



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Great Strand Colindale London NW9 5PE
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Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We enjoyed a wonderful Wednesday afternoon this week as we came together to celebrate our richly diverse family. Well done to everyone who attended the event and a huge thank you to all those who cooked and donated traditional foods representing their country. I would also like to thank our children for their excellent performances and well done to all those who wore traditional dress. It was great to see so many countries represented and we are very proud of our unique and diverse community. I would like to thank all the staff for their help and support, as well as 'The Parents' Group' for helping to plan and organise the food and fashion parade. I would also like to extend a special word of thanks to Miss Keegan for co-ordinating the whole event.

Well done everybody. Please see the photos at the end of this newsletter.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. Best Wishes, Mrs Pears

This Sunday is Palm Sunday (Year A)

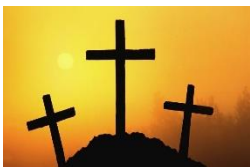
We will hear how crowds of people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem and how he was crucified.



was

We have palms to remind us of how the people cut branches and laid them in the road before him as they shouted with joy.

Stations of the Cross



Tuesday 26th March at 9.15am

and



Thursday 28th March at 9.15am

Presented by Years 3 and 4

Parents of children in Years 3 and 4 are welcome to
attend the service on a particular day. (Please see letter sent home)



EASTER RAFFLE 2024



We are delighted to be holding our annual Easter Egg Raffle on
Wednesday 27th March 2024

We would really appreciate it if you could donate any Easter eggs, any shape or size.
Please send in donations of Easter eggs to the school office by Monday 25th March 2023
Raffle tickets are on sale in the school office.

End of term reminder:

The last day of the spring term will be on Thursday 28th March 2024. School will finish for children at 1.30pm on that day.



EASTER HOLIDAYS DATES

Friday 29th March – Monday 15th April 2024

(Please note that Monday 15th April is an INSET day).



Children return to school on

Tuesday 16th April 2023 from 8.40am

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. **21%** 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.

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.



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.

LOST PROPERTY – PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD’S UNIFORM!!!

The lost property box is overflowing. The best way to make sure 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. It is very upsetting to see brand new uniform abandoned and staff cannot return the item of uniform to its owner as there is no name on it.

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.



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.



Online Safety information for parents

Our pupils are growing up in a world of ever-changing technology. While we feel that the use of technology is a largely positive aspect of modern life, we cannot ignore the risks that can be associated.

Throughout school we aim to teach children:

- About the impact of cyber-bullying and what to do if they have been affected.
- To be vigilant when communicating online recognising that people may not always be who they say they are and to be sensible about what they share.
- To tell an adult they trust if something is upsetting them.
- To question the reliability of information given through a web based source.
- To search responsibly for information while using internet browsers.

We understand that much of our pupil's use of the internet will occur at home, away from the school filters.

Below are a list of useful websites, advice and resources that you may find helpful when navigating the issue of online safety with your child. At the bottom of this page are resources that your child can directly access as well to help them learn about online safety.

<https://safetynet.skipseducational.org/parent-guides/>

Thinkuknow <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

National Online Safety <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

Childnet <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

CEOP <http://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>



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/>



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)



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/>



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 can see that the overall trends of attendance are improving but there is still work to do.

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.

Attendance this Week

Bluebells	99%
Daisies	95%
1B	91%
1D	92%
2B	99%
2D	99%
3B	96%
3D	94%
4B	90%
4D	99%
5B	96%
5D	99%
6B	98%
6D	95%



Congratulations to Bluebells, 2B, 2D, 4D & 5D & who achieved the highest attendance this week.

STAR WRITER



Bluebells -Eli
Daisies- Nicole
1B - Sadat
1D – Daphne
2B - Anastasia
2D- Sophie
3B – Kamar
3D - Joel
4B - Ariana
4D - Jesse
5B – Divine
5D – Jiyan
6B – Vanessa L
6D- Josephine

STAR WORKER



Bluebells -David
 Daisies- Amaka
 1B – Whole Class
 1D – Whole Class
 2B – Nikisha
 2D- Arsema
 3B – Whole Class
 3D - Elsa
 4B - Felicity
 4D -Mitsui
 5B - Maria
 5D –Gabby
 6B - Luca
 6D- Whole Class

TEAM PLAYER

Bluebells -Keeyan
 Daisies- Christopher
 1B – Alexander
 1D – Oscar D
 2B - Kasian
 2D- Rafael
 3B - Raynell
 3D – Stella
 4B – Luca
 4D - Kezia
 5B - Giovanna
 5D - Jasmine
 6B – Mahniya
 6D- Grace



MARCH		
25th	Wates TIME CAPSULE site visit	
26th	Years 3B and 4B Easter Service	
28th	Years 3D and 4D Easter Service	
28th	Break up for Easter End of Term	1.30pm
APRIL		
15 th	INSET DAY	
16 th	Pupils return to school	
17 th -19th	5B SPEC	
22nd	4B School Trip	
22nd	1D School Trip	
24 th -26th	5D SPEC	
29 th	Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Workshop	
29th	4D School Trip	
MAY		
6th	Bank Holiday	
13 th -16th	SATs Week	
27 th – 31st	HALF TERM	
JUNE		
3rd	Pupils return to school	
4 th	New Parents (Sept 2024) Nursery Meeting	6.00pm
5th	New Parents (Sept 2024) Reception Meeting	6.00pm
6 th	Secondary Transfer Meeting	3.30pm
10 th - 14th	Year 6 PGL	
13th	Father's day Event	
20th	Barnet Music Festival	
27th	KS1 /KS2 Sports Day	
JULY		
9th	Reception Graduation	9.15am
9th	Year 2 Graduation	2.00pm
16th	Year 6 Production	7.00pm
17th	Year 6 Production	7.00pm
18th	Year 6 End of Year Mass	9.05pm
19th	Last day of Term	





PHOTOS FROM INTERNATIONAL EVENING 2024



