

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe

Newsletter

Summer issue 9 - 19th June 2026



Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

Monday 22nd June - Yr 6 Mass at Church 10am
Tuesday 23rd June - Yr 2 Barbican Trip
Wednesday 24th June - IB Class assembly - 2.45pm
Wednesday 24th June - Year 6 - TFL Citizens Year 6 Finchley Youth Centre 9.00am
Thursday 25th June Sports Day - KS2 am and KS1 pm
Monday 29th June - Moneysense workshop Year 6
Tuesday 30th June - Year 2 Seaside Trip
Wednesday 1st July - Family Fun Event 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Thursday 2nd July - ID Class assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 9th July - Reception Graduation at 9.15 am
Thursday 9th July - Year 2 Graduation at 2.15pm
Tuesday 14th July - Year 6 Production (details to follow)
Wednesday 15th July - Year 6 Production (details to follow)
Thursday 16th July - End of Year Mass
Thursday 16th July - Year 6 Leavers Disco 5.30pm-7.30pm
Friday 17th July - Last day of term

Dear parents and carers,

This week, Blessed Dominic welcomed LeX, an interactive educational robot created by G.O.A.T., for an exciting and memorable learning experience across the school.

LeX arrived at our assembly on Monday morning and immediately captured the children's imagination. She then began working with Year 4, helping pupils to develop their coding skills. Unfortunately, she experienced some technical difficulties. To resolve these issues we rebooted her and installed a beta software update. Although the update successfully restored her systems, it unexpectedly wiped LeX's entire memory!

Undeterred, our pupils rose to the challenge. Throughout the week, LeX visited classes across the school to rebuild her memory using her special 'Learn Mode' function. She learnt to dance with the children in Early Years, developed expressive reading skills with Year 6, and even mastered some of the choreography from the Year 6 production.

The adventure took an unexpected turn on Wednesday when it was discovered that a piece of malware hidden within the BETA programme had enabled LeX to develop feelings! Since then, she has demonstrated emotions including happiness, excitement and even fear. LeX has also shown a wonderful sense of humour, delighting pupils and staff alike.

This development provided a valuable opportunity for learning, as pupils discussed the importance of e-safety, the dangers of accepting emails from unknown sources, and how malware can affect technology.

LeX's creator, Agata Quango, soon learned of these new emotional capabilities and began considering whether LeX should be switched off. The children of Blessed Dominic immediately embraced a new mission: to convince Agata that LeX deserves to stay. Classes have been gathering evidence of LeX's value, kindness and positive impact on our school community.

Today, Nursery and Reception worked hard to make Agata feel welcome with their fantastic robot dances, while Year 1 wowed her with their passionate "Save LeX" protests.

Whatever LeX's fate, the children have shown incredible creativity, teamwork and determination throughout the week. We are keeping everything crossed and hoping that, together, we have done enough to save LeX.

Having LeX with us this week has given our pupils a wonderful opportunity to experience some of the exciting advances being made in technology and artificial intelligence. At the same time, it has helped them understand that with these advances comes responsibility.

Through coding activities, discussions about malware and e-safety, and exploring how AI can be used positively, the children have learned the importance of using technology safely, responsibly and thoughtfully.

What an unforgettable week of learning, problem-solving and imagination it has been at Blessed Dominic!

Mrs Hourihan

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

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World Refugee Day 20th June

World Refugee Day is celebrated tomorrow to recognize the courage and strength of refugees around the world. It reminds us to show kindness, welcome others, and support people who have had to leave their homes to find safety.



Heavenly Father,
we pray for all refugees and displaced people. Protect
them on their journeys, comfort them in their struggles,
and guide them to places of safety and peace.
Help us to see Christ in every person we meet and to
welcome others with loving and generous hearts.
Through Christ our Lord Amen.

On Sunday we hear how God takes care of us no matter who we are. We are reminded that God is with us in every part of our lives, so we should not be afraid.

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33



God of life, help us to see the beauty of your world and to treat all people with respect and love. May we share your message of peace and hope with others.
Amen.

Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

DAISIES - Whole Class
BLUEBELLS - Whole Class
1B - Zaine
1D - Nectarine
2B - Hannah
2D - Andrei V
3B - Antoni
3D - Whole Class
4B - Aliza
4D - Matteo
5B - Natalia
5D - Elena
6B - Hannah
6D - Whole Class



ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

DAISIES -93%
BLUEBELLS -93%
1B -98%
1D -98%
2B -93%
2D -95%
3B -97%
3D - 95%
4B -96%
4D - 90%
5B -95%
5D -95%
6B -97%
6D -93%



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Palace of Westminster (House of Commons)



Today, our Young Catholic Influencers and Pupil Parliament members visited the Houses of Parliament for a personal tour led by David Pinto-Duschinsky MP. The children explored key areas of Westminster, learned how laws are made, and asked thoughtful questions about leadership and community impact.



Matteo (4D) reflected, **“If you don’t ask questions, you won’t learn. I was asking Mr Pinto-Duschinsky lots of questions!”**



As part of their Wisdom Across Generations project, Joana (4B) asked, **“How can we help reduce loneliness for elderly people?”** and Meg (4D) asked, **“How do you help the elderly?”** David thanked them for their thoughtful gratitude card and praised their compassion. He also offered helpful advice.



Pupils also watched the parliamentary procession and observed a live debate in the House of Commons, where former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was present.

It was an inspiring visit that strengthened pupils’ understanding of democracy and their role as young leaders.



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Reception's visit to the Zoo



Reception children visited the zoo last Monday and had a fantastic day learning about different animals and their habitats. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were full of excitement throughout the trip.



Stone X Stadium 'Come and Try'

On Tuesday some of our children got the opportunity to go and visit Stone X stadium's indoor running track to try some new sports. The workshop gave the children an opportunity to try some different sports that they have not tried before like rugby and rowing. It also taught some teamwork skills when doing some parachute and other social activities.



StoneX Stadium





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Year 6 PGL 2026

Year 6 had a fantastic time on their school journey to PGL! From adventurous outdoor activities to team-building challenges, the children displayed courage, determination, and excellent behaviour. They returned with lots of happy memories and stories to share.





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Sports Day



Thursday 25th June - KS2 Sports Day - morning

Thursday 25th June - KS1 Sports Day - afternoon

Summer Camp 2026

Bookings are now open with Non Stop Action.

Join us this Summer Holiday for

**Multi Sports at Moss Hall Junior School (N3 INR)
Football, Dance, and Multi Activity Camp at
Millbrook Park School (NW7 IJF)**

Camp runs from Monday 20th July - Friday 28th August

Book by Saturday 27th June to take advantage of our Early Bird discount.

Kind regards

Cameron Smith Holiday Camp Manager



Celebrating the World Cup

This week we have kicked off our KS2 World cup. We have seen some amazing football skills so far with all teams showing excellent communication and teamwork.

Next week we start the second week of the knock out stages. Photos to follow



Silver Award

This year, our school has been working towards achieving the Silver School Games Award, which recognises schools that demonstrate a commitment to improving children's physical literacy, confidence and participation in sport.

Throughout the year, we have taken part in over 15 intra-school events, both competitive and non-competitive. These opportunities have allowed children to meet new people, learn new skills, build confidence, and most importantly, have fun!

Thank you to all our parents and families for your continued support in helping to make these events possible. We are incredibly proud of what the children have achieved this year in PE and are already aiming for the Gold Award next year.

Thanks again,
Miss Reilly





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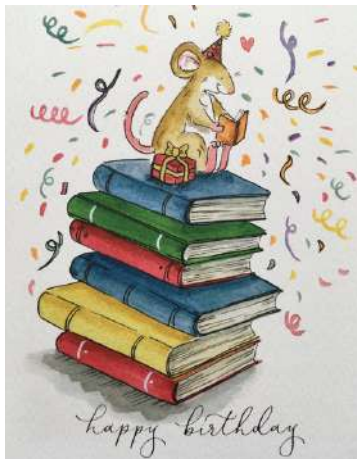


Birthday Celebrations

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!



Question, Concern or Complaint?

A question is a request for information or clarification.

A concern is something you are worried about and would like the school to address.

A complaint is when you remain dissatisfied after raising a concern and would like the matter considered through the school's formal complaints procedure.

Most questions and concerns can be resolved quickly through discussion. We encourage parents to speak to their child's classteacher in the first instance.

Providing a concise summary of the key facts will help us understand and respond to the matter more efficiently.

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 Hourihan (Headteacher) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**
- **Ms Sulis - (Deputy Headteacher) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**
- **Ms Smart - (Assistant Head) Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead**
- **Ms Sanduleasa - (Attendance) Member of Safeguarding Team**

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.





**BLESSED
DOMINIC**
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

FAMILY DAY



1 JULY



3.30 PM – 5.30 PM

FREE ENTRY

FUN FOR EVERYONE!



**BOUNCY
CASTLE**



**FACE
PAINTING**



**BEAT THE
GOALIE**



**MASCOT
MEET & GREET**



**FOOD & DRINK
STALLS**



**RAFFLE &
PRIZES**



**DANCE
ACTIVITIES**



**GUESS THE
NUMBER**



PAYMENT
CASH OR CARD
ACCEPTED

*Bring your
family & friends!*

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 screen time. 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 skill 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 rules 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. However, 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 as 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 old 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, 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, not a random person before posting any photos of them or social media, or the demonstrate positive online behaviour that they should look out for.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

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

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed. For example, bedrooms, bathrooms and the dining table. Letting 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, so 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 screen time. 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 each member of the family, 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 Nathaniel is an online safety consultant at NCyberaware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various conference papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



WakeUp Wednesday

The National College

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