



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

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**Friday 19th April 2024**

### **Dear Parents**

I would like to welcome you back to school and hope that everyone has had a restful break. The summer term is traditionally a very busy one and we are looking forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Please read your year groups' curriculum letter and RE newsletter for this term.

This week, class 5B had their two-night residential visit to the retreat centre, which belongs to the Diocese of Westminster. The children thoroughly enjoyed their experience and 5D are looking forward to their visit next week. Wishing you a very lovely weekend

Best wishes Mrs G Pears

### **On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April it is the – Feast day of St George**

**As St George was a martyr, someone who died for their faith, the readings on his feast day reflect this.**

Psalm 126 says, "Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy."

***Saint George,***

***With courage, you stood up to those in power, to tell them that what they were doing was wrong.***

***Pray that we, too, may have courage to stand up for what is right, with God's help.***

***You were not ashamed of your faith.***

***Pray that we, too, may be proud of our faith, and may cheerfully show the love of Jesus in all that we do. St George, pray for us.***

***Amen.***



## NURSERY AND RECEPTION MEETINGS FOR NEW PARENTS

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm**

Meeting for new Nursery parents whose child  
will start Nursery in September 2024



**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 6.00pm**

Meeting for new Reception parents whose  
child will start Reception in September 2024



**Please note, these meetings are for adults only.**

**Please do not bring your child with you.**

**Thank you.**

### 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. **22%** 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.



## **YEAR 5 SECONDARY TRANSFER MEETING**



This meeting for parents of children in Year 5 will take place on

**Thursday 13th June 2024 at 3.30pm**

In the school hall.

It is important that you attend as information leaflets regarding secondary transfer will be distributed at the meeting.

Please see letter sent home

## **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.**



### **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



### **Attendance this Week**

Bluebells	93%
Daisies	95%
1B	97%
1D	89%
2B	96%
2D	98%
3B	95%
3D	97%
4B	100%
4D	99%
5B	95%
5D	98%
6B	96%
6D	97%



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



## 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/>



### 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)



### 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/>



### 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.**







<b>APRIL</b>		
22nd	4B School Trip	
22nd	1D School Trip	
24 <sup>th</sup> -26th	5D SPEC	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Workshop	
29th	4D School Trip	
<b>MAY</b>		
6th	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup> -16th	SATs Week	
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31st	<b>HALF TERM</b>	
<b>JUNE</b>		
3rd	<b>Pupils return to school</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup>	New Parents (Sept 2024) Nursery Meeting	6.00pm
5th	New Parents (Sept 2024) Reception Meeting	6.00pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Secondary Transfer Meeting	3.30pm
10 <sup>th</sup> - 14th	Year 6 PGL	
13th	Father's day Event	
20th	Barnet Music Festival	
27th	KS1 /KS2 Sports Day	
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>3rd</b>	Open Evening	3.30pm
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	



# CLASS 5B SPEC RETREAT





