

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary

Love - Learn - Believe



Newsletter



Autumn issue 8- 23rd October 2026

Headteacher: Mrs Hourihan

Deputy Headteacher: Ms Sulis

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd November - School Photos

Wednesday 4th November - Flu Vaccines

Thursday 5th November - 3D assembly 9am

Thursday 5th November - Grandparents' Afternoon Tea – Harvest Celebration

Friday 6th November - Year 5 Hampton Court

Wednesday 11th November - 6B Library Visit

Wednesday 11th November - Prospective Nursery / Reception Meetings – September 2027 at 5.30pm

Thursday 12th November - Prospective Nursery / Reception Meetings – September 2027 at 9.05am

Thursday 12th November - 6D Class assembly 2:45pm

Monday 16th - 20th November - Anti Bullying Week

Monday 16th November - Imperial War Museum - Year 6

Tuesday 17th November - Tate Gallery -Year 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has been a short week, it has certainly been a busy one as we prepare for our half-term break!

This week, parents and carers of children from Reception to Year 6 have had the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher, look through their books and discuss how they have settled into the new school year. These meetings are an important part of our home-school partnership, and I hope you found them informative and reassuring. Thank you for taking the time to attend.

A big thank you to our wonderful PTA, who organised another successful second-hand uniform sale yesterday. These sales provide families with affordable uniform while supporting our school community. We are very grateful for the time and effort our volunteers give so generously.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have already downloaded the Arbor app. Club bookings and trip permissions are now managed through Arbor, and you can also use the app to view your child's attendance. If you have not yet downloaded it, please do so to ensure you can access these important features.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Show Racism the Red Card initiative by wearing red today. It was wonderful to see our school community coming together to share such an important message. As a Catholic school, we are reminded that we are all created in God's image and likeness, and every person deserves to be treated with dignity, kindness and respect. Our differences make us unique, but we are all equal in the eyes of God. By standing together against racism, we put our faith into action and show our commitment to building a community where everyone feels valued, respected and included.

We have a lovely event to look forward to when we return: our Grandparents' Afternoon Tea on **Thursday 5th November**. This special occasion is dedicated exclusively to grandparents, giving them the opportunity to share a memorable afternoon with their grandchildren. I kindly ask parents to respect that this event is for grandparents only. We appreciate that not every child will have a grandparent who is able to attend; however, we ask that parents do not attend in their place. There are many other opportunities throughout the year for parents to join us for school celebrations and events. Thank you for helping us preserve this special occasion for grandparents and their grandchildren.

As part of our Harvest Festival celebrations, we will also be collecting donations for Colindale Foodbank. We kindly ask families to bring in any food donations and place them in their child's class collection basket. Every item, however small, can make a real difference to someone in need. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to put their faith into action and live out the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Preferential Option for the Poor, showing compassion and care for those facing hardship in our local community.

Today marks the beginning of our half-term break, with children enjoying seven school days away from school. After a busy start to the academic year, I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to rest, recharge and reconnect with family and loved ones. We look forward to welcoming all children back on 2nd November, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term. A gentle but important reminder that holidays during term time cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances. With seven school days allocated for this break, we ask families to plan holidays within the designated school holiday periods. Every school day matters, and regular attendance is essential to children's learning and progress. When we return, all children are expected to wear their full winter school uniform, including a blue shirt and school tie. Please remember that boots are not permitted for health and safety reasons. There will also be some changes to PE days for certain classes, so please check the updated arrangements and ensure your child wears their PE kit on the correct days.

We also have school photographs on 2nd November; our first day back, so please ensure your child comes to school wearing their full school uniform, even if this would normally be their PE day.

Wishing you all a peaceful, restful and enjoyable half term. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on **2nd November**.

Mrs Hourihan

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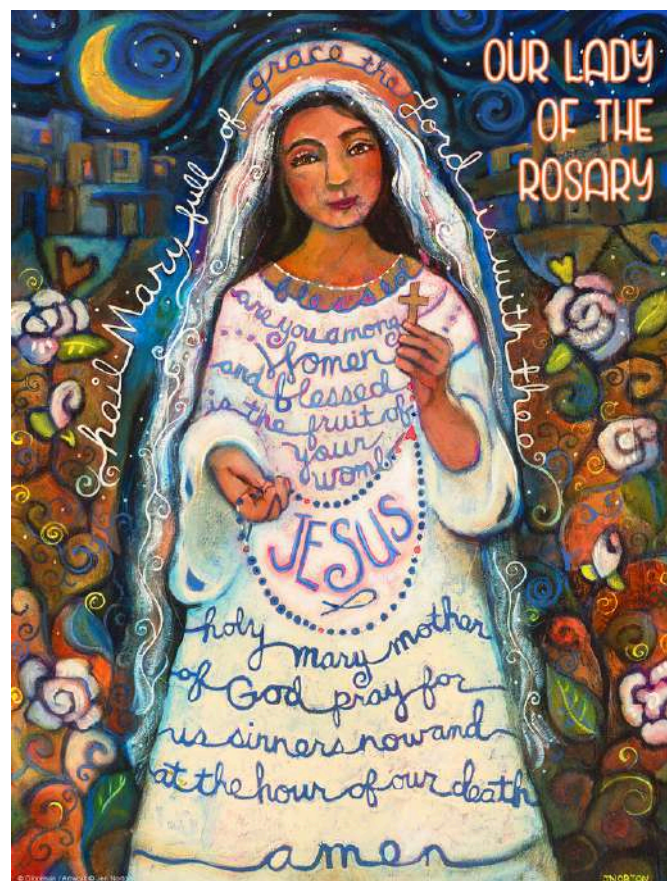
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The Rosary

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!
our life,
our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve;
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley, of
tears.
Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile show unto us
the blessed fruit of thy womb,
Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet
Virgin Mary.



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

God of life, we love you, we thank you and
we praise you for all that you have done for
us.

Help us to love our neighbours, both here
and around the world, and treat all people
as we would wish to be treated.
Amen.



22nd October Feast Day of St John Paul II

How precious is Your love,
O God!
For with You is the
fountain of life,
and in Your light we see
light.

St John Paul II





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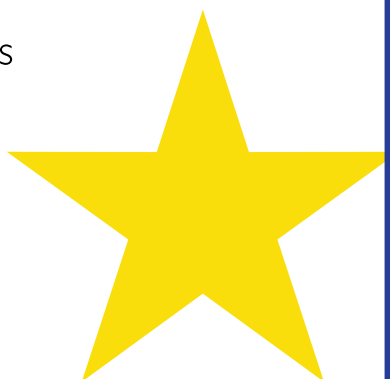
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Celebrating Success

STAR OF THE WEEK

Bluebells -Whole Class
Daisies - Whole Class
1B - Luwam
1D -Zeta
2B - Julia
2D -Jacob
3B - Mario
3D - Amaka
4B - Whole Class
4D - Elijah
5B - Jaleesa
5D -Madison
6B - Toro
6D - Charbel



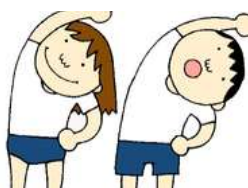
ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

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



PE days for Autumn 2

1D- Tuesday and Wednesday
1B- Tuesday and Thursday
2B- Monday and Thursday
2D- Monday and Thursday
3B- Tuesday and Thursday
3D- Tuesday and Thursday
4D- Wednesday and Tuesday
4B- Wednesday and Tuesday
5D- Tuesday and Thursday
5B- Tuesday and Thursday
6D- Wednesday and Friday
6B- Wednesday and Friday



October Camp 2026 is here!

Bookings are now open with **Non Stop Action**. Join us this October 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 Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Book by Saturday 3rd October to take advantage of our Early Bird discount and get a week booking for £126."



Show Racism the Red Card Day



This week, our Racial Justice Ambassadors have been leading our school community in learning, discussion and action around racial justice, equality and diversity.

On Monday, the Ambassadors led a whole-school Assembly, explaining what racism is, what we can do if we experience or witness it, and how we can stand together to challenge discrimination. They also led a pupil-voice audit, asking children whether they feel our curriculum reflects the diversity of our school community and what they would like to see more of in school.

As part of Show Racism the Red Card, pupils and staff were invited to wear red on Wednesday 21 October to show their commitment to raising awareness and standing against racism. Every child also completed an anti-racism pledge, making a personal commitment to help create a school where everyone is respected and included.

Our Debate Team also explored the important motion:

“This House Believes Racist Football Fans Should Be Banned For Life.” Through debate, pupils considered different perspectives and discussed how racism in sport can affect people's dignity and sense of belonging. This linked closely to our Catholic Social Teaching principle of Human Dignity, reminding us that every person is valuable and deserves to be treated with respect.

Our Black History Month learning has also been celebrated across the school. Pupils created educational and prayerful posters celebrating significant people from Black history, including their achievements and links to Scripture. These have been displayed around school, allowing our whole community to learn from and celebrate their contributions.

This work reflects our Catholic belief that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore has inherent dignity and worth.

“So God created mankind in his own image.” – Genesis 1:27

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for using their voices, creativity and leadership to promote a more inclusive, respectful and compassionate school community.





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**SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD**





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One Tree Day

A huge thank you to everyone for your kind donations towards our One Tree Day!

We are delighted to announce that we have raised an amazing **£294!**
Thank you all so much for your generosity and support. Every donation makes a difference!



Harvest Collection – Supporting Food Bank Aid Harvest Food Collection – We Need Your Help!

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are collecting non-perishable food items to support the Colindale Food Bank, based at Trinity Church. The food bank is currently experiencing high demand and supports many families in our local community.



We kindly ask for donations of items such as:

Tinned soup
Baked beans
Tinned fish
Pasta and rice
Cereal

Tea bags and coffee
Collection Dates:

Start: Tuesday 20th October 2026 End: Wednesday 4th November 2026

Children can bring donations into school and place them in their class food basket. Every item makes a difference

—
thank you for your continued generosity and support!



Grandparents' Afternoon Tea – Harvest Celebration

We are delighted to invite Grandmas, Grandads, Grand Aunts, and Grand Uncles **(please note, this invitation is for grandparents and grand relatives only, no parents on this occasion)** to join us for Blessed Dominic's Grandparents Afternoon Tea.

This special event will take place on Thursday 5th November at 1:45pm as part of our Harvest Celebrations.

Our guests will be treated to wonderful performances from various year groups, accompanied by a delightful snack, making for an enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

To ensure everyone has a comfortable and safe experience, we kindly ask that attendance be limited to two grandparents/grand aunts/uncles per family. If your family would like to attend, please confirm how many guests will be joining by completing the consent form via the school parent app.

To help us make the necessary preparations, please respond by Tuesday 3rd November 2026





Prospective Nursery / Reception Meetings – September 2027

We are delighted to invite parents of children who may be joining our Nursery or Reception classes in September 2027 to one of our information meetings.

Wednesday 11th November at 5:30pm
Thursday 12th November at 9:05am

There is no need to book — simply come along to whichever meeting is most convenient for you.

Please note that these meetings are for parents only, as we will be sharing lots of important information about starting school, our Nursery and Reception provision, and what you can expect.

We look forward to welcoming you!



Uniform

After half term, children should return wearing **winter uniform**:

- Light blue school shirt – stiff collared shirt (no frilled or rounded collars.)
- School tie - elasticated or full tie
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Plain black, grey or white socks or tights – no logos or branding
- Royal blue knitted school jumper or royal blue knitted school cardigan with school logo.
- School shoes (please note that **boots are not permitted**)
- Plain black or plain royal blue coat
- School bookbag/backpack or a plain black backpack only (no branding, logos or colours)

PE Kit:

- White polo shirt with or without school logo.
- Royal blue school jogging bottoms with white piping.
- Royal Blue school sweatshirt with school logo.
- Black plimsolls, plain white or black trainers.
- Hair accessories should be royal blue, white or black

Analogue watches with no internet connection are permitted
For health and safety reasons, only stud earrings are permitted.

Please remember to label every item of your child's uniform





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Wraparound

We offer daily wraparound care for children. Breakfast Club is available every morning from **7:45am and costs £3** per day.

After-School Wraparound Care runs daily until 5:45pm

The charges are:

3:15pm – 4:15pm: £6

4:15pm – 5:45pm: £9

3:15pm – 5:45pm: £15

A light snack and a range of engaging activities are provided during each session.



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 - (SENCO) 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**



HEALTHY LUNCHES & SNACKS



For Early Years & KS1

Children receive 1 free piece of fruit/veg daily through the government scheme



For KS2

Children must bring their own fruit or vegetable for break



Please keep snacks separate from packed lunches



Not Allowed

Biscuits, cakes, crisps, sweets, or chocolate
Chocolate spreads & satay coverings (may contain nuts)
No nuts of any kind – due to severe allergies



Healthy Packed Lunch Tips

Include fruit & vegetables
Choose healthy proteins & whole grains



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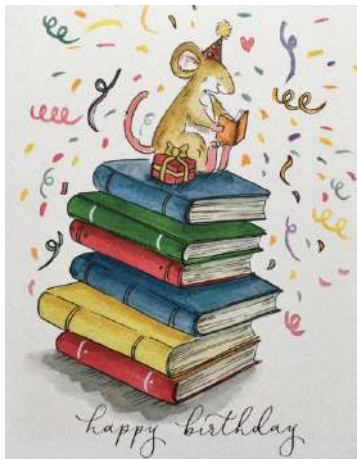


Birthday Celebrations

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 Arbor

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.





**Blessed
Dominic**
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME & SCHOOL

*Love one another, learn together
and believe in God our Father* 



OUR SHARED VALUES



KIND

We show care, compassion and understanding.



RESPECTFUL

We listen and treat everyone with dignity, courtesy and professionalism.



HONEST

We share accurate information openly and address concerns appropriately.



FORGIVING

We recognise mistakes happen and seek to repair relationships and move forward.



INCLUSIVE

We make every family feel welcome, valued and able to engage.



RESILIENT

We approach challenges constructively and work together to find solutions.

WHO DO I CONTACT?

Please use the most appropriate channel so we can help you as quickly as possible.

URGENT



Urgent / Safeguarding

Immediate safety concern, safeguarding worry or urgent health matter.



Telephone the school immediately during office hours and ask for the DSL / safeguarding team.
If it is an emergency outside school hours, contact the appropriate emergency service.



General Concern / Information

A general concern, request for information or to speak with a member of staff.



Telephone the school office.

We will ensure your message is passed to the most appropriate person.



Non-urgent Question / Information

Routine questions, information or updates that are not urgent.



Email the main school office.

We will acknowledge your email within 2 **working days** and respond where possible within 2 working days.



Detailed Discussion / Complex Issue

For issues that need a longer conversation or more time to discuss.



Contact the office to arrange an appointment (in person or by phone).

This helps us give your matter the time and attention it deserves.

DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TEACHER



For most day-to-day questions about your child, such as:

- learning, homework or lessons
- behaviour
- friendships
- wellbeing
- routines and daily arrangements

Please contact your child's class teacher first.

This helps us to resolve things quickly and keeps communication clear and effective for everyone.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

QUESTION



You are looking for information or clarification.

Examples:

- What time is the assembly?
- When is the trip?
- How can I help at home?

Best first step:
Speak to the class teacher or office.

CONCERN



You are worried about something and want it looked into.

Examples:

- My child seems unhappy.
- I'm worried about behaviour.
- Something doesn't seem right.

Best first step:
Speak to the class teacher.

COMPLAINT



You are unhappy about something and want it formally addressed.

Examples:

- I am unhappy with how something was handled.
- I wish to make a formal complaint.

Best first step:
Contact the school office to follow our complaints procedure.



OUR RESPONSE

- ✓ Emails: acknowledged within 2 working days.
- ✓ Returned calls: normally within 2 working days.
- ✓ Office hours: 8.30am – 4.30pm (Monday to Friday).
- ✓ Emails received outside office hours will be considered as received on the next working day.



PLEASE REMEMBER

- ✓ Email is not for emergencies or safeguarding. Please telephone the school in these situations.
- ✓ Parent WhatsApp groups and social media are not official school communication channels.
- ✓ If you are unsure about information, please check directly with the school.
- ✓ We respect the privacy and confidentiality of all children, families and staff.
- ✓ If you have a concern, contact the school directly so we can listen and work towards a positive solution.



WE INCLUDE EVERY FAMILY

We are committed to making sure all families can communicate with us.

If English is not your first language, or you have any barriers to communication, please let us know. We will do our best to support you (e.g. translation, interpreters, documents in different formats).

Please tell us if you need information in a different way.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

We welcome your feedback, ideas and suggestions about how we can communicate and work together even better. You can share your views by speaking with a member of staff, completing a survey or emailing the school office.



We listen, we learn and we use your feedback to help us improve.



OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

We will communicate with kindness, respect and understanding, and we will work together with honesty, forgiveness, inclusiveness and resilience.



*Love one another, learn together
and believe in God our Father.*



Our full Communication Guide is available on our website, in Reception and from the school office.



Thank you for being our partners in your child's education and wellbeing.





Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School

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*Love,
Learn,
Believe*

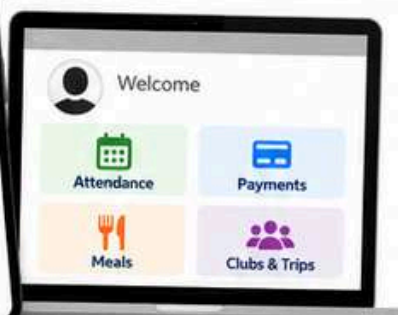


We are now using Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School is now using the Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App, and has set up an account for you.

Adopting Arbor will allow us to bring all our core school data and workflows into one system, making it easier for us to manage and share information with you.

We are really looking forward to getting started with Arbor and invite all our parents to familiarise themselves using the link below.



With Arbor you will be able to:



See your child's attendance



Make payments and top up accounts (clubs/trips, uniform)



Access the school shop



View meals information



Manage clubs and trips



Parent Portal (all in one place)

We will still use



Paconnect
by parentapps

We will continue to use Paconnect to communicate with you, including messages, letters and important updates.



Arbor will replace ParentPay

Payments for clubs, trips, uniform and other school items will move to the Arbor Parent Portal from **02/11/2026**. Paconnect will continue to be used to communicate with you.

1

Getting started

Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App



1. Download the Arbor Parent App

The Parent App can be downloaded from either the Play Store on Android phones or the Apple Store on iPhones.



2. Set your password

To finish creating your account you just need to set a password. Your username is the email address we've sent this email to.



3. Go to the login page

Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and click 'Forgot your password?' to finish setting up your account.



4. Free training resources

Arbor also offers access to many training resources which are completely free for you to make the most of! These can all be found [here](#).

3

Helpful guides



A quick introduction to Arbor for guardians and parents >



Getting started and logging in >



Payments, School Shop, Meals, Clubs and Trips >

2

Payments

Moving to Arbor from 02/11/2026



Please stop using your ParentPay account from **Wednesday 21st October 2026**.



Parents will need to **withdraw any credit balance** held on their **ParentPay PARENT ACCOUNT** if they do not have any other children with accounts at other schools.



You will be able to make payments and top up accounts for **clubs/trips, uniform** by logging into the **Parent Portal**. Your balances from ParentPay will show in the Parent Portal from 02/11/2026.



If you need any help you can find more information in [this guide](#).

If you have any questions please direct them to the School office.