



Archdiocese of Birmingham

St Ambrose Barlow Newsletter

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Newsletter No 10

20th July 2021

Dear Parents

As you are aware the school closes for the Summer Holiday on Wednesday at 2pm and re-opens on Monday 6th September.

Timings of the School Day

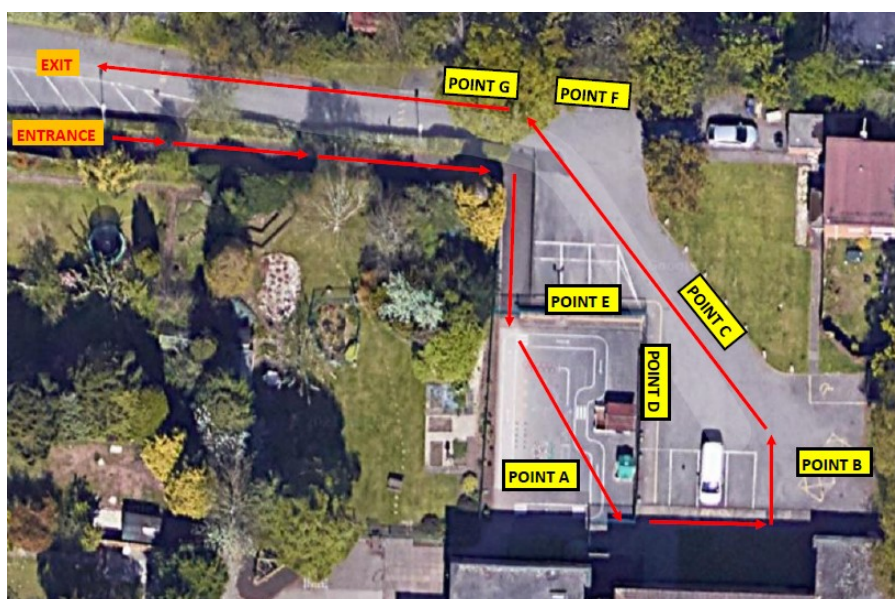
In September the timings of the school day will revert back to pre-covid times. The gates and entrance doors will open at 8.45am, for a staggered intake. Children to be left in the front playground with staff. Children will turn right into the large playground. The parent will turn left to return through the car park, down the drive. Children to go straight into classrooms, through assigned doors, assisted by staff. There will be staff on the playground to direct your children to their new classrooms.

You will be informed of timings of the end of the school day in September. It is hoped that we will be able to revert to our normal time of 3.30 for all. However, Government Guidance may change within the school holidays, therefore timings will be confirmed on the 2nd of September. To help with congestion, collection points will remain the same as this year.

If your child has siblings in school, they will go to the youngest child's collection point as they have this year.

Collection Points

Reception, Year 1 and Year 3's collection point will continue to be from the front playground. (Point A)
Year 2 Kitchen Entrance (Point B) Parent waiting area (Point C)
Year 4 Car park alongside the wall by the playhouses (Point D) Parent waiting area (Point E)
Year 5 Caretaker's House (Point F). Parent waiting area (Point G)
Year 6 Kitchen Entrance (Point B) Parent waiting area (Point C)



School Meals

School Meals KS1 - All KS1 pupils are entitled to universal free school meals. KS2 - Payment for KS2 meals must be made on the first day of the week through the 'School Money' website. The cost of school dinners is £12.00 per week (which includes Pizza Friday); £2.40 per day. Separate payments for Pizza Friday (£2.40) is payable in the same way. Dinners can be paid weekly or half-termly, but we do ask that the arrangements you have made for your child to have either dinners or sandwiches are maintained for the duration of that half-term. If there are any changes to these arrangements for the following half-term, please write to the school office.

Reminder!

If you are considering having your child's ears pierced over the holidays, the beginning of the holiday is ideal as they will have the 6 weeks of wearing them and be ready to remove them for PE in the Autumn term. The Summer holidays are the time when children enjoy different hairstyles e.g. braiding or patterns cut into hair. Please ensure that by the 6th September children's hairstyles are in line with our School Uniform Policy. Thank you.

Medicines in School

At the end of the summer term, we ask that all medicines are taken home. Please make sure your child's medicine is collected. Thank you.

Year 6 Leavers

It is the time of year again where we wish farewell to our superb Year Six pupils. Tomorrow we are saying a tearful goodbye. We wish them well as they progress to pastures new. May they look back on St Ambrose Barlow with fondness. They have been an amazing year group and we wish them every success. We are proud of their achievements and know that we send them on to their new schools having had some wonderful, memorable learning experiences. We thank the children for the contribution which they have made to the life of the school, and trust that they have enjoyed their time at St Ambrose Barlow School. We hope that the children will make the most of the opportunities that they are presented with at secondary school and that they benefit from the experience. We wish them the very best of luck as they start the next stage of their educational journey. I know that they have all had a great start here at St Ambrose Barlow and know that they will go on to achieve great things in the future. So, good luck in your new schools and best wishes for the future!

Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to Miss McLeish and her future husband, Mr Bresnen who will be getting married during the summer break. We wish them every blessing and a future full of love, joy and happiness. Miss McLeish, will be Mrs Bresnen when she returns after the summer break.

Summer Learning

To make it easier for your child when they return in September, encourage a little bit of learning each day over the holiday period. This doesn't need to be arduous and it will make all the difference to their return in September. Six weeks of no reading, writing or maths can have a detrimental effect on them emotionally and academically. Here is how you can help, whether your child is going into Year 1 or Year 6:

Times Tables

Over the Summer we would love the children to practise their times tables. Why not have a look at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb7Q5jSm9eh_fdDPQmVpyp4XRu-raUbHc

<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

Reading

We would love the children to join in the Reading Challenge at their local library. It would be wonderful if the majority of children complete this by the time we return in September.

Continue to read with your child each day for 15 minutes. Keeping this up during the Summer will make such a difference to them when they return in September.

Writing

The holidays are a time when children enjoy lots of lovely experiences. It would be marvelous if they could write about these experiences, to share with their class when they return to school.

<https://www.spellzone.com/index.cfm>

As we come to the end of this academic year, it is with great pride that I can look back at the many achievements of the children. They have all worked so hard despite continuously changing demands forced on us by the pandemic. The children have shown great resilience when faced with Home Learning and quickly adapted to school life again when they returned to school. We are so lucky to have children who understand the value of education and who strive to improve upon their own personal best.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work and dedication throughout this very strange and challenging year. We are very fortunate to have a number of people who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our school is able to do its best for your children. All of these people give their time, energy and enthusiasm, often working unseen and unnoticed, giving above and beyond what is asked of them. Our school thrives because of the dedication of staff and the support that they receive from parents and carers. I would also like to thank all parents and carers for their support this year. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you and your co-operation and backing. My very sincere thanks to staff, parents, governors and of course our wonderful children!

I have written a number of letters home to parents over time, but this is without doubt the most difficult of them all – my final newsletter. I am deeply saddened to be leaving as I have had the most amazing experience at St Ambrose Barlow. I can say with complete honesty that St Ambrose Barlow children are the best pupils I have ever met. We have children who are full of compassion, who care for one another and live our virtues every single day. They make me extremely proud and I know they will all go on to do great things in later life. Thank you for being so wonderful. I wish you all every blessing for the future.

I have so many things to be grateful for, not many Headteachers have the experience of having an entire staff team that they love working with. They all work extremely hard to give the best they can to our pupils. They make it a joy to come into work each day and I will miss this extended family. I have also been surrounded by a leadership team who saw my vision and worked with me to make it happen, I know at times it's not been easy, but even through the tough times we've always managed to see the humour and keep a smile on our faces. I will truly miss you all.

Finally, I would like to wish all children and their families who are leaving St Ambrose Barlow at the end of this academic year all the very best on their journey. I would like to wish you all of you a happy and relaxing Summer break. I hope all of our children have a safe and memorable Summer holiday.

Prayer for the summer break

Lord, we put ourselves into Your hands, and pray that You will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer. May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summertime.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Winters
Headteacher

“Rest is so necessary for the health of our
Minds and bodies, and often so difficult to achieve
Due to the many demands placed on us.
But rest is also essential for our spiritual health,
So that we can hear God’s voice and understand
what he asks of us”.
Pope Francis