



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

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Friday 1st March 2024



Dear Parent/Carer,

Today, we celebrated World Book Day and the children came to school, dressed in their favourite pyjamas. We know that many of our children read before they go to bed and so we wanted to promote reading in a different way this year.

Pupils had the opportunity to visit the book fair, purchase books and they participated in activities throughout the day including book quizzes, and sharing and reading their favourite stories with their teachers and peers. We also had a visit from an author, Dawn Arthur, who read an extract from one of her books and spoke about the writing and editing process. A big thank you to Miss Fint our Literacy lead who organised this celebration.

We will have photos of the day in next week's newsletter.

Before half term, every child was given a fundraising box to collect loose change over the next month and we ask that the box is put in a central place at home. Please return your **full** box by **Wednesday 27th March 2024** at the latest. All proceeds will go to the Catholic Children's Society. Thank you in advance for your support.

There are many more events happening over the coming weeks so please check the diary dates featured at the end of this newsletter. Wishing you all a restful weekend,

Best Wishes, Mrs Pears

This Sunday it is the **Third Sunday of Lent.**

Dear God,
At this time of reflection,
Teach us to be thankful for the goodness you have given us.
Let us remember to treat others as we would like to be treated.
At this time of fasting and giving up our favourite things,
Teach us to be thankful for the food that we eat.
Let us remember that everybody is not so fortunate.
At this time of forgiveness,
Teach us to be thankful for the gift of your mercy.
Let us remember the sacrifice of your son, Jesus Christ.
At this time of prayer,
Teach us to listen to your word.
Let us remember the lessons of our saviour, Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name,
Amen.





International Evening

Wednesday 20th March 2024



Dear Parent/Carer,

We are excited to announce this year's International Evening. You will be able to sample a range of food from across the continents, there will be international themed activities and you will see work, and a short performance, from your child's class.

More details to follow

BREAKFAST CLUB

Children from Reception to Year 6 upwards are able to attend our Breakfast Club, where they are able to eat a filling, nutritious breakfast and prepare for the school day. This runs from 7.55am until 8.30am and the cost is £3 per child.



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 **20%** 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.

SEND Coffee Morning

Blessed Dominic School invites you to attend this term's SEND coffee morning for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



Wednesday 20th March at 9.10 am – 10.00 am

Please see letter sent home



Lost Property

It is inevitable that school uniform items are mislaid or mixed up. The best way to ensure that your child's belongings are not lost is to ensure all items of school uniform are clearly named. Wherever possible, named lost property will be returned to your child's class.

Any items that are unnamed will be kept in the school office. After we have had the items for two weeks they will be either: sent to recycling, added to the second hand uniform sale or kept in school for use in emergencies e.g. when a child is sick.

Please help us in reuniting lost property with its owner by labelling all of your child's property - this includes shoes, lunchboxes and water bottles.

Please regularly check the uniform your child brings home - it is very easy for items of uniform to get mixed up. If this happens please can you bring back anything you find that isn't your child's and we will reunite it with its owner, who will probably have your child's item! This includes lunchboxes and water bottles.

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

CHILDLINE

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](#)

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware/>



Parking near the school site and considerate road use

We have received a number of complaints from the school's neighbours regarding inconsiderate, and often illegal, parking by parents accessing the school in the mornings and afternoons, including parking on the zig-zag lines outside school and parking on double yellow lines. Unfortunately, there was a serious incident relating to parking this week. Please may I remind you to consider 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 considerately and ensure you are not obstructing drives, garages or access to roads. Parking irresponsibly causes upset and frustration for all, which can lead to unnecessary confrontation. Please be respectful of our neighbours and remember that parking on zig-zag lines at any time of the day is prohibited.

- Turning off your engine

An idling car can produce up to twice as many exhaust fumes than a moving car, which contain harmful pollutants that significantly affect the local quality of air - putting people's health at risk, affecting children's development and contributing towards climate change.

By reminding parents to turn their engines off whilst parked, we can help protect young lungs and create a cleaner, greener and healthier borough."

Our Designated Safeguarding Team

Ms Sulis - Deputy Head (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Pears - Head teacher (Designated Safeguarding Officer)
Mrs Sowa - Inclusion Lead (Designated Safeguarding Officer)
Ms Keegan - Assistant Head (Designated Safeguarding Officer)



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 Key Stage Two** for another academic year 2024-25. We encourage you to take advantage of this free offer. It means that all children from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a hot school dinner every day.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY - A MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER - EWO

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my recent visit to Blessed Dominic School, when monitoring the attendance, I have noticed that there are a lot of children arriving late into school. This is very disruptive for the whole class and the child. Please ensure that you are more organised in the morning. Children will not be allowed into assembly if they are late. How would you like it if your child's teacher was late? Your child is missing vital learning. Arriving on time into school ensures your child settles in, meets their friends and are prepared to start the day.

Please note: **Any child that is absent before or after a school holiday without sufficient evidence will be issued with a fixed penalty notice from The London Borough of Barnet.**

Some families will be receiving a letter from the education welfare team due to their child being persistently absent.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation, Education Welfare officer.

Criteria for Attendance and Punctuality –

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.

STARWORKER



Bluebells -Ada
Daisies- Momina
1B - Michael
1D – Caitlyn
2B - Angel
2D- David
3B - Pehel
3D - Tami
4B - Jasmine
4D - Daniil
5B - Ryan
5D - Alfie
6B - Luca
6D- Kevin

TEAMPLAYER

Bluebells -Cortez
Daisies- Nicole
1B – Isabelle
1D – Marcel
2B - Azai
2D- Joanna
3B - Jaida
3D – Whole Class
4B – Shyllah
4D - Gabriel
5B - Sarah
5D - Angel
6B – Jaiden
6D- David

STARWRITER



Bluebells -Keyaan
Daisies- Gabriel
1B - Yasemin
1D - Kevin
2B - Caroline
2D- Cameron K
3B – Natalia
3D - Edward
4B - Alycia
4D - Willow
5B – Mia B
5D - Ioana
6B – Mya
6D- Emilia

Attendance this Week

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

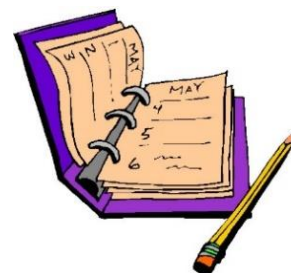


Congratulations to 3B, 3D & 6B who achieved the highest attendance this week.

Year 4D Bikeability Workshop



Diary Dates



MARCH

6 th - Bluebells Library visit	
7 th - Collective Worship 2B	2.45pm
7 th - Dance Festival	7.00pm
8 th - Collective Worship 6D	
11 th - Collective Worship 1D	2.45pm

13 th Daisies Library visit	
14 th - Collective Worship 5B	2.45pm
14 th - Road Safety Workshop Year 2	
18 th - Year 1D School Trip	
19 th - Year 4 at St James to watch 'Zest' production	
20 th - SEND Coffee Morning	9.10am
20 th - International Evening	
25 th - Year 1B School Trip	
26 th - Years 3 and 4 Easter Service	9:15am
28 th - Years 3 and 4 Easter Service	9:15am
28 th - Break up for Easter End of Term	1.30pm

APRIL

Monday 1st April – Friday 12th April 2024 – Easter Holidays. Pupils return on Tuesday 16th April

15th – INSET DAY

17 th -19 th	5B SPEC
24 th – 26 th	5D SPEC
29 th -Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Workshop	

MAY

6 th Bank Holiday	
13 th – 16 th Year 6 SATS WEEK	

Monday 27th May –Friday 31st – MAY HALF TERM. Pupils return on Monday 3rd June.

JUNE

10 th Year 6 PGL Trip	
27 th – Sports Day	

JULY

9 th – Reception Graduation	9.15am
9 th – Year 2 Graduation	2.00pm
19 th –Last day of term	

Easter Camp 2024!

Non Stop Action are looking forward to **Easter Camp 2024!** 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 2 weeks in the Easter Break, from **Tuesday 2nd April - Friday 12th April**. Bookings made before **Saturday 16th March** will automatically get our Early Bird discounts applied, 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/>



A visit from our local Police Officer

The new primary school Police Officer for Barnet visited us last Friday to introduce himself and deliver safety talks to our children on a variety of topics including, stranger awareness (now referred to as 'Clever Never Goes'), Road Safety, Online Safety etc.

