

# ST. DOMINIC'S Gazette



Issue 286 - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Our **SEAL**  
word of the week  
commencing  
19<sup>th</sup> February  
is  
**Achievement**

## February Half Term

### Half-term holiday

Today is the last day of this half-term. Our school will be closed next week and will re-open on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am**. We wish you all a very pleasant and relaxing half-term break.

### Every School Day counts

### Attendance & Punctuality Class of the Week

Congratulations to Class 2A for the best class attendance this week with 96% in EYFS/KS1. In KS2, congratulations to Class 3B whose attendance was 98%.

Can we please remind parents to inform the school on the first day of all absence and to give an expected return date. GP and dental appointments should be made after school whenever possible.



### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the season of Lent, falls on 14<sup>th</sup> February this year. As this day falls within the half-term holiday we will not be holding our usual services where we receive the ashes from palm branches that were blessed

on Palm Sunday last year. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and, traditionally, people give up something they like or enjoy during Lent or do something extra. As this day approaches, perhaps we can reflect on what we might give up or do extra during the Lenten season.



### Reporting pupil absences

As you will be aware, asking for up-to-date contact details is a permanent feature of our newsletter. It is vital that we are able to contact parents if there is an incident concerning their child, but of equal importance, we need to be able to contact parents if they have not given a reason for their child's absence from school.

There have been a number of public cases in the past where schools have not chased up the reasons as to why children are absent from school. It has then transpired that there have been tragic circumstances around these absences, for example, illness of a parent and a child unable to seek help. Last week it was reported in the press that Chris Daykin, a father of two girls, had passed away while his daughters were in his care. The eldest girl's school had tried to call Chris to find out why his daughter was absent but the school did not ring the girls' mother who was working away from home. Tragically, the girls had spent nearly 24 hours alone with the body of their father.

Last year, an inquest found that four-year-old Chadrack Mulo had died of dehydration and starvation next to the body of his mother in their home in Hackney after she suffered a fatal epileptic fit. The boy, who had special needs, had spent two weeks in the flat unable

to get help. Staff from Chadrack's school had telephoned his mother's number several times and had attempted to make two home visits but they were unable to gain entry to the block of flats.

We will do everything we can to prevent such situations occurring as we are sure you would agree that your child's safety is paramount to us all. In light of these extremely sad and distressing events we are taking this opportunity to make you aware of the school procedure for children who have unexplained absences from school.

**If your child is not going to be in school please call the office on 020 8985 0995 (option 1) to report their absence. Please do this before 9:00am on the first day of the absence.**

If we have not heard from you by 9:30am then we will start to call all the contact numbers that you have provided in order to gain an explanation for the absence. If we still have not been able to ascertain where your child is then we will make a home visit. If we get no response from the home visit then we will report this to the police as your child will be classed a 'missing child'.

This procedure is to ensure that we know where your child is and that you are all safe. Please help us to keep everyone safe by letting us know in good time why your child is absent from school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



### Shen Chi Do Karate Lessons

If you have ever thought about improving your physical and mental

well-being, then Shen Chi Do karate might just be for you. Here are some of the potential benefits:

- Learn mindfulness by unifying body and mind with dedicated training;
- Start a journey inside yourself towards discovering your energy, build your strength and evolve into a stronger and more confident version of you;
- Find your route to understand togetherness and discipline as well as time, speed and balance;
- Explore self-discipline, motivation, fitness, awareness, flexibility and weight loss.

Classes run for adults and children every Tuesday between 7.30pm and 9.00pm at Gascoyne House, Gascoyne Road, E9 7BH and on Fridays between 5.00pm and 6.30pm at Hackney Forge, 243a Victoria Park Road, E9 7HD. Contact Rod for more details on 07944251294 or at [kwaratyrod@mail.com](mailto:kwaratyrod@mail.com)  
The first lesson is free!



#### Parents' Meetings

Our parents' meetings will be taking place on the following dates:

EYFS/KS1 - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February between 2.30pm and 6.00pm.

Appointment lists for parents to choose a slot will be put up outside each classroom on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

KS2 - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 2.30pm and 6.00pm. Appointment lists for parents to choose a slot will be put up between Classes 1A and 1B on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

We encourage all parents to attend as these meetings provide an important opportunity for you to discuss your child's attainment and progress.



#### Badge Design Competition

Living Streets, a U.K. charity for everyday walking, has launched a badge design competition for next year's set of badges for WOW - the year-round walk to school challenge. The theme is *Walk the Seasons* and children are invited to create designs based on what they see as they walk

to school all year round through autumn, winter, spring and summer.

If you would like to take part in the competition, design templates with all the relevant details are available at the school office. Please ensure that your designs are returned to the school by **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** at the very latest. We are looking forward to seeing lots of designs with the WOW factor!

#### Daubeney Children's Centre Shelter Housing Advice Surgery

Shelter Housing Advice will be running a surgery at Daubeney Children's Centre from February onwards. You will be able to benefit from:

- free specialist housing advice;
- help to negotiate with your landlord concerning rent arrears or disrepair;
- advice to sustain your tenancy;
- assistance with homelessness applications or reviews;
- advice about housing benefit;
- advice and advocacy on any other housing issues.

Appointments are available to Hackney families on the first Tuesday of every month from 12.30pm till 4.30pm. The address is Daubeney Children's Centre, 103 Daubeney Road, London E5 0EG. To book an appointment, please call 020 8525 7040.

#### School Dinners

##### School dinner money

Dinner Money for the week is currently £10.50 which must be paid at the beginning of every week. If payment is not made you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch.

When you are paying dinner money into the office, please put money in an envelope with your child's name and class clearly marked.



#### **IMPORTANT:** Providing the school with up-to-date details

Can parents please ensure that contact details are kept up to date. It is essential that we have current telephone numbers for at least three adults who we can contact in

case of illness, emergency or absence.

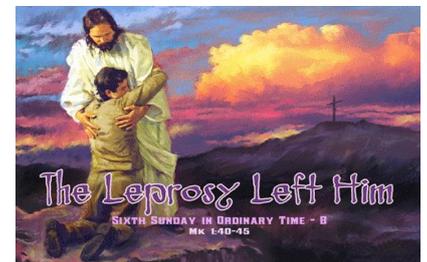
If you have changed your contact details recently please advise the school office immediately.



#### Birthdays at St. Dominic's

Happy Birthday to the following children who will be celebrating their birthdays over the next couple of weeks.

Alazar Girmay 2A	10 <sup>th</sup>
Azael Abreha 2A	11 <sup>th</sup>
Emeka Lennon Aneto-Davidson 2B	11 <sup>th</sup>
Mulumba Ahmed 2A	14 <sup>th</sup>
Taniyah Mattis-Montique 1A	14 <sup>th</sup>
Godwin Nartey 3B	14 <sup>th</sup>
Najmah Almukhaini 6A	15 <sup>th</sup>
Naissa Kombo-Nguila Iyongo 1A	15 <sup>th</sup>
Nuria Kombo-Nguila Iyongo 1B	15 <sup>th</sup>
Adrian Villa Garcia 2A	15 <sup>th</sup>
Emmanuel Akweke 6B	16 <sup>th</sup>
Khayden Gyening 3A	17 <sup>th</sup>
Cornelius Dei 5A	18 <sup>th</sup>
Jason Michael Lor 6B	18 <sup>th</sup>
Marie Maughan 5B	19 <sup>th</sup>
Donte Bell 5B	20 <sup>th</sup>
Nuha Ceesay 6B	22 <sup>nd</sup>



#### Sixth Sunday of the Year B

Leprosy is a contagious (infectious) disease that causes terrible disfigurement, and was common at the time of Jesus. Anyone suffering from leprosy (known as a leper) was treated as an outcast, and forced to live outside the town and avoid any contact with other people by ringing a warning bell if someone approached them. They were feared and unloved, and lived lonely and sad lives. In Sunday's Gospel we hear how Jesus changed the life of one leper forever.

#### Prayer

Loving Father,  
by knowing and loving you may we know and love our neighbour, and touch their lives with love and friendship. Grant this through Christ your Son.  
Amen.