

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Summer issue 3- 1st May 2026



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May - Year 2 RAF Museum

Wednesday 6th May - 5D class assembly 2:45pm

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

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

Wednesday 13th May - 4B class assembly - 2.45pm

Friday 15th May - Year 6 School Trip

Monday 18th May - Primary Athletics tournament

Wednesday 20th May - RED (Religious Education Directory) meeting for parents 9am

Wednesday 20th May - May Procession

Wednesday 20th May - 4D class assembly 2.45pm

Dear parents and carers,

I am feeling incredibly proud to be part of our diverse and talented school community.

A big thank you to the PTA for helping to plan such a successful event. Many thanks also to all the parents who came to run stalls, cook and share food, and bring items that represent their culture. It was wonderful to see so many adults and children dressed in traditional attire, celebrating the rich diversity that makes our school so special. As we celebrate our community, we are reminded that we are all one in God's love, each unique and valued.

We are also very grateful to the staff and everyone who helped set up and clear away after the event. The children's confidence and talents were truly impressive. It was a joy to hear different languages and to enjoy the facts, music, songs, and dances that reflect our vibrant community.

I am sure that next year we will have even more countries represented, with more children choosing to perform—especially now that we have plenty of time to start planning and practising.

Today marks the beginning of the month of May, which is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Mary shows us how to listen to God, trust in Him, and say "yes" with courage and love. She is a wonderful example for us all as we try to grow in faith, kindness, and service to others.

During May, we will honour Mary in special ways, including praying the Rosary and taking part in May devotions.

We will also begin sending home our Rosary bags. Please ensure these are returned promptly so that each child has the opportunity to share this special time of prayer at home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend

Mrs Hourihan

**Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, Great Strand, Colindale,
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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Gospel :John 14:1-12

Jesus tells us that through him we will come to know God and that we should trust him as we trust in God.



The month of May is dedicated to 'Our Lady, the Mother of God'



The Feast of The English Martyrs Mon 4th May 2026



Dear God,
Thank you for the English Martyrs.
Help us to be brave and kind,
and to follow you always.
Amen

Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

- DAISIES - Clara
- BLUEBELLS - Naya
- 1B -Julian
- 1D -Pipa
- 2B - Cedric
- 2D -Gabriel
- 3B - Yasemin
- 3D -Caitlyn
- 4B - Yuri
- 4D -Tomike
- 5B - Mcirvine
- 5D -Luka M
- 6B - Tobias
- 6D - Roham



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

- DAISIES - 98%
- BLUEBELLS -97%
- 1B -97%
- 1D -98%
- 2B -94%
- 2D -94%
- 3B -94%
- 3D -96%
- 4B -95%
- 4D -96%
- 5B -94%
- 5D -96%
- 6B -99%
- 6D -96%





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INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Thank you to everyone who attended this special event. It was 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 had the chance to share food, music, clothing, and cultural displays from around the world. A special thank you to our Parents Group and everyone who helped make this event such a success.





We were delighted to welcome **David Pinto-Duschinsky MP** to our International Evening. He spent time with our Debate Team and Pupil Parliament, answering their thoughtful questions about how we can live out Catholic Social Teaching in our school and wider community.

“What small things can children do every day to help look after God’s world?”

“How can young people take part in improving our school or neighbourhood?”

“How can we make sure everyone in our school feels respected and valued?”

David spoke about the importance of asking people how they would like to be helped and using our voices with confidence and kindness. His message linked perfectly to our TED Talks projects and the work pupils are doing to support their communities.

Guilherme in year 6 said, **“thank you so much for coming,”**

Tomike and Chloe in year 4 shared that it was **“the best International Evening they have ever had.”**





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tcs London Mini Children's Marathon tcs

Our children recently took part in the London Mini Marathon, showing incredible determination and spirit. Despite the unusually hot weather, every child gave their best effort, supporting one another and pushing through the challenge to cross the finish line.

We are so proud of their perseverance and teamwork. Their efforts remind us of the words in Galatians 6:9: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."



NURSERY AND RECEPTION MEETINGS FOR NEW PARENTS

Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 6.00pm

Meeting for new Nursery parents whose child will start Nursery in September 2026

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 at 6.00pm

Meeting for new Reception parents whose child will start Reception in September 2026

Please note, these meetings are for adults only.

Please do not bring your child with you.

Thank you.



Secondary Transfer Meeting for Year 5 Parents

This meeting for parents of children in Year 5 will take place on **Thursday 4th June 2026 at 3:30pm** in the school hall.

It is important that you attend, as information leaflets regarding secondary transfer will be distributed at the meeting.





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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.

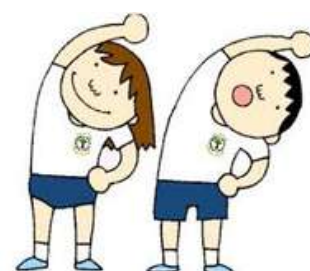
If you've not yet had the chance to donate and would like to, contributions can be made via Parent Pay.

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.



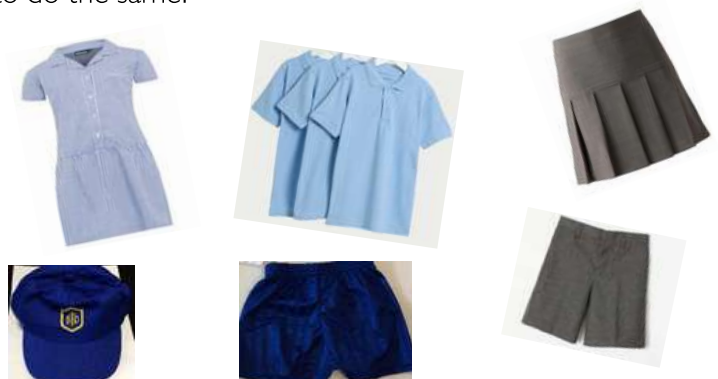
Summer Uniform

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



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online, if they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices