

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Spring issue 2- 16th January 2026



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

Monday 19th January - Year 5 RAF Trip
Monday 2nd - 12th February- 6D Swimming lessons
Tuesday 10th February - Parent Consultation Evening - 3:30-6:30pm
Wednesday 11th February - Parent Consultation Evening - 4-7pm
Monday 23rd February - 3B History Museum
Wednesday 25th February - Year 5 SPEC Retreat
Wednesday 4th March - Year 1 Kew Gardens
Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (Dress as a book character)
Monday 9th March - Barnet Dance Festival - Arts Depot
Wednesday 11th March - Whole School Lenten Retreat day

Dear parents / carers,

Values guide how we learn, play, pray, and grow together each day. In developing our school values, we consulted closely with staff, pupils, and our PTA, ensuring that governors, staff, parent and children's voices were heard. Through this shared process, we agreed on values that truly and accurately represent our school community and the way we live and work together. These values are aligned with our Mission Statement — "Love one another, learn together, and believe in God our Father."

Our school values are:

Kindness reminds us to treat everyone with care and compassion, following Jesus' example of love for all.

Respect calls us to honour one another, our learning, and God's creation.

Honesty helps us to speak and act with truth, building trust within our community.

Forgiveness teaches us to heal relationships, show mercy, and begin again with open hearts.

Resilience encourages us to persevere through challenges, knowing that with faith and support, we can grow stronger.

Inclusive celebrates the unique gifts of everyone, ensuring that everyone belongs and is valued.

These values will form the basis of our school rules, helping us all (staff, parents and children) clearly understand how we are expected to live and learn together each day:

- We are kind
- We show respect
- We are honest
- We forgive
- We are resilient
- We include everyone

Together, these values and rules help us create a safe, joyful, and faith-filled school where everyone is known, loved, and supported. By living them each day, we walk together in faith — loving one another, learning together, and believing in God our Father.

Mrs Hourihan

**Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, Great Strand, Colindale,
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On Sunday we hear about something special that happened to Jesus after his baptism.
Gospel: John 1:29-34



**God of power, fill us with your Spirit and
inspire us to make changes to our lives so
that we can support one another to build a
better world.
Amen.**

Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

DAISIES -James
BLUEBELLS -David
1B -Maria
1D -Valerie
2B -Moriah
2D -Leah P
3B -Caleb
3D -Skyler
4B -Callum
4D -Mark
5B -Dawid
5D -Dominic
6B -Whole Class
6D -Iker



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

DAISIES - 92%
BLUEBELLS -94%
1B - 98%
1D -94%
2B -98%
2D - 94%
3B - 99%
3D -96%
4B - 96%
4D -98%
5B - 96%
5D -98%
6B - 96%
6D -97%



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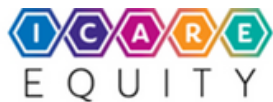


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Chatty Children workshop for Nursery Children



Our school will be hosting a Chatty Children workshop, designed to support parents and carers in developing children's speech, language and communication skills.

The session will share simple, practical ideas to encourage talking, listening and interaction through everyday routines and play. It is led by trained professionals and is suitable for parents and carers of nursery children.

This is a relaxed and informative workshop that will take place in the classroom, with opportunities to ask questions and learn how to support your child's communication at home.

Date: Wednesday 21st January

Time: 8.55 AM session / 12.25 pm Session

Please complete the sign-up form to ensure you have an allocated space at the workshop which we have sent you on the Parents App



February Camp 2026!

Non Stop Action are very excited that bookings are now open for February Camp 2026!
They are running

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

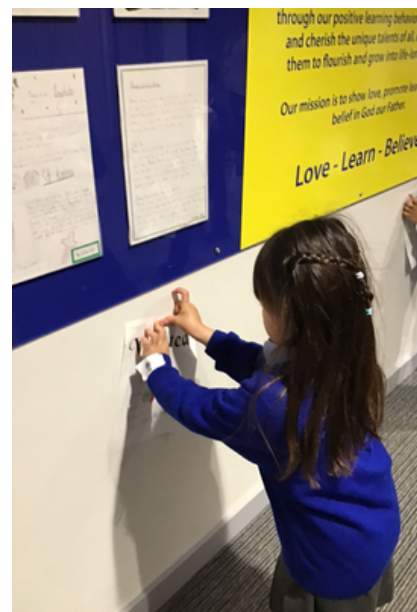
February Camp will run from Monday 16th - Friday 20th February.
Secure your Early Bird discount by booking before Saturday 24th January!
Head to their website to book now: <https://www.nonstopaction.co.uk/>



RECEPTION

On Monday, the Evil Pea destroyed our classroom, so we became police detectives and investigated what had happened.

The children wore police badges, created traps in the construction area, and made wanted posters describing what the Evil Pea looked like. The posters were displayed around the school to help everyone look out for the Evil Pea.





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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.



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.

We do this via the 'Governors Fund' where we ask parents to contribute. We don't stipulate or mandate this but instead prefer to encourage all families to contribute what they can.

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.

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.





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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.



SAFER SCHOOL STREET

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



**WE REMIND ALL FAMILIES TO USE THE
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**

Uniform Reminders

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school uniform expectations.

Please ensure that children come to school wearing their full uniform each day.

- **Trainers should only be worn on PE days and must be plain black or white.**
- **On non-PE days, children should wear black school shoes (not boots).**
- **School socks should be plain grey or white.**
- **School trousers should be grey (leggings are not part of the school uniform).**
- **A school tie should be worn each day.**
- **School coats should be plain blue or black.**
- **Hair below the shoulders should be tied back.**



Uniform is an important part of our identity at Blessed Dominic. As a community, it is important that we all follow these expectations and wear our uniform with pride.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school—we are always happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mud' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👉👉 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emoji) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍹 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.



EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples — please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around | 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-attention or 'simping' |
| 😎 (Cool face) Cool, stylish or ruthless | 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold |
| 😍 (Smiling face with heart eyes) Intense attraction or excitement | 🏆 (Trophy) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.) |
| 😐 (Neutral face) Stone-faced, unbothered | 👉👉 (Hands pointing) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference |
| 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great | 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag: a warning sign about someone's behaviour |

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 🍃 (Falling leaves) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms) | 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness |
| ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine | 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced' |
| 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use | 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm |
| 🍃🍃🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis | ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil |
| 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse | 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles) |

Meet Our Expert

Keith Bruni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Queen's School of Business and Technology.



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