



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St Ambrose Barlow Newsletter

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Newsletter No 3

30<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and co-operation this term. Despite all of the barriers, the children are safe, happy and flourishing back in school. You have all been incredible in supporting us, in keeping the school community safe. Your support, encouragement and kindness mean a great deal to the St Ambrose Barlow Team.

### Library Book and Home Readers

In the Summer Term, I asked all parents to return schoolbooks that were at home, either from our school library or home reading books. I am asking once again, for you to search at home, there are many books that have still not been returned. We are now in a position where we do not have enough Home Reader books to send home for children to read. Please search for books around your home and return them to school when you are dropping off or collecting your child. Please put a label on the book with your child's name, so we can keep our records up to date. For books that are not returned, a charge will have to be made. This is the only way we will be able to replace them. We cannot afford to replace books that are not returned. There will be boxes under Our Lady's statue outside the hall for you to place any books inside.

### Book Fair

Due to the pandemic, the book fair could not take place in the normal way this year. Last week your child was sent home with a Book Fair leaflet. Please do your best to purchase some books for your children to enjoy. Buying books through the Book Fair will enable the school to receive a bonus that we can then use to purchase books for our school library. Last year we received £542.00 worth of books. To place an order, please go to [www.scholastic.co.uk](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

We know that reading is vital to learning. It is well proven, that reading regularly can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their well-being and their mental health.

It would also be great if you spent some time reading to your child. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. It also provides you with an opportunity to have a regular and shared event that both you and your child can look forward to.

### FOSABS (Friends of St Ambrose Barlow School)

Due to the pandemic, FOSABS have not been able to do any of their usual fundraising events. They are however running a fund-raising Christmas Raffle. Tickets go on sale today via the School Money App. Tickets are £1 each and you can purchase as little or as many, just change the amount you require. Your child's name will then be placed into the draw. The last day for purchasing tickets is Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December and the draw will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Prizes are a Festive Hamper, £50 Raja Monkey, £25 Emery's Butchers, Car Valet - Dynamic Shine, £75 Danielle Guiden Make up Tutorial, £20 Pom Pom Party, £20 Smithtons Food Market, £20 Urban Design Florist, Shellac manicure – Lucythuybeauty, Blow dry - Zoe Lloyd hair specialist, Balloon- Mommas little gift house, 6 cupcakes- Kake me Happy, £30 voucher for Kidslingo (french class).

To keep everyone safe, prizes will be given whilst adhering to social distancing rules. Please do your best to support this fabulous fund-raising event.

## **Free School Meals**

Parents/Guardian of children in Reception class through to Year 6 can apply for Free School Meals. Free School Meals is a benefit awarded in respect of children under the age of 19 where the parent/guardian receives one of the qualifying benefits below:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you are/or in the future receive any of these benefits, please remember to apply by logging onto: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham>. Should your application be successful, the school will automatically be informed and Free School Meals will start immediately. Even if you stop receiving any of the benefits above, Free School Meals will continue until (whichever is sooner); 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, your child leaves Year 6 or moves to another school. Should any parent/guardian need support in completing the form, please contact the School Office.

This not only helps parents but also provides our school with extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'.

## **Pope Francis Teaching on Care for 'Our Common Home' Laudato Si**

There is no Planet B. This is the only one we have and it needs our help – every day and every way. Archbishop Romero said, 'Aspire not to have more but to be more'. You should not be defined by your possessions but by your actions.

Refuse – stuff you won't use again. Reduce – the amount you buy. You know all about Reuse and Recycle.

## **Christmas Cards**

For many years at St Ambrose Barlow, we have asked children to send one card to the class, rather than individual cards to everyone. Please do not send your child into school with a card for every child in the class. Children can write one card for the whole class. This will be displayed in the classroom for all the children to enjoy. Please also encourage your child to make their own card. Use those bits of stationery you already have. Thank you

## **Reception Class - September 2021 Applications**

Parents/carers who have a child who was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 need to make an application for their child to start Reception Class in September 2021 by the final closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The quickest and easiest way to make an application is online at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions). It is also vitally important that you also complete our school 'Additional Information Form' as part of the admissions process. If you have not already done so, then please call the office. It is important that you apply on time as any applications received after the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be classed as late applications and will be processed after the national offer day of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at any of their preferred schools. This year we will not be allowed to hold an open afternoon as we normally would. Please see the website, which contains a wealth of information about school life at St Ambrose Barlow.

## Food Bank

A big

# THANK YOU



**To St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School**

You gave **220.7kg** of food to Sparkhill Foodbank, worth  
**£371\*!**

Your **donations** make a **BIG** difference to local people in crisis



\*Monetary value is calculated based on  
Trussell Trust estimate of £1.68 per kg



Yours sincerely

Mrs M Winters  
Headteacher