



BLESSED DOMINIC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Love Learn Believe



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

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Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to thank you for attending the 'Meet the teacher' meetings over the past three weeks. It is important that we establish a strong home/school partnership from the outset. We never underestimate what a privilege it is to have your children in our school and it is such a pleasure to watch them grow and achieve.

Last week, our Year 6 children were given their prefect roles. Each child has an opportunity to monitor an area of the school, to use their voice for guidance and gentle reminders and to support the rest of the staff and children. We are so proud of them!

We are currently in the Season of Creation. In his message for the World Day of Prayer 2023, Pope Francis invites us to "the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator."

As well as transforming our own hearts and lifestyles, the Holy Father calls us to seek to transform public policies and to "raise our voices to halt this injustice towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change."

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we are trying to make a difference by engaging in different initiatives and raising awareness within our own school community.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful weekend.

Best Wishes as always,

Mrs Pears

A prayer for our earth by Pope Francis

All powerful God,
you are present in the universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,



that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle,
for justice, love and peace.



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

Prospective Nursery /Reception Meeting

For September 2024

Wednesday 1st November at 5.30pm

or

Thursday 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



Grandparents' Afternoon Tea

Friday 20th October 2023

at 1.45pm

Save the date





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.

This week, 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. Thank you

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>

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>

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>

Parking near the school site and considerate road use



You will be aware that the traffic and pedestrian congestion immediately outside the school at the beginning and end of the day is compromising the safety of all. We are working closely with the local authority for a long term solution.

In the meantime, you can help us ensure children have a happy and safe journey to and from school by considering the following:

- **Walking wherever possible**

Not only is this a healthy way to get some exercise, but it supports the local community with congestion. In addition, it is much better for the environment.

- **Parking responsibly**

As with the majority of primary schools in the country, we do not have a 'parent' car park. If you do need to drive to drop off or collect your child please park at the **RAF museum** and walk down Great Strand. **Please be respectful of our neighbours and remember that parking on zig-zag lines at any time of the day is prohibited.**

- **Patience and Respect**

Please be considerate and respectful. Inevitably, slow moving traffic and congestion can cause frustration leading to impatience and irritability. Please be mindful that everyone is feeling the same however we must put the safety of all our pupils and families first and remain calm.

We appreciate your support in this matter.

Please note the RAF Museum is providing 45 minutes free parking for all our parents/carers to ease the congestion on Great Strand.

Please make the most of this facility.

HOUSE POINTS

ST ANTHONY: 481

ST BERNADETTE: 608

ST JAMES': 557

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW: 414



STAR WORKER

Bluebells – Santiago
Daisies – Andres
1B – Arnoldas
1D – Kevin
2B – Ivy
2D – Azai
3B – Lianna
3D – Francesc
4B – Ariana
4D – Xander
5B – Liam
5D – Imani
6B – Karson
6D – Matei



TEAM PLAYER

Bluebells – Ada
Daisies – Aiyana
1B – Micheal
1D – Wrenn
2B – Theodora
2D – Kacper
3B – Dawid
3D – Leo
4B – Natalia
4D – Abigal
5B – Michael
5D – Iwona
6B – Gabby
6D – Leo

STAR HANDWRITER

Bluebells – Maya
Daisies – Nicole
1B – Dante
1D – Aida
2B – Chloe
2D – Lincoln
3B – Hesley
3D – Evelyn
4B – Lily
4D – Wiktorina
5B – Kaya
5D – Myco
6B – Rhafael
6D – Yaaya



Attendance this Week

Bluebells	99%
Daisies	99%
1B	95%
1D	96%
2B	99%
2D	99%
3B	98%
3D	97%
4B	96%
4D	96%
5B	92%
5D	94%
6B	94%
6D	97%



Congratulations to Bluebells, Daisies and 2B who achieved the highest attendance this week.

October Camp 2023!

Non Stop Action are looking forward to **October Camp 2023!** We are running **Multi Sports** at Moss Hall Junior School (N3 1NR) and **Football** and **Dance** at Millbrook park school (NW7 1JF)!

We will be running for 1 week, from **Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October**. Bookings made before **Saturday 7th October** will automatically get our Early Bird discounts, and you can also save money by booking week blocks - book from as little as **£27.50** for a day, or **£109** for a week!

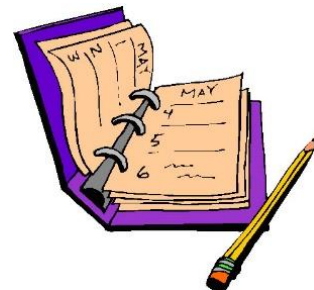
Head to our website to book now: <https://www.nonstopaction.co.uk/>



NON STOPAction!
SMALL STEPS. BIG FUTURES

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager

Diary Dates



SEPTEMBER

29th MacMillan Coffee morning 8.30am

OCTOBER

2nd SPEC Parents meeting 3.30pm
4th Reception Meet the teacher 2.45pm
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

JANUARY

8th Back to school 8.40am

FEBRUARY

7th Parent Consultation Evening 3.30pm – 6.30pm
8th Parent Consultation Evening 5.00pm – 8.00pm

12th – 16th – FEBRUARY HALF TERM

14th Ash Wednesday (Half term)
29th Feb World Book Day