



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Great Strand Colindale London NW9 5PE
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Friday 6th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update

You will be aware that yesterday lunchtime, I took the decision to send the children home as a precautionary measure, in response to a security alert at St James'. When the site at St James' was evacuated, a number of volunteer staff, alongside personnel from the emergency services, undertook a full site inspection and nothing of concern was identified. Both sites were declared safe, later on that afternoon.

I would like to thank parents/carers and children for their fantastic response to this unprecedented event. I would also like to congratulate the staff on the way that they looked after the children and for their professionalism and care.

October

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is a way of proclaiming the Gospel and increasing our knowledge of Christ. Blessed Dominic Barberi was one of the first people to pray the rosary. He spread devotion to it and used it to strengthen his own spiritual life. During October, the children will be learning about the Rosary and its importance to their everyday lives. You will be able to access resources on the Rosary via the link below:

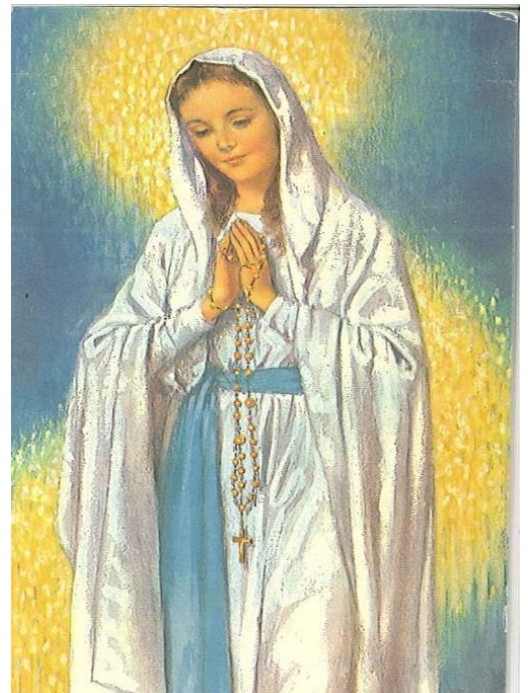
<https://education.rcdow.org.uk/the-rosary-resources/>

As part of our Black History celebrations next week, we have invited a group to deliver African drumming workshops to classes across the school.

Wishing you all a very happy and restful weekend.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Pears



Prospective Nursery /Reception Meeting

For September 2024

Wednesday 1st November at 5.30pm

or

Thursday 2nd November at 9.05am



Grandparents' Afternoon Tea

Friday 20th October 2023

at 1.45pm

(separate letter with details to come)



Consultation Evening

18th October Parent Consultation Meeting

5.00-8.00pm

19th October Parent Consultation Meeting

3.30-6.30pm



Year 5 retreat to 'SPEC' April 2024

We would like to invite all **current Y5 parents** to a meeting where you can find out information about the trip and raise any questions that you may have.

The meeting will take place on

Monday 2nd October 2023 at 3.30pm



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>

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 6% of parents have donated so far this term please if you haven't done so already, make your payment on 'Parent Pay'

Your ongoing generosity and support is greatly appreciated and 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.

HARVEST APPEAL 2023 **Friday 20th October 2023**



This year, as part of our Harvest thanksgiving, we are asking children for a donation of non-perishable food items such as tinned soup, beans, fish, pasta, rice, cereal, tea bags and coffee to name but a few.

Your child can start bringing in their donations from **Monday 16th October** and the last day will be **Thursday 19th October**, where they'll be placed in their class food basket. Donations will go to help the 'Food Bank Aid' based in North London who are experiencing higher than usual demand.

Thank you in advance for your continual support.



Friday 13th October - JUST ONE Tree Day.



Our school will be taking part in JUST ONE Tree Day.

Each child will be encouraged to ' **wear something green** ' and bring in £1 to plant a tree - uniting children, parents and schools across the world in taking positive action for our climate. Please see separate letter.

Together let's plant a future for our children. Please click on link for information about the charity

<https://www.justonetree.life/about-us.html>



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

STAR WORKER



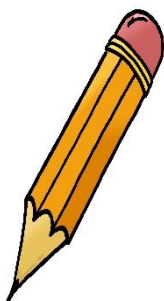
Bluebells –Willaim
Daisies –Leah
1B – Elijah
1D – Bruno
2B – Charlotte
2D – Isreal
3B – Natalie
3D –Jayramdas
4B – Whole Class
4D –Makaiya
5B – Alexi
5D – Jiyen
6B – Ola
6D –Seren

TEAM PLAYER



Bluebells –Cortez
Daisies - Reign
1B – Isabelle
1D – Daphney
2B – Whole Class
2D - Kmail
3B – Okundalaiye
3D – Alexandra
4B – Bilal
4D – Emmanuel
5B –Sarah
5D –Whole Class
6B – David and Rhafaell
6D – Angel

STAR HANDWRITER



Bluebells – Ada
Daisies - Serioga
1B –Mateus
1D – Caitlyn
2B – Howard
2D - Sophie
3B – Pehel
3D – Tami
4B – Tiara
4D –Lily- Rose
5B - Kendrick
5D –Kemiye
6B – Myintmo
6D –Riechet

Attendance this Week

Bluebells	97%
Daisies	96%
1B	94%
1D	98%
2B	100%
2D	96%
3B	99%
3D	98%
4B	99%
4D	98%
5B	97%
5D	96%
6B	99%
6D	95%

Congratulations to 2B who achieved the highest attendance this week. (100%)

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:0800 1111)
- 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>

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/>

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager



NON STOPAction!
SMALL STEPS. BIG FUTURES

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

11th	Black History Workshop/Day	ALL DAY
16 th	4B Collective Worship	2.45pm
18th	Parent Consultation Meeting	3.30-6.30pm
19th	Parent Consultation Meeting	5.00-8.00pm
19 th	4D Collective Worship	2.45pm
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
2 nd	3B Collective Worship	2.45pm
3rd	Year 6 SATS Meeting	3.30pm
9 th	3D Collective Worship	2.45pm
10 th	2D Collective Worship	2.45pm
14th	SEND coffee morning (parents)	9.30am
15th	Diwali Workshop	ALL DAY
16 th	4D Collective Worship	2.45pm
20 th	Anti-Bullying workshop	ALL DAY
27 th	1D Collective Worship	2.45pm
28 th	1B Collective Worship	2.45pm
30 th	5B Collective Worship	2.45pm

DECEMBER

1st	Advent Reconciliation Service	9.15am
1 st	6B Collective Worship	2.45pm
4th	KS2 PANTO	
5th	KS1 PANTO	
7th	Christmas jumper day	ALL DAY
7 th	5D Collective Worship	2.45pm
8 th	6D Collective Worship	2.45pm
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

8 th	Back to school	8.40am
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FEBRUARY

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

12th – 16th – FEBRUARY HALF TERM

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

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.



BLESSED DOMINIC CATHOLIC PRIMARY IS COLLECTING FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL



FOOD BANK AID

FOOD BANKS URGENTLY NEED DONATIONS

Food Bank Aid delivers your donations to 30 food banks each week, supporting 16,000+ people (including 5,200 children) across North London.

WHAT THE FOOD BANKS REALLY NEED



Tinned food - meat, fish, fruit, veg



Jam, honey and peanut butter



Breakfast cereals and porridge



Biscuits, crackers, cereal bars & dried fruit



Rice, grains & noodles



Laundry tablets and washing up liquid



Instant coffee and tea



Baby formula & nappies (large sizes), creams

HOW TO DONATE FOR FOOD BANK AID

Please bring your donations to school from **16th - 20th October**. Thank you!



Food Bank Aid: North London



@foodbankaid_nl

We raised £770.00 for Macmillan Cancer research thanks to your support at the Cake Sale.

