

# ST AMBROSE BARLOW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head of School: Mr J Clinton  
Website: [www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

Twitter: @SAB\_B28

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## **Friday 17th September 2021**

Dear Parents,

The children are well and truly settled back in the routine of school after their six weeks' holiday and hopefully, after their two years of disrupted education, we are starting to see a return to normal (with regards to school life anyway). But please, continue to take the measures that are intended to keep you and others safe.

One of the highlights of the week currently is starting every Monday morning with a whole school assembly with a Gospel theme that feed through the week. Ask your children each week what it is! Collective worship happens in class each day. Every week ends with a celebration of our achievements and these two assemblies book-end our week in school and adds to a real feeling of community. This is also where we celebrate and praise those individuals who appear in our Golden Book for going above and beyond in their Christian calling and embodying by their actions what it means to be a pupil at Saint Ambrose Barlow.

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### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Maria Nadolna for listening carefully and following our class rules.

**Year One:** Emily Healy for settling into year one so well but also always trying her best each day in class. She is a lovely, polite girl who is also displays kindness to others in all that she does.

**Year Two:** Martha Coughlan for being so independent and trying her hardest in every lesson as well as trying to make sure the new Reception children have settled into school well.

**Year Three:** Charlie McNally for working hard in Literacy in particular trying to develop his vocabulary by using the words of the week in his writing and up-levelling those with exciting adjectives

**Year Four:** Selina Lin for an excellent start to the year; for being an excellent role model to her peers and providing maximum effort in all lessons.

**Year Five:** Daisy-May Edgington has been an amazing friend and supported her peers. She has also been producing amazing work and her presentation has been wonderful!

**Year Six:** Declan Kerr for sharing his incredible knowledge of World War Two so eloquently in our History Lesson.

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### **Parent Assembly**

Parents, please join us for a special KiVa assembly this Monday at 3pm, where we will detail our approach to inclusivity and anti-bullying. All parents are welcome in the school hall for a drink, a biscuit and to watch the presentation. It will be a chance to get to know many of you better. The door opens at 14:45.

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### **Traffic outside of school**

Birmingham City Council have been contacted about both the flow and speed of traffic outside school, in an effort to make our school environment both safer and more pleasant. Nobody can promise a quick resolution but please rest assured it remains a priority!

The school requires like a crossing supervisor employed to replace Tony, who a lot of you were very fond of. This is an appointment made by the council and not by school but there has been some progress.

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Speed bumps will also slow traffic down, making our immediate vicinity outside school safer and I also believe that this was agreed some time ago and now needs to be initiated.

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## Uniform

Since the children returned, staff have had a real focus on uniform. We are encouraging all children to take pride in the appearance – after all, they are wearing the uniform of St Ambrose Barlow School and should see this as a privilege that comes with certain obligations. A reminder, therefore, that the following rules apply.

### **All children should wear black school shoes.**

There have been examples of some schools allowing their children to wear black trainers that pass as shoes but this should not creep in at St Ambrose Barlow. Therefore, please purchase sensible school shoes for your child to wear.

### **No child should be wearing jewellery**

so necklaces and bracelets should not be worn. Historically, children in Key Stage Two have been **allowed to wear earrings**. However, I am currently in consultations with the governors because, with the increased provision of after school clubs, we should be following the advice shared by the Association for Physical Education that NO earrings whatever should be worn on the days that children have physical activity, which is likely to be most days. This is especially pertinent now we have introduced the Daily Mile, where children aim to run a mile each day in school time.

I will communicate the decision of the Governors after our Full Governing Body

meeting but I am keeping you abreast of what is under consideration.

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## Christmas theatre trips

Bookings have been made for the children to enjoy a trip to the theatre in December.

Reception and KS1 will attend One Snowy Day at the Midlands Arts Centre, Canon Hill Park on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30.

KS2 will attend James and the Giant Peach at the Crescent Theatre on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30. Payment details to follow next week.

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## PE dates

Children need their PE kit in school each day. On the days(s) your child has PE, they will get changed from their uniform into their kit. After clubs, children may wear their kit home but it must come back into school ASAP so all children can be fully involved in curriculum time. 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

Additionally, the following clubs are in operation:

**Tuesday am:** Karate (KS2)

**Tuesday pm:** Aston Villa Football (Year Five and Six)

**Wednesday:** Tennis (Year Three and Four)

**Thursday:** Dance (Year One and Two)

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## Harvest Mass

I wish to thank Father Paul for this very kind words in last week's parish bulletin. It was genuinely a pleasure to attend whole school mass for the feast of our patron, and I would also like this trend to continue. With that in mind, the vast majority of masses celebrated by the school will be in the parish church. The exception to this will be our next whole school mass, however. This is scheduled for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 9:30. Again, I would like to invite parents into school for this celebration.

I would also like to ask your help in bringing in Harvest gifts. Any pasta, rice, tinned fruit and vegetables, non-perishable consumables would be hugely appreciated. Following the mass, we will donate the Harvest gifts to our local food bank, who are greatly in need.

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## Photo consent

Please fill in the paper form giving photo consent so our Twitter feed can be utilised to greater effect. We plan to tweet out children's work, activities and sporting achievements to the wider community.

If a child is photographed, only their first name will accompany. Most children will not be named at all. I would like to celebrate our many achievements so your consent for this would be greatly appreciated!

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## INSET day – school closed

A reminder that school is closed to ALL pupils on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October**. This is an INSET day where staff will be undertaking tasks linked to their professional development and the success of the school.

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## 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. The position has also been advertised on the Birmingham City Council website.

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## Dates for your diary

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Harvest Mass  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October: INSET  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Parent Consultation  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Parent Consultation  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October: Break up for half term  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November: School re-opens  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November: Reception Open day  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November: FHC meeting 6pm School hall  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Sacrament of Reconciliation 6pm Parish Church  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Whole School Mass (Immaculate Conception)  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Nativity  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Nativity  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas parties  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Theatre trip  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December: Whole School mass  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January: Return to school  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January: Whole School Mass (Epiphany)

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## School Council

I know that last year, due to COVID restrictions and bubbles bursting, the School Council met very infrequently. With this in mind, we have taken to decision to continue with last year's class representatives. They are as follows:

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Year Four – Freya Nixon and Noah Young  
Year Five – Naomi Cunnane and Daniel Caine  
Year Six – Jacob Roberts and Teuta Zhegrova  
Year Three will elect theirs this week and KS1 will continue to attend on a rota basis. Look out for our first meeting!

## Mini-Vinnies (SVP)

Additionally, we are also looking at setting up our own Mini-Vinnies group, an offshoot of the St Vincent de Paul society, who put their faith into action with lasting impact in the community. More information to follow!

## Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Charlie Burke (Year Five) who was ten on Tuesday; Nico Hansa (Year Four) who was nine on Wednesday; Gavin Singha (Year Six) who is eleven today and Lauren Hughes (Year Three) who will be eight on Sunday.

## Gaelic footballers

Congratulations to all those who were attending the All Britain Gaelic Football Championships last Friday. Below is an account from Maeve Cunningham in Year 5:

*"I am here to tell you some facts and information about my Gaelic football life. I hope you enjoy.*

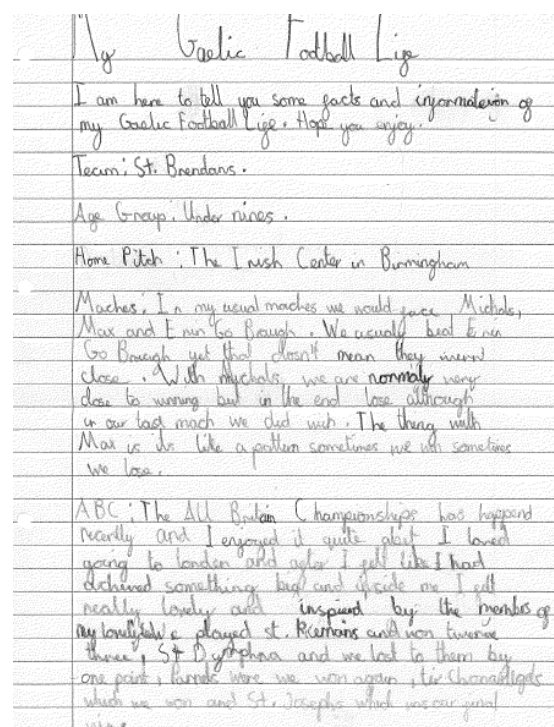
*Team: St Brendan's*

*Age Group: Under 9s*

*Home pitch: The Irish Centre in Birmingham*

*Matches: In my usual matches, I would face Mitchels, Macs and Erin Go Bragh. We usually beat Erin Go Bragh yet that doesn't mean they weren't close. With Mitchells, we are normally very close to winning but in the end, we lose, although in our last match we did win. The thing with Macs is it's like a pattern. Sometimes we win, sometimes we lose.*

*ABC: The All Britain Championships has happened recently and I enjoyed it quite a bit. I loved going to London and after I felt like I had achieved something big. Inside me, I felt really lovely and inspired by the members of my lovely team. We played St Kiernan's and won; St Dymnys and we lost to them by one point; Parnells where we won again; Tir Chonaill Gaels which we won and St Joseph's which was our final win."*



Participants from school: James McMahon, Cara McMahon, Sadie Kelly, Eoin Kelly, Oisín Finnegan, Annie Stephenson, Maeve Cunningham (all Year Five); Jacob Lloyd, Liam Cunnane, Niall Kelly and Declan Kerr (all Year Six).

Once we have gauged the level of interest, we would also like to be in a position to offer Gaelic football and form a St Ambrose Barlow team, in addition to the teams that children may play for outside of school.

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## **And now the moment Year Six have been waiting for all week...**

Heartfelt congratulations to the following Year Six pupils who have been chosen to be SAB Prefects for this year:

Mia Cerolini, Cian Rose, Kai Edwards, Declan Kerr, Lauren Banta, Katie Lin,

And our Head Boy and Head Girl this year will be Liam Cunnane and Kiera Sweeney.

Have a safe and peaceful weekend and coming week and I will see you on Monday morning.

God bless,

Mr Clinton  
Head of School