

ST. DOMINIC'S *Gazette*



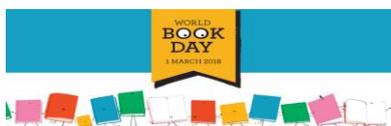
Issue 288 - Friday 2nd March 2018

*Our SEAL
word of the week
commencing
5th March
is
Relaxation*



School Closure

Due to the adverse weather this week we regrettably took the decision to close the school on Thursday and Friday. We would like to reassure you that decisions to close the school are never taken lightly. However, in assessing whether or not to keep the school open we need to consider various factors. The most important consideration is, of course, the safety of our pupils, parents and staff, both within the school grounds and also when coming to and from school. We also need to consider how practical and reasonable it will be for members of staff to make the journey to school. Without adequate numbers of staff we cannot keep the school open for safeguarding reasons. We appreciate that unexpected school closures can cause inconvenience for families and we appreciate your understanding this week.



World Book Day

Yesterday, our school had intended to celebrate the 21st World Book Day with children and staff coming to school dressed as their favourite book character. Unfortunately, this event

had to be postponed due to the snow. As we know that many of you will have arranged costumes for the day and because we don't want to see your efforts wasted, we are moving our celebration of World Book Day to Thursday 15th March!

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>.

ROBLOX

Roblox - Information for parents

We understand that Roblox is a very popular game for many of our pupils. Concerns have been recently raised about the chat function on this game. We would ask that you closely monitor this feature to ensure that you know who your children are talking to through the game. There has been some suggestion that adults may attempt to make contact with children.

While Roblox employs a filtering system and moderation team to help keep players safe and restrict them from sharing personally identifiable information, **we would strongly suggest** that parents enable a setting on their child's account that will allow them to only access a curated list of age-appropriate games for those under 13. This feature can be adjusted from within the Security tab under "Account Restrictions" in the [Account Settings](#) page.

Parental controls can also be activated so that you can shut off the chat capability.

Players can report inappropriate chat messages or content by using the 'Report Abuse' system, which is located throughout the site and in-game. In addition to reporting any

rule violations, players can also completely block others from chatting with them in-game or on the website. Parents can report any safety-related issues that they see on the site to safety@roblox.com

Further information about safety can be found online at <https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



Attendance & Punctuality Class of the Week

Due to the adverse weather and school closures this week we are not reporting figures for the best class attendance. Normal reporting will resume next week.

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

Due to the adverse weather this week, the school had to take the decision to postpone the EYFS & KS1 parents' meetings that were meant to take place on Wednesday. These meetings have now been rescheduled for Wednesday 14th March between 2.30pm and 6.00pm. Time slots which parents originally selected will remain the same.

Our parents' meetings for KS2 will be taking place next Wednesday, 7th 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.

Catholic Children's Society

Making A Difference



Own Clothes Day

On Friday 9th March, children will be able to come to school dressed in their own clothes to support Catholic Children's Society Day. This day is organised by the Diocese of Westminster and aims to raise money for local families who have fallen on financial hardship. In the past, funds raised have been used to help families within our own school community. Children are asked to make a £1 donation for wearing their own clothes to help support this worthy cause. There will also be the ever-popular cake sale which will also help us to raise additional funds.



Open Day Invitations

The prestigious Christ's Hospital School (colloquially known as the Bluecoat School) in West Sussex will be hosting an Open Morning on Saturday 21st April 2018 for anyone considering making an application for entry in 2019. 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.

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



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.



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.

Alyanna Cadby 2B	4 th
Nicole Farrugia 2B	4 th
Shiana Harrison 4A	4 th
Favour Robert 2A	4 th
Jerqwan Williams Fraser 6B	6 th
Deimantas Zvirblis 5A	6 th
Efe Ordek 2B	7 th
Papa Konate 3B	9 th
Nicole Mora Ardila 4B	9 th



Third Sunday of Lent - Year B

In the hearts and minds of the Jewish people, the Temple occupied a central place. It was a source of immense joy and comfort that there was in the heart of Israel, in the city of Jerusalem, a place where they could draw close to God. The Temple was God's house, the place where he promised that he would let his glory dwell.

Prayer

Loving Father,
let our lives give praise and glory to your holy name, and make us fit to be called your sons and daughters. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.