



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St Ambrose Barlow Newsletter

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Newsletter No 4

16th December 2020

Dear Parents

The school closes for the Christmas holiday following the afternoon session, on Friday 18th December 2020 and re-opens on Monday 4th January 2021.

School Website

Our website is fully active and regularly updated with details that you may find useful together with the wonderful activities the children are involved in at school. Please have a look and do remember to check back regularly to keep up to date with what's going on. The website address is: www.sab.bham.sch.uk

School Meals

KS1 - All KS1 pupils are entitled to universal free school meals.

KS2 - Payment for KS2 meals must be paid in advance through the 'School Money' website. The cost of school dinners is £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week (which includes Pizza Friday). Payments for Pizza Friday £2.40 are payable in the same way. Dinners can be paid weekly or half-termly and we do ask that meal arrangements be maintained for the duration of that half-term. If there are any changes to these arrangements for the following half-term, please contact the school office.

We ask parents to stay in credit whenever possible. This is particularly important, as:

After two days of non-payment, hot meals will not be served to your child

After five days of non-payment, a packed lunch from home will be required until arrears are cleared.

Training Day

There will be a training day on Friday 22nd January. School will be closed to pupils.

Swimming for Year 3

Swimming sessions for Year 3 will resume again next term. They will start on Tuesday 12th January. Our school will be the only school in the pool and changing areas. All swimmers must come Beach Ready. Therefore, on Tuesdays the children must wear their swimming kit underneath their uniform. Miss McLeish will talk to the children about this. Children must bring their swimming kit into school each Tuesday and they must have a winter coat for the coach journey. Please ensure all stud earrings are removed at home.

Recycling Awareness

Each class has a battery recycling point and we would welcome any used batteries from home so that we can become a greener school. More information can be found at <http://www.batteryback.org/>. Used pens, cartridges, felt tips, highlighters and whiteboard pens are also collected in each classroom. Each pen raises money for our school. More information can be found at <http://www.terracycle.co.uk/en-UK/>. We must ensure that these items are recycled and don't end up in a landfill sites.

Rights Respecting School Award

We are always striving to create the best possible learning environment for our children one of the ways we do this is through the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child. We are committed to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. We have set up a steering group and have an action plan to ensure that:

- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) underpins our values and decision making in school
- the whole school learns about the CRC and respects the rights of others
- children are empowered to become active learners and active local and global citizens.

Unicef (United Nations Children's Fund) is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights and we join a community of over 4,000 schools in the UK working on the Rights Respecting Schools Award. Right Respecting Schools across the country have reported that the Award has many positive impacts including improved relationships, well-being and self-esteem, leading to better attendance and improved learning. We have been awarded the Unicef UK's Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award (RRSA). We are now working towards the Gold Award. Please talk to your child about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

You can find out more about the Unicef, Rights Respecting Schools Award from the RRSA website www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa

Free School Meals

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office.

Reception Class - September 2021 Applications

Parents/Carers who have a child who was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 need to make an application for their child to start Reception Class in September 2021 by the final closing date 15th January 2021. The quickest and easiest way to make an application is online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by contacting a member of the School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service on 0121 675 0555. However, please ensure that you send a bring the child's baptism certificate into school. If we have no proof of baptism the child will not be correctly ranked. Please see our school website for a virtual tour of our school. <https://www.sab.bham.sch.uk>

Advent

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. However, in the midst of the pre-Christmas frenzy, it's easy to lose sight of the profound spiritual importance of the Advent season. Our greatest temptation during Advent will be scrimping on our spiritual needs because there are so many other things going on! During Advent, we are asked to prepare spiritually for the coming of Jesus, through prayer and reflection. As the feast of Christmas draws closer, we are reminded that Jesus is with us even now, and the Church emphasises the anticipation and joy which should be in our hearts as we come closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus and remembering the true spirit of Christmas. Each day at prayer time, we help the children to appreciate the meaning of Advent and the season of Christmas. Please try to spend a little time each day reflecting, with your child on the true meaning of Christmas.

Last Sunday we lit the third candle

3rd CANDLE- (pink) "**CANDLE OF JOY**"
The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

This Sunday we will light the fourth candle
4th CANDLE- (purple) "**CANDLE OF LOVE**"
God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE - (white) "**CHRIST CANDLE**"
The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29 and John 3:1-8)



Christmas Services at St Ambrose Barlow Church

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| Christmas Eve | 5pm Mass (FULL) 7pm Mass (FULL) |
| Christmas Day | 8am Mass – few spaces 10am Mass (FULL) |
| Saturday 26 th December | 10am Mass |
| Sunday 27 th December | 10am Mass 5.30pm Mass |
| Wednesday 30 th December | 10am Mass |
| Friday 1 st January | 10am Mass |
| Saturday 2 nd January | 5.30pm Mass |
| Sunday 3 rd January | 10am Mass 5.30pm Mass |

All Masses will be live on the Church Webcam.

The only Masses that need to be 'booked' are the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. All others are first come, first seated but please be aware it is likely to be busier over the Christmas season with an increase in Christmas Bubbles. Don't forget to wrap up warm as whilst they're heating the building there must be plenty of ventilation to keep us all safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work and dedication this term. It has certainly been a term of challenges and they have embraced everything with goodwill and continued to provide the best care and education for the children.

I would also like to thank all parents for their support this term. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you and your co-operation and backing.

Finally, may we wish you all a happy and holy Christmas, followed by a New Year of health and happiness.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Winters