

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Spring issue 10 - 20th February 2026



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

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
Wednesday 29th April - International Evening 3.30pm-5.30pm (details to follow)
Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5th May - Year 2 RAF Museum
Monday 11th - 14th May - Year 6 KS2 SATS

Dear parents / carers,

This week, our whole school community took part in our Big Lenten Walk to raise money for CAFOD. The children and staff walked proudly through our local community, sharing our Catholic message and coming together in prayer to raise awareness of this important charity. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us—it was wonderful to have your support.

It was particularly special to see our older children walking alongside the younger pupils. This was a beautiful example of solidarity, participation, and concern for the poor—key principles of Catholic Social Teaching that are rooted in Scripture and embedded within our curriculum.

Last week, I also had the privilege of meeting our new Archbishop and sharing with him all about our wonderful school. It was a proud moment to celebrate the faith, values, and achievements of our community.

As we move into the final week of term and closer to Easter, we will reflect on the final moments of Jesus' life through the Stations of the Cross. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have wanted to follow the path Jesus walked during His Passion. As travel to the Holy Land was often difficult or dangerous, believers began creating visual representations of these moments in churches and homes, allowing people to prayerfully follow the "Way of the Cross" within their own communities.

The Stations of the Cross are especially important during Lent, as we prepare for Easter. Through prayer, Scripture, and reflection, we remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus and are invited to walk spiritually with Him on His journey to the cross.

Our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils are currently preparing their own "Way of the Cross", which they will share with our school community next Thursday and Friday morning.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Hourihan

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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:** office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:**

office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Gospel: John 11:1-45

The Month of St Joseph

The Feast of St Joseph was celebrated on the 19th March.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet, and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.

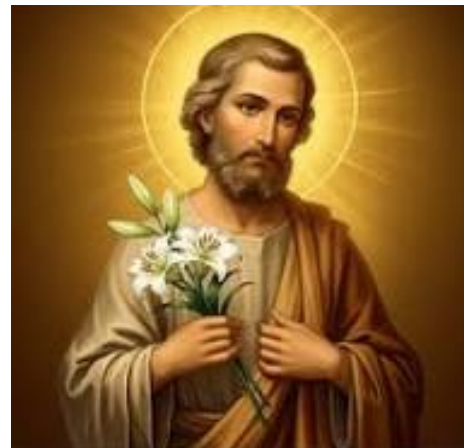
St Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

**quote from Pope Francis about
St Joseph**



Dear St Joseph,

Thank you for taking care of Jesus and Mary.
Please help us to be kind, helpful, and brave.
Teach us to listen to God and do what is right.
Keep our families safe and happy.



Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

DAISIES - Elaina
BLUEBELLS -Leon
1B - Ianis
1D -Annabel
2B -Keyaan
2D -Gabrielle
3B -Alexander
3D -Ezra
4B -Sophie
4D -Anastasia
5B - Whole class
5D -Jasmine
6B - Whole class
6D -Trizianna



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

DAISIES - 99%
BLUEBELLS -93%
1B - 95%
1D -95%
2B - 99%
2D -98%
3B -99%
3D -91%
4B -98%
4D -96%
5B - 99%
5D -99%
6B -100%
6D -98%



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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:** office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:**

office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



CAFOD Big Lent Walk



It was wonderful to see so many parents joining us for our walks during this special time of Lent. Thank you to everyone who took the time to walk with us and reflect together as a school community.



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

To donate and find out more information, please visit our JustGiving page:

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

We have also shared the details via our Parents App. Please remember to donate via our JustGiving page as we continue raising money for CAFOD during Lent.



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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:**

office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



Road Safety Workshop

This week, our pupils took part in Road Safety assemblies where they learned about the importance of staying safe on the roads. The children discussed safe ways to cross the road, the importance of being aware of traffic, and how to make sensible choices when travelling to and from school.

These assemblies helped remind everyone of the importance of road safety and how we can all play our part in keeping ourselves and others safe.



MoneySense workshop

Year 1 and Year 5 pupils took part in a NatWest MoneySense workshop where they learned about the importance of money and how to make sensible spending and saving choices. The sessions were engaging and helped pupils begin to understand key financial skills in a fun and interactive way.



Easter Raffle

The school is delighted to inform you that we will be holding an Easter Raffle on

Friday 27th March.

We would greatly appreciate any donations of Easter eggs.

Tickets will go on sale from

Monday 16th March at £1 per strip of 5 tickets.

To buy tickets, please send the money in a sealed envelope with your child's name.

Thank you for your support.



INTERNATIONAL EVENING

We are delighted to announce that our school will be celebrating International Evening on **Wednesday 29th April 3:30-5:30pm.**

This special event is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures, traditions, and backgrounds that make our school so unique. Families will have the chance to share food, music, clothing, and cultural displays from around the world.

Please see details sent home on the Parents App





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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:**

office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



Science Fair

Last Friday, our Key Stage 2 pupils took part in an exciting Science Fair, sharing their curiosity and creativity. The children prepared presentations on scientific topics that interested them, using posters, PowerPoint presentations, models and videos.

Pupils explored a range of topics, from the human body to sound, space and plants. It was wonderful to see them explaining their learning with confidence and enthusiasm. We are very proud of the effort and creativity shown by everyone who took part.



VR Workshop

Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting VR workshop all about space, where they used virtual reality headsets to explore the solar system and travel beyond Earth.

The immersive experience allowed them to see planets up close and learn more about space in a fun and engaging way.



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



St Patricks' Day



Year 2 learned that Saint Patrick was a kind teacher who wanted to help the people of Ireland understand the Holy Trinity.

He used a small plant called a shamrock to explain it. The shamrock has three leaves, but it is still one plant. Saint Patrick said this is like the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three parts in one.





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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:**

office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



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.





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

Tel: 020 8205 3790 **E-mail:**

office@blesseddominic.barnetmail.net

Website www.blesseddominicprimary.co.uk



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 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things - including diversity of opinion - means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good - and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowell is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College