

ST. DOMINIC'S *Gazette*



Issue 289 - Friday 9th March 2018

Our **SEAL**
word of the week
commencing
12th March
is
Assertive



School Closure

Due to the recent adverse weather we regrettably took the decision to close the school last 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.

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

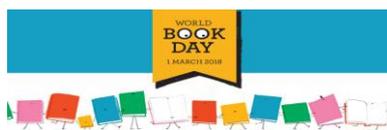
some suggestion that adults may attempt to make contact with children.

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/>



World Book Day

Last Thursday, 1st March, 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 adverse weather. 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>.

As part of our celebrations, KS1 will be having a *snuggle and read* day. The teachers will put pillows and blankets in their book corners so that parents can come in and have a snuggle and read with their child. There are sheets outside the KS1 classrooms for parents to sign up if they want to take part. Each parent will have a fifteen minute time slot. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



Attendance & Punctuality Class of the Week

Congratulations to Class 1A for the best class attendance this week with 96% in EYFS/KS1. In KS2, congratulations to Class 3A whose attendance was 99%.

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 rescheduled EYFS and KS1 parents' meetings will be taking place next Wednesday, 14th March between 2.30pm and 6.00pm.

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

Thank you to all parents who attended the meetings held on Wednesday for KS2.



School Photographs

Our school photographer will be in school this **Tuesday, 13th March** to take individual and family photographs. If you have not returned your slip indicating your photo preferences for your child then please do so on Monday. Without your slip, we will be unable to photograph your child. To ensure that the sessions run smoothly and without delay, please ensure, as always, that your child is in full uniform.

Catholic Children's Society Making A Difference



Own Clothes Day

Today, children came to school in their own clothes and the school held a cake sale in support of the Catholic Children's Society Day. The day is organised by the Catholic Children's Society Westminster 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. Altogether, we raised £468.35 for this very worthy cause. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Year 2 Trip

School visits always provide valuable opportunities to extend children's learning whilst enjoying the excitement of being somewhere new. On Wednesday, our year 2 pupils visited the Florence Nightingale Museum. This is what two pupils in Class 2B had to say about their trip:

'At the museum, I liked the pictures in the picture hole. I enjoyed seeing the smart-looking owl that looked real.'

Isaac

'At the museum I liked looking at the tiny holes that had pictures and writing, and I liked listening on the headphones. I enjoyed looking for Florence's turtle.'

Chidinma



Newsletter

Last week's school closure meant that we were unable to send out our weekly newsletter. However, an electronic version of Issue 288 for 2nd March 2018 can be found on our website at <http://www.stdominics.hackney.sch.uk/news/news/>



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.

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.

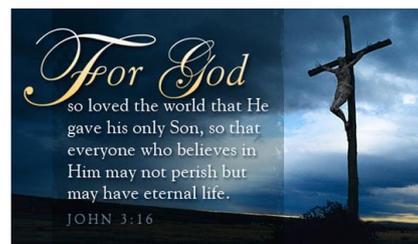
If you have changed your contact details recently please advise the school office immediately.



Birthdays at St. Dominic's

Happy Birthday to the following children who will be celebrating their birthdays over the next week.

Alfie Ashley Nursery	10 th
Anthony Ngo 3A	10 th
Precious Sami 2B	10 th
Ysabella Tadique 3B	11 th
Neo Molina 1B	12 th
Ephraim Osei 1A	13 th
Santiago Castrillon 6B	15 th
Adanna Mbaso 1B	15 th
Xavier Monrose-Dacosta 6B	16 th
Shanniya Nsiiro 4A	16 th



Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year B

St. Augustine once said, 'In the Old Testament the New is concealed and in the New Testament the Old is revealed.' In Sunday's Gospel we reflect on an incident from the Book of Numbers that sheds light on Christ's mission to be the Saviour and Light of the World.

Prayer

Loving Father,
help us to live as children of the light, shining out in the darkness and touching the lives of others with the warmth of your love. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen.