BLESSED DOMINIC CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Love Learn Believe

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Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last night, I had the honour of attending the Barnet Schools' dance festival at the Arts Depot, Finchley, and had the privilege of watching our extremely talented dancers perform. I would like to congratulate the children from Key Stage Two who took part, not only for their polished performance, but also for being outstanding ambassadors for our school. We are very proud of you. It was also lovely to see parents, grandparents and carers who were there to support their children. I would like to thank our dance teacher, Miss Hunt from 'Non-Stop Action', for doing a great job choreographing the dance and I would also like to extend my thanks to Miss Slattery and Mrs Donno, for supervising the children during the day and in the evening.

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

Last Monday, members of the school council met The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor Nagus Narenthira, who hosted a robe show at Hendon Town Hall. The children learnt about local democracy, the history of the London Borough of Barnet and had an opportunity to dress up!

This Sunday it is the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

Loving God, show us how to reach out to others around the world in love and to support them to build a better future, free from poverty.
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.

Please see letter sent home

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 – PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM!!!

The lost property box xontinues to bulge at the seams. 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 has 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**
- 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. 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 driving is essential when dropping off or collecting 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 children's safety is our main priority and this includes their journey to and from school. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Please note the RAF Museum is providing 40 minutes free parking for all our parents/carers to ease the congestion on Great Strand.

Please make the most of this facility.

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 – EWO visit

Our designated local authority Education Welfare Officer will be visiting on Monday 11th March 2024. Hopefully next week, I will be able to share the improvements made in both reducing persistent absence and persistent lateness.
Thank you to all those families who are making a greater effort to ensure their child attends school everyday and is on time.

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.

STAR WORKER

Bluebells -Kendrick
Daisies- Eva
1B - Alicja
1D – Sachit
2B – Caroline
2D- Eveline
3B - Hesley
3D - Francesc
4B -Chioma
4D -Guilherme
5B - Joshua
5D – Justin
6B - Gabby
6D- Oliver O

TEAM PLAYER

Bluebells -Honey
Daisies- Aiyana
1B – Adedolapo
1D – Aida
2B - Ademilade
2D- Hazel
3B - Valentina
3D – Arvin
4B – Devan
4D - Samuel
5B - Liam
5D - Imani
6B – Sarah & Vanessa L
6D- Leonal

STAR WRITER

Bluebells -Agatha
Daisies- Andrei V
1B - Aliza
1D – Oscar D
2B - Sami
2D- Arsema
3B – David
3D - Lily
4B -Natalia
4D - Mateo
5B – Kaja
5D – Chidera
6B – Christopher
6D- Janelle and Josephine

Attendance this Week

Bluebells	**97%**
Daisies	**95%**
1B	**97%**
1D	**96%**
2B	**96%**
2D	**98%**
3B	**96%**
3D	**99%**
4B	**96%**
4D	**99%**
5B	**96%**
5D	**97%**
6B	**93%**
6D	**98%**

Congratulations to 3D & 4D who achieved the highest attendance this week.

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/

NON STOP Action!
SMALL STEPS, BIG FUTURES

Diary Dates

MARCH

11th - Collective Worship 1D 2.45pm
13th Daisies Library visit
13th Year 1B School Trip
14th - Collective Worship 5B 2.45pm
14th – Road Safety Workshop Year 2
19th - Year 4 at St James to watch 'Zest' production
20th – SEND Coffee Morning 9.10am
20th – International Evening
26th - Years 3 and 4 Easter Service 9:15am (More information to follow).
28th- Years 3 and 4 Easter Service 9:15am (More information to follow).
28th - 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
17th-19th 5B SPEC
22nd – 4B School Trip
22nd - 1D School Trip
24th – 26th 5D SPEC
29th - Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Workshop
29th – 4D School Trip

MAY

6th Bank Holiday
13th – 16th Year 6 SATS WEEK
Monday 27th May –Friday 31st – MAY HALF TERM. Pupils return on Monday 3rd June.

JUNE

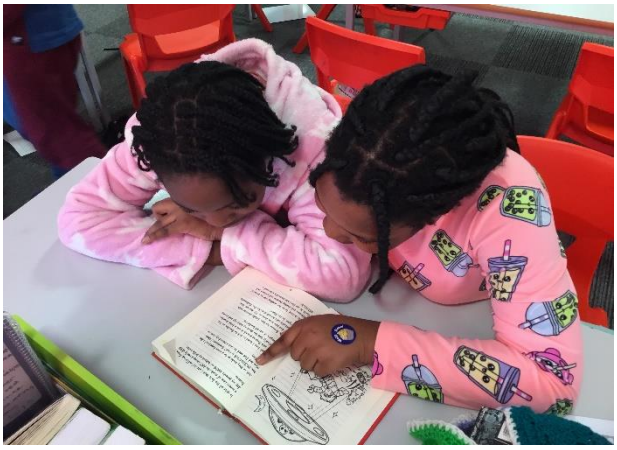
10th Year 6 PGL Trip
27th – Sports Day

JULY

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

'WORLD BOOK DAY'

LET'S CELEBRATE



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