

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Autumn issue 15- 19th December 2025



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

Christmas Holidays – Monday 22nd December to Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 5th January - INSET DAY

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school

Monday 5th - 16th January - 6B Swimming lessons

Thursday 15th January - **Deadline for Reception and Nursery Applications**

Monday 19th January - Year 5 RAF Trip

Monday 2nd - 12th February- 6D Swimming lessons

Tuesday 10th February - Parent Consultation Evening - **details to follow**

Wednesday 11th February - Parent Consultation Evening - **details to follow**

Dear parents,

I can't believe we have reached the end of the autumn term!

We have had a wonderful week, beginning with our youngest nursery pupils sharing the Nativity story with us, followed by the Year 5 and 6 Carol Concerts on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. I must say, the concerts were phenomenal. We were treated to songs composed and written by our talented pupils; children sang solos and accompanied the carols with violins, drums, and bells. There were many moments on both nights that gave me goosebumps, and God was most definitely present with us. We are so fortunate to have such a talented music teacher, dedicated staff and wonderful pupils which makes this possible. Today, we held our own in-school singing assembly, where each year group had the opportunity to share their singing with one another.

'Christmas is a special time for us all. When God came to Earth as a baby, hope became a reality for us. Christmas is about God's love, hope, joy and the peace that comes from knowing Jesus.'

Thank you for welcoming me so openly into this wonderful Catholic community. I feel very proud and privileged to lead such a special school.

We return to school on Tuesday 6th January, and we will celebrate Mass to mark the Feast of the Epiphany.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Mrs Hourihan

**Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, Great Strand, Colindale,
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WHAT'S NEW?

WEEKLY NEWS

Celebrating Success

Star Worker

Daisies - Paisley
Bluebells - Asher
IB - ianis
ID -Antonio
2B -Santiago
2D -Jimmy
3B -Alexzandra
3D - Aida
4B - Kacper
4D - All of 4D
5B -David, Maria and Artem
5D -Nathan
6B- Natalia
6D - Kezia



Team Player

Daisies - Aria
Bluebells Maria
IB -Raya
ID -Gabriella
2B -Whole class
2D- Aiyana
3B - Whole Class
3D - Mico
4B -Olivia
4D -All of 4D
5B - Kamar
5D -Whole Class
6B- Tobias
6D -Noah



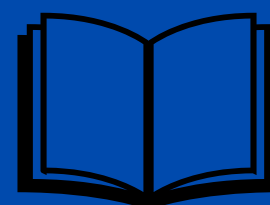
Star Handwriter

Daisies - Che
Bluebells-Luwam
IB -Patrick
ID -Carmo
2B -Jacob
2D -Alexis
3B -Alexa
3D - Lena
4B - Joanna
4D -Anastasia
5B -David
5D -Maya
6B- Bogdan
6D -Abigail



Star Reader

Daisies - Rosanna
Bluebells-Kaashvi
IB - julian
ID - Nectarie
2B -Nicholas
2D - Andrei N
3B -Maximiliano
3D - Brian
4B - Manasseh
4D -Theadora
5B -Alexandra
5D -Carly
6B- Martin
6D -Roham



ATTENDANCE

Daisies -97%

Bluebells -88%

IB - 91%

ID -95%

2B- 90%

2D-98%

3B-98%

3D-90%

4B-99%

4D - 99%

5B -95%

5D -98%

6B - 92%

6D -96%



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Nursery Nativity Performance

Our nursery children put on a wonderful nativity performance last Monday that truly captured the festive spirit confidently sharing the Christmas story. We are incredibly proud of all the children and would like to thank our fantastic staff and supportive families for helping to make this such a special occasion.



Christmas around the World

This week in RE Reception have been looking at Christmas around the world. On the carpet, we read the story of "Babooshka" from Russia.

We listened to "Feliz Navidad" from Spain, and we looked at the light shows and parades from the Philippines and Portugal.

During the children's choosing time they enjoyed making gingerbread a Christmas tradition from Germany.





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Year 5 & 6 Carol Concert

Year 5 and 6 performed beautifully at St Margaret Clitherow's Church this week during their carol concerts. The children sang with confidence and enthusiasm, filling the church with festive cheer. It was a wonderful performance that showcased their hard work and musical talent, and we are extremely proud of them.

Thank you to our staff, families, and Father Brian for supporting such a memorable event.

Also a big thankyou to Ms Rumi Our music teacher.



Class 4B

Year 4B had a wonderful time in DT creating their own Christmas stockings. The children carefully designed, cut, and decorated their stockings, showing great creativity and enthusiasm. It was a fun and festive activity that helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit!



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Sports Leadership Training

Some Year 3 and Year 5 children took part in Sports Leadership training with the Barnet Sports Partnership. They learned how to develop a positive sports mindset and encourage others to join in PE and playground games. The children showed Blessed Dominic Learning behaviours of resilience and participation for all and these children will help Miss Reilly organise fun sports events in the new year.



The Saracens High School Performance

Year 4 had the pleasure of attending The Saracens High School to watch a performance of The Wiz. The play follows Dorothy, a Graham Park schoolteacher, who is swept away to the magical land of Oz and sets off on a journey to find the Wiz, joined by the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and we would like to thank The Saracens High School for inviting us.



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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

Ask Better Questions

The art of asking questions is more complex than we might assume. Teachers ask hundreds of questions every day as they try to unravel what pupils are thinking. If we are to maximise the benefit of using questions to gather feedback, we should aim to ask a range of question types, from information recall to promote retrieval practice to higher-order questions which encourage the development of answers.

1. BE CLEAR

Ask questions which are clear and concise to reduce ambiguity and to ensure that pupils understand what type of response you are looking for. Repeat your question to provide clarity and give wait time.

2. PLAN AHEAD

When developing your scheme of work and planning a series of lessons, allocate time to discuss common misconceptions with colleagues. This will allow you to formulate questions to help dispel misconceptions pupils may have about your subject.

3. GIVE TIME

Give pupils time to process the question you have asked them and to think about their response. This will boost their confidence in sharing ideas without feeling that they are being put on the spot. Research suggests 3-5 seconds of wait time.

10. PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Make time to practise drafting and asking questions with colleagues. This can support the development of the clear and concise questions that you then ask pupils and reduce the potential for misunderstanding.

9. COLD CALL

Encourage pupils to share their ideas with the rest of the class by directing questions to specific pupils. For example, "What is the process of erosion, Tom?".

8. ENCOURAGE THEIR QUESTIONS

Build in time for pupils to ask their own questions, either to you, as the teacher, or to their peers. This will support their own development towards mastery in your subject.

7. USE LOW-STAKE RECALL

Use questioning to gather information quickly about what pupils have understood. This can be achieved through closed questions that allow you, as the teacher, to uncover any misconceptions and gaps in knowledge of the subjects you need to re-teach.

4. BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Take the time to build a classroom culture where pupils feel confident in sharing responses. You can do this by establishing expectations, and creating an environment where pupils feel that they can contribute without fear of retribution from their peers.

5. PROMOTE EXTENSION

Pupils will want to find the shortcut that allows them to provide the shortest response. Instead, encourage pupils to extend on their initial response by asking them a follow-up question, "Can you give me an example...?"

6. MOVE FROM LOW TO HIGH

Use lower cognitive questions to establish foundation knowledge recall, and then build on this by subsequently asking higher-order questions to deepen understanding.

The
National
College

This guide is part of
The National College
staffroom poster series
A collection of information posters
for your school staffroom.

Meet the Expert: Michael Chiles
Principal Examiner, Curriculum
Development Adviser and an
experienced school leader.