

ST AMBROSE BARLOW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head teacher: Mr J Clinton
Website: www.sab.bham.sch.uk

Twitter: @SAB_B28

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

Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head of School at St Ambrose Barlow. I have enjoyed meeting the children each day at the gate and having the opportunity to speak to parents. I hope to get to know each of you as the year continues. The children have made an excellent start back at school and I am pleased the new routines which have been introduced seem to be successful.

Morning drop off will continue as it is: children will walk down to the gate and be welcomed by a member of senior staff before walking into school and into their classroom. Staff are on duty in the morning in the playground to ensure this is a calm and safe process.

Afternoon dismissal: the gates will open at 3:20, which should give parents time to come onto the school playground itself. Children will be dismissed at 3:30 directly to the adult. Children from Year Two and above will then make their way out of the playground via the exit at the other side of the playground. To ease congestion, parents of children in Reception or Year One can exit by the front gate by the school office.

Covid measures

The past two years have been a radically different experience for all schools, with isolations, bubbles, social distancing and remote learning. Hopefully, we are starting to see a return to a slightly more normal approach, although we still need to be vigilant about reducing the risk of infection and transmission.

To this end, please make a note of the following information:

- There is a risk assessment still in place but assemblies can resume and alternative arrangements to avoid mixing at lunch are no longer needed.
- If a child tests positive, then he/she will still need to isolate for the required amount of time.
- Pupils should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine).
- However, the DfE guidance stipulates that children are no longer required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, as they are below the age of 18 years.
- If anyone in school develops COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, they should be sent home and parents should follow public health advice.

If a school has a substantial increase in the number of positive cases, a director of public health might advise the school that face coverings should temporarily be worn in communal areas or classrooms (by staff and visitors, unless exempt). Our contingency plans cover this possibility.

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Swimming

Swimming begins on Wednesday 15th September. This term, Year Three are attending. Each Wednesday, each child will require their swimming kit, a towel, a pair of goggles **and a swimming hat**. They will be transported to and from Tudor Grange pool by coach. No earrings are allowed in the swimming pool so no children in Year Three should wear earrings on Wednesdays.

PE dates

Children will need their PE kit in school each day. On the days(s) your child has PE, they will get changed from their uniform into the kit. Kits will be sent home periodically to be washed and then we ask that they are returned promptly. Miss Ball is our PE co-ordinator and liaises with other agencies who deliver parts of our curriculum and our clubs, including Hall Green tennis and Aston Villa football coaching.

Below is a table detailing when your child has PE this term.

Year Six: Tuesday and Friday

Year Five: Monday and Friday

Year Four: Thursday and Wednesday

Year Three: Monday and Wednesday
(Swimming)

Year Two: Tuesday and Friday

Year One: Wednesday and Thursday

Reception: Tuesday and Friday

School Photographs

Aperture are in school on Monday 13th September for individual and sibling photographs. Class photographs have been arranged for Monday 23rd May.

Communication

We now have a Twitter feed where both work and important information will be shared. Please follow us @SAB_B28. Mrs Corrigan, our Office Manager, will also call or text parents when necessary.

A weekly newsletter will be sent out as well, along with attendance information and any children who have made our 'Golden Book' for living our faith and virtues and going above and beyond in their effort or their achievements. Such celebrations will be shared during assembly each Friday afternoon.

The format of the letter may change as we get used to a new system! All feedback gratefully received!

Pizza Friday

If your child is in KS2 and would like to enjoy our very popular Pizza Friday, please pay termly for this via school Money. This will be deducted each Friday. Please inform the school office if your child(ren) are to have Pizza Friday.

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Parish Mass

To celebrate the feast day of St Ambrose Barlow, Fr Paul very kindly invited the children from years One to Six to parish mass today. We may have more masses in the church, as well as some masses in the school hall. For the former, if you are in a position to help us walk down to mass, then please let either your child's class teacher know, or leave a message with Mrs Corrigan or Mr Clinton.

A timetable for sacramental masses, class masses and class assemblies will follow once agreed. Watch out for this in next week's newsletter!

INSET day – school closed

In order to help prepare the school to improve the teaching and learning that children experience, we have arranged an INSET day for **Friday 8th October**. On this day, school will be **closed to ALL children**.

Lunchtime Supervisors

We wish to appoint extra adults to work as Lunchtime Supervisors at Ambrose Barlow.

We can promise clear and easy-to-understand routines and excellent behaviour.

If you are interested, or know of anyone who may be, please tell them to contact the school office for an application form.

Dates for your diary

There will be a full newsletter next week, and each subsequent week, with important dates for your diary and term dates for the year.

Birthdays this week

It gives me great pleasure to wish a happy birthday to the following children: Ellie and Ava-Leigh in Year Five who were both ten on Monday; Noah in Year Three who was eight on Thursday!

Message from Mr Taylor, Executive Head

We have all learnt to deal with many changes to everyday life during the last 18 months. Change is often accompanied by feelings of uncertainty and perhaps some anxiety on what the future will hold. A change of leadership within a school is a significant event. Over the course of this week, many of you will have met Mr Clinton, the new Acting Head of School here at St Ambrose Barlow. Mr Clinton brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills and a determination to ensure St Ambrose Barlow Catholic School is the very best school it can be. It is less likely that you will have met myself this week. My role as Acting Executive Headteacher is different to that of Mr Clinton who is responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of the School. I still maintain my role of Headteacher at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School in Shirley, Solihull whilst working at St Ambrose Barlow for approximately one day a week. I will bring my knowledge and experiences of school leadership to support and guide Mr Clinton, school staff and governors over the coming months. This academic year will be time of change and growth, we will not do this alone, but in partnership with you. I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks and months. God bless you all,

Mr Taylor Acting Executive Headteacher.

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Last but by no means least.

Finally, thank you for all your help, understanding and prayers during this first week back. As a school, we are truly blessed with wonderful children and very patient parents! I would like to reiterate my opening message of looking forward to getting to know you all better. Have a safe and peaceful weekend and coming week and I will see you on Monday morning.

God bless,

Mr Clinton
Head of School