



Archdiocese of Birmingham

# St Ambrose Barlow Newsletter

Headteacher: Mrs M Winters

St Ambrose Barlow  
Catholic Primary School  
841 Shirley Road, Hall Green  
Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Tel: 0121 464 2791  
enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

[www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

**Newsletter No 5**

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dear Parents

In winter, the Church's season of ordinary time has a certain character which focuses on Jesus beginning his ministry, summoning his disciples and causing a stir! We are called to reflect on how we too can follow Jesus' example in our daily lives.

However, on the feast of Candlemas (2nd February,) we are reminded that just forty days ago we celebrated Jesus' birth at Christmas and we need the associated images of light and hope to see us through the rest of the winter. By Candlemas, the days are lengthening rapidly and Lent will be with us soon (especially this year as Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls in half term, just three weeks away).

The term so far has certainly presented its challenges and I would like to thank you all for the support you have shown for the community of St Ambrose Barlow, both at school and from home. On Wednesday, the government informed us with the news that schools will remain closed until March 8<sup>th</sup> at least. As you will be aware, we will get two weeks' notice of any changes that will be made. We, like you, will be informed of what will be happening closer to the time. Again, we do not get any prior information of the arrangements made by the Government or what the intended return will look like. As soon as we have more information, we will communicate this with you at the earliest opportunity.

It is important to acknowledge the difficulty of the time we find ourselves in. It is equally important to remember that it will not always be like this. The lockdown will ease; it will come to an end. Our school will re-open to all pupils. We will all gather again. I am so impressed with how well parents and children are continuing to cope with remote learning. Needless to say, we are missing all those staying safely at home but, seeing their work, photos and videos is some consolation. Staff have appreciated the telephone conversations with the children. Well done for everything you have achieved. Feedback over the phone and through emails demonstrates the overwhelmingly positive response to our Home Teaching offer. This is testament to the staff who have embraced the daily challenges and steep curve of change. Once again, I thank them for their dedication to the children in their care.

We know how hard the current situation can be for families - we are all experiencing an incredibly challenging situation. Thank you so much to all of you who are managing to keep your children at home whilst juggling your own work commitments, but also to all of you for supporting your children to access their learning online.

You may have seen in the news that lateral flow testing for Covid -19 has now been extended to primary school staff. All staff at St Ambrose Barlow have been offered lateral flow tests, which are done twice weekly, with the results reported to the government as well as to the school. A positive result from a lateral flow test would mean that a PCR test would then need to be taken. If this too was positive the affected bubble would need to self-isolate for ten days.

Next week is Children's Mental Health week. This year's theme is 'Express Yourself'. The pandemic and current lockdown has brought a lot of uncertainty and our children's mental health has never been more important. There are lots of resources on the Children's Mental

Health Week website that can be used with children at home.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

In school, the teachers will set some learning around this important topic. Work can be completed by those learning at home and in school.

Dear Lord,

At this time of pandemic,

Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor.

Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours.

Let us take advantage of living together as a family.

Let us attend to moments of prayer.

Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope.

Amen.

*Prayer adapted from a radio message from Rodolfo Valenzuela Núñez, Bishop of La Verapaz, Guatemala*

Father in Heaven,

Bless our school and all our families.

Be with us this Spring term and guide our actions and intentions, helping us to be the best that we can be.

Help us to help others, thinking of those in need and taking action where we can.

Help us to bring peace to the world.

Help us to do Your work here on Earth, building Your Kingdom for all to share.

Amen.

Thank you for all your support and continue to keep each other safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Winters  
Headteacher