

# ST. DOMINIC'S *Gazette*



Issue 287 - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018

Our **SEAL**  
word of the week  
commencing  
26<sup>th</sup> February  
is  
**Happy**



### Attendance & Punctuality Class of the Week

Congratulations to Class 2B for the best class attendance this week with 95% in EYFS/KS1. In KS2, congratulations to Class 3B whose attendance was 97%.

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.



### 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 have been put up outside each classroom.

**KS2** - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March between 2.30pm and 6.00pm. Appointment lists for parents to choose a slot have been put up between Classes 1A and 1B.

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



### Withdrawal of paper £10 note

The old paper £10 note will be withdrawn from use on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Therefore from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February, we will only be able to accept the new polymer note. If you have any old £10 notes after the 1<sup>st</sup> March, these can still be exchanged in person or by post at the Bank of England. Some retailers, banks and building societies may still accept these notes but this will be at their own discretion.



### World Book Day

Next Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March is the 21<sup>st</sup> World Book Day. To celebrate, children will be able to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. If you need some dressing up inspiration or would like to find out more about World Book Day then please visit the website at <http://www.worldbookday.com>.



### 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. It was recently 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 [kwartyrod@mail.com](mailto:kwartyrod@mail.com)  
The first lesson is free!



### Open Day Invitations

The prestigious Christ's Hospital School (colloquially known as the Bluecoat School) in West Sussex is now hosting Open Mornings for anyone considering making an application for entry in 2019.

The first is tomorrow, 24<sup>th</sup> February or alternatively, parents are welcome to attend on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

For further information, please call the Admissions Office on 01403 246555. You can also find out more about the school at [www.christs-hospital.org.uk](http://www.christs-hospital.org.uk).

The equally notable Oratory School in South Oxfordshire is holding an Open Morning on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 between 9.30am and 12.00pm. For more details, contact Janet Martin, Registrar, at [registrar@oratory.co.uk](mailto:registrar@oratory.co.uk) or 01491 683522. Further information can also be found at [www.oratory.co.uk](http://www.oratory.co.uk).



### 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!



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 OEG. 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 week.

Ikelyn Ansa <b>3B</b>	25 <sup>th</sup>
Alicia Njoku <b>3B</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Abdullateef Agunbiade <b>2A</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>
Kylie Lawrence <b>4B</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>



### Second Sunday of Lent - Year B

Sometimes getting through Lent can feel somewhat like climbing a very steep mountain! In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus leads three of his friends to the top of a steep mountain, and what they find at the top makes the effort of the climb more than worthwhile!

### Prayer

Loving Father,  
Jesus came to change our lives and transform them with his love. Help us to become more like him as we grow closer to you and one another. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.