



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

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Friday 15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Congratulations to the children and staff in Reception and KS1 for their wonderful nativity plays this week. The children behaved beautifully and all the staff worked very hard to prepare for their special events.

Nursery's presentation of the Nativity takes place on Monday 18th December at 9.30am and the KS2 Carol concerts for years 3 /4 and 5/6 on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th December respectively.

Respect for one another

At school, we urge your children to show respect for their peers and for all adults. The children respond very positively as do all the staff. This term, I would like to thank you, the parent/carer, for ensuring that your child is courteous and kind and for being excellent role models. I would also to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement this term.

As this is the last newsletter before the holidays, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Don't forget, the last day of school is **next Thursday 21st December 2023** and we finish at **1.30pm**. School reopens for pupils on Monday 8th January 2024 at the usual time.

Best Wishes for the weekend,
Mrs Pears

ADVENT

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

On Sunday we hear some more about John the Baptist, who came to tell everyone to get ready for Jesus who is the light of the world. Let's think about what that means.

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- Henri J.M. Nouwen



Nativity Plays and Carol Services

Monday 18th Nursery Nativity

9.30am

Carol services -

Tuesday 19th KS2 Carol Service years 3-4

7.00pm

Wednesday 20th KS2 Carol Service years 5-6

7.00pm

All children in years 3 and 4 are expected to attend on Tuesday 19th December 2023

All children in years 5 and 6 are expected to attend on Wednesday 20th December 2023

Admission to all events will be by ticket only so as to comply with the health and safety legislation. Due to the strict measures in place at the Church, you will not be able to attend the service without a ticket. Please purchase on Parent Pay

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

Visit from Local MP

During the week, we were delighted to welcome Matthew Offord, MP to our school. Every year, he organises a Christmas and Chanukah card competition for the local schools in his constituency. I'm delighted to announce that **Bilal from 4B** was runner up in the Christmas card competition and Matthew Offord presented a prize to him in the presence of his parents. Congratulations to Bilal on this wonderful achievement.

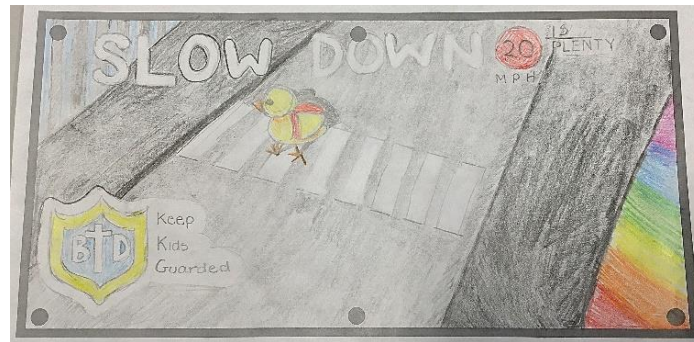


Barnet Road Safety Banner Competition 2023

As part of Road Safety week celebrations, pupils were invited to participate in a competition, where they had to design a thoughtful banner that warned of the dangers on the roads.

Many creative, eye catching and informative entries were received, which made shortlisting the entries very difficult. However, of the entries shortlisted and put forward for Blessed Dominic, one was successful and won the competition.

Congratulations to **Merleah in 6D**, who crafted the winning design and will have her creation transformed into a large PVC banner; which will be hung on the school gates as a helpful reminder to our local community.



End of Term Dates

Thursday 21st December 2023 at 1.30pm.

The children **will wear** their school uniform on that day.

School reopens on
Monday 8^h January 2024 at the usual time.

Blessed Dominic Food Bank

I would like to thank you for your support and for all your generous donations. I know they will be greatly appreciated.



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.

Lost Property

Please clearly name all of your child's uniform. Anything that is named is returned directly to the children.

Lost property is stored in the school office. Children and parents are welcome to search for lost items at the beginning and the end of the day.

Children should be encouraged to look after their belongings and we will positively encourage this attitude in school.

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:08001111)
- 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>



School Street – Coming soon!

I am delighted to inform you that a School street has been approved for Great Strand. This means that cars will not be allowed to travel down Great Strand during drop off and pick up times creating a safer space for pupils and their families from both Blessed Dominic School and St James'. Don't forget, you will be able to park at the RAF Museum free of charge.

The definition of a 'School Street' is below:

A school street is a road outside a school with a temporary motorised traffic restriction on it during term time at school drop-off and pick-up times. Closure points are put in place using cones and road closed signage with a trained volunteer marshal covering closures at all times. Residents are provided with permits to pass through these closures and other key workers/ emergency access is also maintained. The restriction is to create a street environment which encourages cycling, scooting, or walking part or the entire school run and reduce motorised traffic.

It is hoped that this School Street will be in place by May half term 2024 at the latest if not before. More information will follow nearer to the implementation date.



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.



Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School Safeguarding Team

The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead)



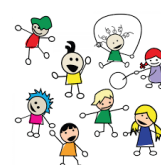
Ms Sulis - Deputy Head (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Pears - Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Officer)
Mrs Sowa – Inclusion Lead (Designated Safeguarding Officer)
Ms Keegan – Assistant Head (Designated Safeguarding Officer)

STAR WORKER



Bluebells –Claire
Daisies –Whole Class
1B – Mateus
1D – Whole Class
2B – Maria
2D – Daria
3B – Anila
3D – Malachi
4B – Natalia
4D – Wiktoria
5B –Mia B
5D – Justin
6B –While Class
6D – Oliver K

TEAM PLAYER



Bluebells –Afonso
Daisies - Gabby
1B –Antonio
1D –Wren, Aida and Lena
2B – Whole class
2D - Cameron
3B – Artem
3D –Jasmine
4B – Alycia
4D – Lily Rose
5B –George
5D – Kayden
6B – Whole Class
6D – Jakub

STAR HANDWRITER



Bluebells – Angelo
Daisies - Andres
1B –Chloe
1D - Kevin
2B – David
2D - Manasseh
3B – Jacob
3D – Alexandra
4B – Aadhis
4D –Emmanuel
5B -Deborah
5D – Zakaria
6B – Kaifala
6D- Nectarie

Attendance this Week

Bluebells	94%
Daisies	92%
1B	75%
1D	85%
2B	98%
2D	96%
3B	98%
3D	95%
4B	98%
4D	97%
5B	97%
5D	91%
6B	98%
6D	97%



Congratulations to 2B, 3B, 4B & 6B who achieved the highest attendance this week.

Diary Dates

DECEMBER

18th Nursery Nativity	9.30am
19th KS2 Carol Service years 3-4	7.00pm
20th KS2 Carol Service years 5-6	7.00pm
21st End of Term	1.30pm

JANUARY

8 th Back to school	8.40am
15 th 3B School Trip	ALL DAY
22 nd 3D School Trip	ALL DAY

FEBRUARY

2 nd Candlemass	
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)

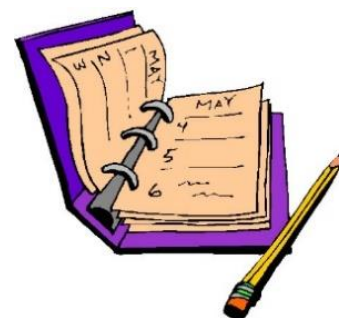
29th Feb World Book Day

MARCH

7 th – Dance Festival	
13 th International Evening	
26 th Years 3 and 4 Easter Service	9:15am
27 th Years 3 and 4 Easter Service	9:15am
28 th Break up for Easter End of Term	1.30pm

APRIL

17 th -19 th	5B	SPEC
24 th – 26 th	5D	SPEC



KS1 Nativity





Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK — and which should be avoided — is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide nice insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to link who can chat to your child or even their friend networks. Remind your child of the hard-to-cross line between strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Offer in relief that some games (such as role-playing games) require less exertion. (Online text games, for example, can't be so strenuous as pointed at a moment's notice.) A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or stretching some back sit.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gardening can be expensive, and younger players often don't realize how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or items for their avatars, so you will need to set an allowance to ensure your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expenditures but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games — or are unaware they even exist. A year's happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then another friend's really scary computer game, then a visit that age ratings mean and what they're for. You could be as strict as the boundary by labeling games' boxes "not for kids" and showing them why some games might have a different rating in your opinion.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel O'Sullivan is not rather specializing in motorcycle riding, getting drunk, racing and weed. He has also written *Wingshield* for children, sending games such as *Warrior*, *Just Legends*, *Warrior*, *Warrior* and *Warrior*. With most published by the likes of PC (Warrior), *Warrior* and *Warrior*. He has released more than 100 games and has been on the scene for over 10 years.



FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a known video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other passions among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this time they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on the console.

ENJOY GAMING
TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play with guinea together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Understandably, some young guinea may be less enthusiastic about a parent or owner joining in, but it can be a good idea to try to encourage them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful if they love pinpoint, choose something to build together, if Fortifier's their favorite, ask to try out some of the fun guinea treats, like Peas Hunt, which don't require much of a wait.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humor and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROILS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who do deliberately trouble you. Make sure your child knows how to report and block people. Use mutes to block out abusive or insulting comments if needed. Remember you decide if or how they should deal with these online. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable. What behavior by other users is really irritating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.



**National
Online
Safety***

#WakeUpWednesday