

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Spring issue 8- 6th February 2026

Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

Monday 9th March - Barnet Dance Festival - Arts Depot

Wednesday 11th March - IB Library

Wednesday 11th March - Whole School Lenten Retreat day

Wednesday 18th March - ID Library

Thursday 26th March Easter Service 3B and 4B- 9.15am

Friday 27th March - Easter Service 3D and 4D - 9.15am

Friday 27th March - Last Day of Term – School closes at 1.30pm

Easter Holidays – Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026

Monday 13th April - Children return to School

Monday 20th April - Year 3 School Trip - Ramses and the Pharaohs

Wednesday 22nd April - Year 4 School Trip - St Albans

Dear parents / carers,

We continue our journey through Lent as a school community. As part of this special time, we are collecting donations for our local food bank to help support families in need. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed — your generosity makes a real difference.

Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed a wonderful trip to Kew Gardens, where they explored the beautiful gardens and learned more about plants and nature. It was a fantastic educational experience, and the children represented the school beautifully. Class 3D also had an exciting visit to the Natural History Museum, where they learned about fossils and the history of life on Earth. This was a fascinating experience and linked well with their learning in class.

We were also very excited this week as our chicks have arrived, and several have already begun to hatch. The children have loved observing this process and learning about the life cycle of animals. As the weather begins to improve and we move closer to spring and Easter, it is lovely to see signs of new life all around us.

As part of Science Week, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils attended St James', where they took part in a range of engaging science activities. A reminder for pupils to continue working on their posters and Science Fayre entries, which should be ready for next Friday, 13th March.

Today we celebrated World Book Day. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying stories and sharing their favourite books. This is a good opportunity to remind parents of the importance of reading regularly at home. Just 10 minutes of reading each day can make a big difference to your child's confidence and progress.

We have now set the dates for our Big Lent Walks. It would be lovely if parents were able to join us for these walks as we reflect together during this special time:

- Reception – **Monday 16th March**, 9:00–9:30am
- Year 3 & Year 5 – **Tuesday 17th March**, 9:00–9:30am
- Year 6 & Year 1 – **Wednesday 18th March**, 9:00–9:30am
- Year 2 & Year 4 – **Thursday 19th March**, 9:00–9:30am

Please also remember to donate via our JustGiving page as we continue raising money for CAFOD during Lent.

Looking ahead to next week, we will also be holding our Lenten Retreat. Parents are warmly invited to join us for this special time of reflection at **3:00pm on Wednesday**.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Hourihan

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March is dedicated to St Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the earthly father of Jesus.
St Joseph is a model of humility, obedience, and trust in God's plan.

He is known as the Protector of the Church and an intercessor for families, workers, and all in need.



Prayer for St Joseph

St. Joseph,
guardian of the
Holy Family, pray
for us. Guide and
protect us with
your loving care.
Amen.



Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

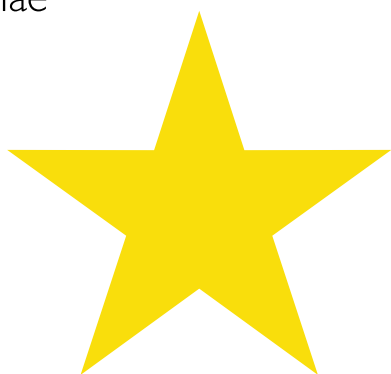
Gospel: John 4:5-42



Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

DAISIES - Myla
BLUEBELLS - Nylah Mae
1B - Thea
1D - Ava
2B - Honey
2D - Eldana
3B - Maximiliano
3D - Kevin
4B - Isreal
4D - Meg
5B - Arwen
5D - Maya
6B - Alycia
6D - Kezia



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

DAISIES - 98%
BLUEBELLS - 98%
1B - 99%
1D - 96%
2B - 97%
2D - 98%
3B - 97%
3D - 97%
4B - 98%
4D - 98%
5B - 98%
5D - 96%
6B - 97%
6D - 100%



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Stations of the Cross Easter Service

**Thursday 26th March at 9.15am 3B and 4B
&
Friday 27th March at 9.15am 3D and 4D**



Tickets available on Parent Pay, please see letter sent home to you on the Parents App

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Lent begins on Wednesday 18th February and our school is proud to be taking part in the
CAFOD Big Lent Walk.

Through prayer, action and generosity, we're stepping out in faith to support communities facing poverty and injustice. We warmly invite families, staff and friends to join the walk, sponsor the children, or make a donation—every step and every gift makes a difference.

Together, let's walk in hope and love this Lent.

To donate and find out more information please visit our Just Giving page:

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/blessed-dominic-big-lent-walk-fundraising-page>

We have also sent details via our Parents App



Class 3D History Museum

Year 3 visited the Natural History Museum as part of their learning about fossils.

The trip gave them a hands-on experience to explore prehistoric life and discover how fossils tell the story of the past.



Year 1 visited Kew Gardens

Year 1 enjoyed a visit to Kew Gardens, exploring the wonders of plants, flowers, and nature as part of their learning about the natural world.



Bluebells

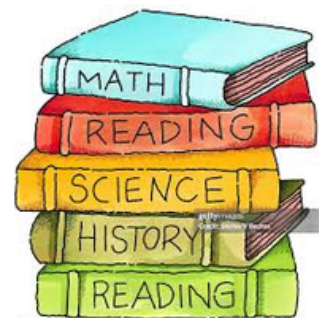
Our chef, Ms Pam, visited Bluebells class for a fun cooking activity with the children. Together they made delicious chocolate crispy cakes while learning some new cooking skills along the way. The children had a wonderful time mixing the ingredients, shaping their cakes, and of course enjoying their tasty creations.

It was a lovely hands-on experience for everyone!



2D Library Visit

2D visited the library this week. We learned how to check out books, how to return books and extend their loan time. We also had a chance to look around the library and how to find different authors.



World Book Day



Today our children had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite stories, exploring a variety of books, and taking part in fun activities throughout the day. It was lovely to see their excitement and imagination as they listened to stories and talked about their favourite characters. World Book Day is a great way to encourage a love of reading, and the children really enjoyed being part of the celebration.





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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!



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.



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.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please make sure your child brings their school PE kit every week if they have been accepted for Ninja Warriors, Football, Spykids, Tennis, Dance or Archery after-school clubs.

**FOR SAFETY REASONS, CHILDREN
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN
THE SESSION IF THEY DO NOT HAVE
THE CORRECT PT KIT WITH THEM.**

Thank you for your support.





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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
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

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.



Easter Camp 2026 is here!

Bookings are now open with Non Stop Action. Join us this Easter for Multi Sports at Moss Hall Junior School (N3 1NR), and **Football, Dance, and Multi Activity Camp** at Millbrook Park School (NW7 1JF).

Camp runs from Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April.

Book by Saturday 7th March to take advantage of our Early Bird discount.

Reserve your place today at:

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

Kind regards,

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager



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 practice 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 involve the planning stage: consider the types of questions you'll ask; who you'll direct 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 FORMULA

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 lessons. 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 why Rosenshine concluded that these ten are worth teachers investing their time in. Read Rosenshine's full paper and keep returning to it.

Meet Our Expert

Claire Gilmer 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

Source: Principles of Instruction: Research-Based Strategies that All Teachers Should Know, by Barak Rosenshine, American Educator Vol. 36, No. 1, Spring 2012, AFT | <https://www.aft.org/sites/default/files/rosenshine.pdf>



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