

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Summer issue 1 - 17th April 2026



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

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)

Wednesday 29th April - Reception end of year expectations meeting 9am

Thursday 30th April 5B class assembly 2:30pm

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May - Year 2 RAF Museum

Wednesday 6th May - RED (Religious Education Directory) meeting for parents 9am

Wednesday 6th May - 5D class assembly 2:30pm

Friday 8th May - Neurodiversity / Autism coffee morning 9am

Monday 11th - 14th May - Year 6 KS2 SATS

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the summer term. I hope you had a restful and blessed Easter break, filled with the joy and hope of the Risen Lord.

Last Sunday, we were honoured to welcome Archbishop Moth to our parish, St Margaret Clitherow, where he blessed the new paintings and statue. In his message, he reminded us of the true meaning of Easter—a time of renewal, hope, and the promise of new life in Christ.

On Monday, CAFOD joined us to help us reflect on how the funds raised through our Big Lenten Walk will support those most in need. We thank God for the generosity of our school community and for the opportunity to live out our faith through acts of charity and service.

We are grateful to the Year 1 parents who attended the phonics screening workshop on Thursday. Your support at home plays a vital role in nurturing your children's growth and confidence, and we thank you for working in partnership with us.

Today, we began the first session of "Playground Proms," an interactive and inclusive workshop centred on classical music. A Dalcroze specialist guided the children in expressing themselves through movement, encouraging creativity as a gift from God. The children participated joyfully, even composing and singing their own lyrics to the anthem, accompanied by talented musicians.

We look forward to welcoming them back next week, when they will perform alongside our Year 5 pupils, sharing their gifts with our school community.

I am pleased to inform you that 135 children achieved 100% attendance for the spring term. They will be coming home with a certificate to mark this achievement. Thank you to parents for recognising the importance of attendance and for ensuring children are in school each day. Please remember that holidays cannot be authorised during term time, and that leave for exceptional circumstances requires supporting evidence.

I will be away from school next Thursday and Friday attending the Diocesan Headteachers conference. Wishing you a lovely weekend.

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

Mrs Hourihan

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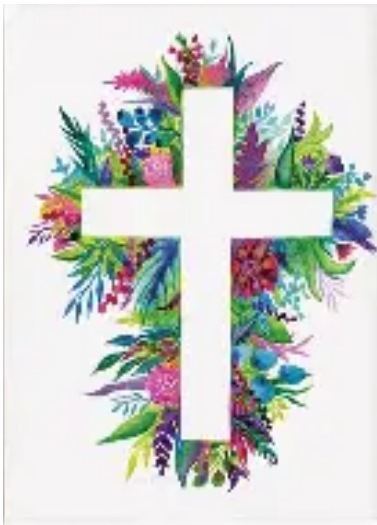
Third Sunday of Easter

Gospel :Luke 24:13-35

This Sunday invites reflection on hope, faith, and the recognition of Jesus in everyday life, prayer, and community.

It is a continuation of the Easter celebration, reinforcing the message of resurrection and new life

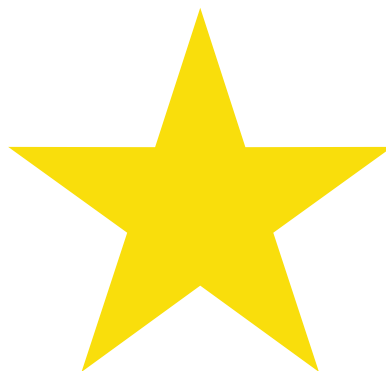
**Dear God,
thank You that Jesus is alive.
Help us to see Him in others,
to be kind and helpful each day,
and to share Your love with everyone we meet.
Amen**



Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

- DAISIES - Che
- BLUEBELLS -Maria
- 1B - Petros
- 1D -Louse
- 2B -Aayra
- 2D - Aschwen
- 3B - Adedalapo
- 3D -Aaron
- 4B - Kacper
- 4D -Anastasia
- 5B - Hesley
- 5D -Nathan
- 6B - Riley
- 6D -Mason



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

- DAISIES - 98%
- BLUEBELLS -93%
- 1B -93%
- 1D -94%
- 2B -94%
- 2D -98%
- 3B -94%
- 3D -94%
- 4B -94%
- 4D -96%
- 5B -99%
- 5D -96%
- 6B -97%
- 6D -97%





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CAFOD Assemblies and Workshops

Last week, we were delighted to welcome a visitor from CAFOD, who led a series of engaging and informative workshops and assemblies for our students. During these sessions, the children learned about how fundraising supports communities around the world and where the money raised is used. They also explored what it means to be a project leader, developing skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and leadership.

The workshops inspired the students to think about how they can make a positive difference, both locally and globally, and encouraged them to take an active role in supporting others.

It was a valuable and enriching experience for all involved.





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National Skipping Day

Our school recently took part in National Skipping Day, joining schools from across the country in celebrating this fun and energetic activity. In the lead-up to the event, pupils spent time learning a range of skipping skills, from basic techniques to more advanced tricks and group routines.



SHORT STORIES

Year 3 have recently been busy planning, writing, and publishing their very own short stories.

Over the past few weeks, the children have worked incredibly hard to develop their ideas, create interesting characters, and build exciting plots. This week they shared these stories with year 2.



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



Year 1 Parents Phonics Meeting

On Thursday we held a Little Wandle phonics workshop for parents to support understanding of how we prepare for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. Parents were shown practical strategies to support reading at home, along with examples of the types of words children will encounter. Thank you to everyone who attended—we hope you found it helpful and feel more confident supporting your child's reading journey at home.





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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
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.



Summer Uniform

Summer uniform consists of either the gingham summer dress or a blue polo shirt (without a tie) and shorts or skirt.

If children wear vests or base layers, these must be fully hidden under their clothing. Long-sleeved base layers should only be worn under a long-sleeved shirt and must not be visible at any time.

For PE, children may wear blue school shorts. These should be plain blue, with no logos or branding.

Our uniform is an important part of our school identity and helps to foster a sense of belonging. We ask for your support in maintaining these standards, as when expectations are not followed, it can encourage others to do the same.





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Free Dr Bike Sessions in Barnet

The free Dr Bike service in Barnet for the current financial year has been hugely popular, particularly among parents/carers and children.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/transport-and-around-barnet/cycling/free-dr-bike-sessions-barnet>

The Dr Bike sessions are run by qualified bicycle mechanics. Members of the public can take along their bicycles to have a free, full safety check, which includes the condition of tyres, rims, gears, brake function and tyre pressure and adjustments can be made if required, all for free. Both adult and child bicycles can have the free safety check and adjustments made if necessary.

Lodge Lane car park, Finchley

Follow the yellow chevrons immediately to the right of the entrance to the car park (opposite NL Auction Rooms N12 8JH). The sessions will take place on the following dates between 4pm and 7pm:

13 May

8 July

9 September

11 November

13 January 2027

10 March 2027

Temple Fortune

By Bike racks outside entrance to M&S Food Hall at 820 Finchley Road, NW11 6XL.

The sessions will take place on the following dates between 4pm and 7pm:

20 May

15 July

16 September

18 November

20 January 2027

17 March 2027



Middlesex University, Hendon

The pavement on The Burroughs, outside Middlesex University adjacent to Hendon Fire Station, 91 The Burroughs, NW4 4BL.

The sessions will take place on the following dates between 4pm and 7pm:

10 June

12 August

14 October

9 December

10 February 2027



Stapylton Road car park, High Barnet

Area immediately to the right of car park's entrance (EN5 4LR).

The sessions will take place on the following dates between 4pm and 7pm:

17 June

19 August

21 October

16 December

17 February 2027



May Camp 2026 is here!

Bookings are now open with Non Stop Action.

Join us this May Half Term 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 Tuesday 26th May - Friday 29th May

Book by Saturday 2nd May to take advantage of our Early Bird discount.

Kind regards,

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager





Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and skills to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday