



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Great Strand Colindale London NW9 5PE
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Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to report that class 4B attended the Diocesan Advent Carol service for Catholic primary schools at Westminster Cathedral last Wednesday. It was a wonderful occasion and an opportunity for our children to join other children from across the Diocese in prayer and reflection. Well done 4B. Please see photos at the end of this newsletter.

Today, we ended a very busy week with our Advent Reconciliation service. Father Brian led the service and class representatives from across the school presented their Advent promises. The challenge is now for the children to keep their Advent promise and to work as a class to achieve their Action for Advent goal.

Wishing you a very warm and restful weekend.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Pears

ADVENT

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent – a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus. Jesus asks us all to keep watch for him so that we will be ready when he comes. **Mark 13:33-37**

Living God, help us to listen to your word,
to be kind and generous and helpful to others
and to be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes.
Amen

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope.



Nativity Plays and Carol Services

Tuesday 12th Reception Nativity	9.30am
Tuesday 12th KS1 Nativity 1B and 2B Parents	2.00pm
Wednesday 13th KS1 Nativity 1D and 2D Parents	2.00pm
Monday 18th Nursery Nativity	9.30am
Tuesday 19th KS2 Carol Service years 3-4	7.00pm
Wednesday 20th KS2 Carol Service years 5-6	7.00pm



Admission to all events will be by ticket only so as to comply with health and safety legislation. For further information, please see separate phase letter sent out for each individual service. Thank you

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thursday 7th December 2023

The charity supported by this event this year is



For a donation of **£2.00**, we would like your child to wear a Christmas Jumper on Thursday 7th December 2023 to support this worthy charity.

If your child doesn't have a Christmas jumper, they can wear a jumper of their choice. They will also be allowed to wear casual trousers, jeans or leggings with their jumper.



School Meals



Primary school children in state-funded schools in London will get free school meals for the 2023-24 school year. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has provided the funding as an emergency cost of living support measure.

The Mayor recognises that families are in urgent need of support and the meals will help families with the spiralling cost of living by making sure that children in state-funded London schools will receive free school meals in this academic year.

Please do not pay for school lunch on Parent pay

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 **15%** 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. It means that we can continue to purchase high quality resources to support your child's learning and prepare them for the future.

Applications for Reception and Nursery 2024/2025

Parents, please remember to complete the Barnet CAF online to Barnet Admissions team by **Monday 15th January 2024**

NURSERY – A priest's signature is required on the Nursery application form along with other supporting documents. Please see the Nursery application pack for details.

RECEPTION – Following guidance from the Diocese of Westminster, the Certificate of Catholic Practice is no longer required. However, a Catholic Baptism certificate must still be provided along with the other supporting documents.

RECEPTION PLACES – 2024-2025

Parents, please remember to complete the Barnet CAF online to Barnet Admissions team by **Monday 15th January 2024**

Blessed Dominic School Forms must be returned as soon as possible but no later than **Monday 15th January 2024**

PARKING at the beginning and end of the day!

The local authority are finalising an initiative to reduce congestion on Great Strand both on the road and footpath. You will be aware that the current situation is compromising the safety of all and therefore we need to work together. In the meantime, every driver and pedestrian has a duty and a responsibility to exercise common sense and behave in a sensible and courteous way. I know that as a community, we are very good at showing our care and support for one another, but sometimes, especially if we are in a rush, our frustrations can get the better of us and the sound of car horns and angry words fill the air. Please be patient. Better days are ahead and please continue to exercise care and consideration for others. I encourage you to use the **car park at the RAF Museum** where you can **park for free**. Blessed Dominic School is only a short walk away. Thank you for your ongoing support.



SCHOOL UNIFORM REMINDER



As winter is now upon us, I would like to remind you that children should be wearing **black, royal blue or navy blue coats, scarves, gloves and headwear that keeps them warm.**

Any other colours (including pink) are not part of the school uniform code. Thank you for your cooperation.

Blessed Dominic Food Bank

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we understand there has been a huge strain on many families in our school community due to the cost of living crisis. We would like to support as many families as possible by creating food hampers made from your generous donations of non-perishable items such as: breakfast cereals, tinned soup, pasta etc.

We are asking for children to bring in their donations by Friday 7th December 2023 in order for the food hampers to be created and distributed before the end of term.

I would like to thank you in advance for your continual support and generous donations as I know they will be greatly appreciated.



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.



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.

Following School Uniform Policy

Nursery children

Light blue polo shirt (with embroidered logo). Royal blue school sweatshirt (with printed logo)
Royal blue school joggers. Sensible black shoes (not trainers)

Reception – Year 6

Boys

Grey Trousers. Blue shirt (Long or short sleeve). School Tie. Royal Blue Knitted V neck Jumper (with embroidered logo). White/grey socks. Sensible plain black shoes (not trainers)

Summer Uniform

Grey shorts. Blue shirt (Short sleeve) White socks (no trainer socks please) School tie

Girls

Grey Tunic/skirt. Blue Shirt/blouse (Long or short sleeve) School Tie. Royal Blue Knitted Cardigan/V neck Jumper (with embroidered logo) White socks. Sensible plain black shoes (not trainers)

Black/grey woollen tights

Summer Uniform

Summer Dress (blue and white check) White socks (no trainer socks please)

P E KIT

White tipped Polo shirt (with printed logo) Royal Blue Shorts

School tracksuits top and joggers. Black plimsolls, plain white or black trainer

School Hats

School baseball cap (with printed logo) School sun hat (with printed logo)

Non-uniform jumpers and baseball caps are not allowed.

School Coats

School coats must be black or navy and ideally have a hood. No other coloured coats are allowed.

School fleece and waterproof jackets (with printed logos) are available to purchase from the school office.

School bags

Blessed Dominic Book bags for Foundation and Key Stage One

Blessed Dominic rucksacks (with logo) are permitted for Key Stage Two

All items of clothing should be clearly labelled even swimming kit.

Appearance

1. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery or any form of necklace or bracelet in school as this could be a cause of injury
2. Only children in Year 6 are allowed to wear watches but must accept responsibility for their own property. Smart watches and wearable smart technology are not permitted.
3. Nail varnish is NOT allowed
4. Sensible black shoes (flat)
5. Hairstyles must be simple, neat and tidy, of a natural colour and must be worn off the face.



New Year Camp 2024 Non Stop Action are looking forward to **New Year 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 1 week, from **Tuesday 2nd January - Friday 25th January.**

Head to our website to book now: <https://www.nonstopaction.co.uk/>

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager



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>



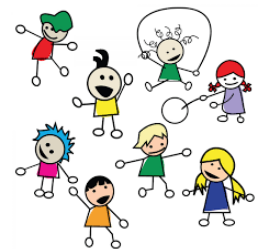
STAR WORKER

Bluebells –Alexandra
 Daisies –Andres
 1B – Adeolapo
 1D – Oscar D
 2B – Madison
 2D – Adrien
 3B – Arianna
 3D –Rhema
 4B – Anaya
 4D –Mateo
 5B –Alexi
 5D – Imani
 6B – Vanessa
 6D – Leonal



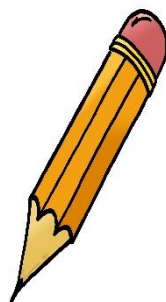
TEAM PLAYER

Bluebells –William
 Daisies -Liz
 1B –Hephizibah
 1D –Whole Class
 2B – Audrey
 2D - Kamil
 3B – Alexandra
 3D –Ruixi
 4B – Radin
 4D –Alessia
 5B –Aanjan
 5D –Zakaria
 6B – Jules
 6D – Josephine



STAR HANDWRITER

Bluebells – Eli
 Daisies - Nicole
 1B –Antonio
 1D –Meagan
 2B – Angel
 2D - Sebastian
 3B – Jaida
 3D – Christian
 4B – AJ
 4D –Xander
 5B –Patrick
 5D –Angel
 6B – Sean
 6D- Daniel



Attendance this Week

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



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

Diary Dates

DECEMBER

4th KS2 visit to PANTO

5th KS1 visit to PANTO

7th Christmas jumper day

7th 5D Collective Worship

6th 4D Assembly

8th 6D Collective Worship

12th Reception Nativity

12th KS1 Nativity 1B and 2B Parents

13th KS1 Nativity 2nd Performance

14th School Christmas Lunch

18th Nursery Nativity

19th KS2 Carol Service years 3-4

20th KS2 Carol Service years 5-6

21st End of Term

ALL DAY

2.45pm

9.05am

2.45pm

9.30am

2.00pm

2.00pm

9.30am

7.00pm

7.00pm

1.30pm

JANUARY

8th Back to school

15th 3B School Trip

22nd 3D School Trip

8.40am

ALL DAY

ALL DAY

FEBRUARY

2nd Candlemass

7th Parent Consultation Evening

8th Parent Consultation Evening

3.30pm – 6.30pm

5.00pm – 8.00pm

12th – 16th – FEBRUARY HALF TERM

14th Ash Wednesday (Half term)

29th Feb World Book Day

MARCH

7th – Dance Festival

13th International Evening

26th Years 3 and 4 Easter Service

27th Years 3 and 4 Easter Service

28th Break up for Easter End of Term

9:15am

9:15am

1.30pm

APRIL

17th-19th 5B SPEC

24th – 26th 5D SPEC





Westminster Cathedral Carol Service

