

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Autumn issue 12 - 28th November 2025



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary dates

Monday 1st December - 4B Collective Worship at 2.45pm
Tuesday 2nd December - 4D Collective Worship at 2.45pm
Wednesday 3rd December - 5B Class Assembly at 9.05am
Wednesday 3rd December - 2D Collective Worship at 2.45pm
Thursday 4th December - 1B Collective Worship at 2.45pm
Friday 5th December - 6D Collective Worship at 2.45pm
Friday 5th December - Advent Reconciliation Service
Monday 8th December - Little Elf Show for Reception
Tuesday 9th December - Reception Nativity 9.30am
Tuesday 9th December - KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

Dear Parents and carers,

This Sunday we enter into the season of Advent—a time of joyful waiting and preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and His return at the end of time. Advent reminds us that God's light shines in the darkness, bringing hope, peace, joy, and love.

Today we lit the first candle on our Advent wreath—a purple candle symbolising hope. This 'Prophet's Candle' reminds us that Jesus is coming.

Our Christmas tree arrives in school on Monday, and I cannot wait to see all of the wonderful, child-made decorations ready to hang on it.

If your child would like to enter the Christmas Card competition, please return their entries to school. Tickets for the upcoming nativities and Grotto visits are now available to purchase via ParentPay.

Whilst we may be tempted by the online shopping offers we must not forget that advent is the time to get ourselves ready. On Friday Fr Brian will be in school leading an advent reconciliation service for years 4-6.

If you are shopping online, may I kindly ask that you consider using the Easyfundraising website so you can help raise funds—at no cost to you—every time you shop.

Wishing you a lovely weeked.
Mrs Hourihan



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**WHAT'S
NEW?**

WEEKLY NEWS

Celebrating Success

Star Worker

Daisies - Giovanna

Bluebells -Zina

1B -Thea

1D - Lucy Lu

2B - Wilfred

2D -Omalley

3B -Meghan

3D - Wrenn

4B - Adrien

4D -Sienna

5B -Shaili

5D -Rhema

6B- Cillian

6D - Kacper



Team Player

Daisies - Oxana

Bluebells -Nylah-Mae

1B - luca, sienna, heart, maria, emilija,
and zaine

1D - Zachariah

2B - Menikam

2D-Aiyana

3B - Caleb

3D - Aaron

4B -Mikhah and Santiago

4D -Deborah

5B -Hesley

5D -Arvin-

6B- Riley

6D -Abigail



Star Handwriter

Daisies - Clara

Bluebells-Eva

1B - zaine

1D -Nectarie

2B -Leia

2D -Eldana

3B - Thomas

3D - Ezra

4B - Olivia

4D - Theodora

5B -Benjamin

5D -Elsa

6B- Gabriela

6D -Samuel



Star Reader

Daisies - Asher

Bluebells-Lucas

1B - Olivia

1D - Adam

2B - Casheem

2D -Andres

3B - Mateus

3D - Whole Class

4B - Arsema

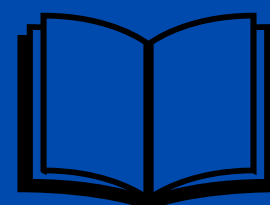
4D -Helena

5B -David

5D -Lily

6B- Tiara

6D - Aaliyah,



ATTENDANCE

Daisies - 84%

Bluebells - 89%

1B -99%

1D -97%

2B- 96%

2D-89%

3B-98%

3D- 97%

4B- 95%

4D - 99%

5B -93%

5D - 89%

6B -96%

6D - 99%

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WEEKLY NEWS

PINES AND NEEDLES

We're excited to share that Blessed Dominic Primary School has kindly been donated a beautiful Christmas tree by Pines and Needles. As part of their gift, they are also offering parents 10% off Christmas trees from their London pop-up stores and online shop.

Discount Code: SCHOOL10

Follow @pinesandneedles for festive activities at local stores, and visit www.pinesandneedles.com for full details and all store locations across London.

CHRISTMAS DATES

Tuesday 9th December – Reception Nativity 9.30am

Tuesday 9th December – KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

Wednesday 10th December – KS1 Nativity 2.00pm

Thursday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Monday 15th December – Nursery Nativity 9.30am

Wednesday 17th December – 5B and 6B Carol Service 7.00pm Church

Thursday 18th December – 5D and 6D Carol Service 7.00pm Church

***Details to follow about tickets for these events**

****Note Year 3 & 4 will be performing the Easter story in March 2026***



Santa's Grotto – Thursday, 11th December

Children will have the chance to meet Father Christmas and receive a small gift.

Please pay £3 via Parent Pay to support this special event.

Thank you for your continued support — it helps us make these exciting Christmas surprises possible for the children!





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UK Parliament Week 2025



A
s part of UK Parliament Week, Year 4 took part in a lively and thoughtful class debate on the question:
“Should women footballers earn as much as male footballers?”

The children explored ideas around fairness, equality, popularity of the sport, sponsorship, and respect in athletics.

Both sides shared strong points, used evidence to support their views, and listened carefully to each other before responding — just like MPs in the House of Commons.

We were so proud of their confidence, teamwork, and growing understanding of democracy and equality.

Their passion for the topic showed excellent Oracy skills in action!



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A Heartfelt Thank You!

We would like to extend a big thank you to all our parents from Nursery and Reception who generously donated to the Little Village Charity in Wembley. Your kindness and support are helping families in need, providing essential items to make a real difference in their lives.

We are so proud of our school community for coming together to support others – it truly shows the spirit of caring and generosity that we value so highly. Thank you again for making this possible!



Football Tournament

On Thursday, our school recently took part in an exciting 7-a-side football tournament featuring 11 other primary schools from across Barnet.

Our Squad - made up of Year 5 and 6 pupils - put in an excellent effort throughout the tournament, securing a well-earned draw in one of their three matches and only narrowly missing out in the other two.

Despite the tough competition, our players demonstrated outstanding teamwork, determination and resilience. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school and showed exemplary sportsmanship.



easyfundraising

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School are using easyfundraising to raise some extra funds - for free! We'd love you to help us by collecting free cashback donations for Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School every time you shop online - all courtesy of the retailer you shop with. The simplest way to do this is to install the free easyfundraising app. You can use it to shop with all of the participating 8,000+ online retailers who will give us free money and it's available for android or iOS devices.

This month only, with their Free £2 App-eal, if you register to support us via their app, we'll get a bonus £2!

Please get the app now and use it for all your Black Friday and Christmas shopping. It would make such a difference. Thank you! Visit https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/?caused=398886&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=app-eal-nov-eml



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Birthday Celebrations

While we love to celebrate each child's special day, we kindly discourage gift bags and food items being brought in. We have a lot of children with allergies so as a community we need to help keep each other safe.

Instead, we encourage children to bring a book to share with the class, which can be added to the class library as a lasting memory of their birthday.

Thank you for your support in keeping celebrations simple, inclusive, and focused on learning!



Keep Your Children Safe This Autumn. BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

The clocks have gone back resulting in darker evenings and reduced visibility for drivers. We encourage all pupils to stay active and enjoy outdoor activities safely.

Help your child to "Be Bright so they can Be Seen" by wearing bright colours during the day and reflective clothing or accessories after dark. When purchasing a new coat, consider one with reflective strips for added visibility.



December Camp 2025

Non Stop Action are very excited that bookings are now open for **December Camp 2025!**

We are running Multi Sports at Moss Hall Junior School (N3 1NR), **Football, Dance** and **Multi Activity Camp** at Millbrook park school (NW7 1JF).

December Camp will run from Monday 22nd - Tuesday 23rd December. Secure your Early Bird discount by booking before Saturday 29th November!

Head to our website to book now:

<https://www.nonstopaction.co.uk/>

Kind Regards,

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager



Governors' Fund £60 per Pupil Contribution



Each year, our school's Governing Board asks families to contribute to the Governors' Fund, which supports important projects and improvements not covered by our regular school budget.

This year, the suggested contribution remains £60 per pupil.

The fund helps us enhance our school environment and resources — for example, improving playground areas, upgrading IT equipment, and supporting enrichment opportunities for pupils.

A huge thank you to all the families who have already contributed — your generosity makes a real difference to what we can offer our children. If you've not yet had the chance to donate and would like to, contributions can be made via Parent Pay.



Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount.

Should any person (parent or staff) have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform one of the school safeguarding team:

- Mrs Sowa - DSL & SENCo
- Mrs Hourihan - Headteacher
- Ms Sulis - Deputy Headteacher
- Ms Smart - Assistant Head

In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a duty to discuss the issue with Social Services to seek further advice. This is the statutory obligation of all schools.



Attendance

Regular attendance plays a vital role in your child's learning and overall development. Every school day counts!

Unfortunately holidays cannot be authorised during term time and authorised absences can only be granted in exceptional circumstance. Please contact the office if you need to request an exceptional leave of absence. These will be considered on a case by case basis.

FPNs (Fixed penalty notices) can be issued for unauthorised absences and the fine is up to £160 per parent.



Uniform reminders

- Ensure ALL items of uniform are clearly labelled.
- School bags should be the school bag, plain blue or black.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- Your child must wear the school PE kit on their PE day
- School shoes (NOT boots) should be black and are to be worn every day except on PE days.
- School trousers should be charcoal grey only.
- School Uniform is available to order and buy through our 'Parent Pay' shop on our website.



SAFER SCHOOL STREET

IN OPERATION
8.15AM – 9.15AM
& 2.45PM – 3.45PM



WE REMIND ALL FAMILIES TO USE THE
P FREE PARKING AVAILABLE
AT THE RAF MUSEUM

WHICH HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE
EXCLUSIVELY FOR BLESSED DOMINIC
PARENTS AND CARERS DURING
DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES

10 Ways You Can USE ROSENSHINE'S PRINCIPLES TO IMPROVE CLASSROOM PRACTICE

ROSENSHINE'S PRINCIPLES

The educational psychologist Barak Rosenshine established ten principles for providing the best conditions to produce positive outcomes for young people.

1. Begin a lesson with a short review of previous learning
2. Present new material in small steps with student practice after each step
3. Ask a large number of questions and check the responses of all students
4. Provide models
5. Guide student practice
6. Check for student understanding
7. Obtain a high success rate
8. Provide scaffolds for difficult tasks
9. Require and monitor independent practice
10. Engage students in weekly and monthly review

1. START WITH STUDENTS IN MIND

Begin by focusing on the young people you teach and their most immediate needs. For example, if they're struggling with independent practice, you may need to prioritise more effective modelling.



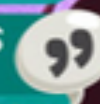
2. CONSIDER HOW OFTEN YOU ENACT THE PRINCIPLES

Rosenshine states that most teachers will be doing these things some of the time, but that the most effective teachers will be doing them more purposefully and frequently. Engage in some honest reflection about how often you carry out each of the principles.



3. GET A COLLEAGUE'S PERSPECTIVE

When working out which of the principles to focus on first, another pair of eyes can help. Ask a colleague to observe and feed back on which principles you're enacting effectively – then cross reference that with your own evaluation to build up a clearer idea of where to begin.



4. CONSIDER THE PRINCIPLES' RELATIONSHIP

After following the previous tips, you may feel ready to work on a specific area of practice. If you've decided, say, to improve your checking for understanding, you'll also want to think about other principles which support that (such as "ask a large number of questions"). Consider how they connect with and complement one another.



5. TAKE A GRANULAR FOCUS

Having explored the principles in relation to your students and your practice, get granular with the area you wish to develop. So if you're aiming to provide more regular models for your students, think about the steps that go into it. Do you need to practise modelling live? Would you benefit from preparing it in advance to begin with?



6. PLAN IN ADVANCE

As the principles focus on classroom practice, it would be easy to wait until you're in the classroom to consider them. The most effective implementation, however, also involves the planning stage: consider the type of questions you'll ask; who you'll ask them to; and what you'll do with the responses.



7. ACCEPT THAT WORKING MEMORY IS LIMITED

The principles sit on the tenet that working memory is limited. Students should use it to engage with their learning, and the principles are designed to support that. Factor this in when planning lessons – and if students are falling behind or lacking understanding, re-evaluate the demands you've placed on working memory.

8. ENSURE LEARNING IS CONTEXTUALISED

Remember that students need learning to be contextualised – it's essential to begin a lesson with a review of previous learning. This can't happen in isolation: ensure that students understand where this review sits in the wider picture of their learning and how today's lesson will benefit from it.

9. AVOID USING THE PRINCIPLES AS A FORM

It can be tempting to look at the principles as a formula which can help give us success criteria for our teaching, but that won't produce effective learning. Consider which principles support learning in each of your lessons rather than trying to squeeze them all in.

10. KEEP RETURNING TO THE LIST

The best way to utilise the principles is to become fluent in them. Understand Rosenshine concluded that these are worth teachers investing their time in. Read Rosenshine's full paper and keep returning to it.

Meet Our Expert

Claire Grimes is Director of Professional Learning and Development for a trust of schools. An experienced teacher and senior leader, she has been an assistant head in grammar and comprehensive settings and Vice-Principal of a large secondary school. Author of *Rosenshine's Principles in Action: The Workbook*, Claire is passionate about improving the life chances of young people through evidence-informed practice.



The
National
College