

ST AMBROSE BARLOW CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

Twitter: @SAB_B28

Tel: 0121 464 2791
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Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing this introduction straight after our Harvest mass and feel that we are so blessed and privileged at the school to be able to welcome so many parents in this morning. It really did lift the spirits! Fr Paul celebrated a beautiful mass, the children were well-behaved (and celebrated with an extended playtime) and the gifts that were donated were plentiful. These will now be donated to those in need.

Thank you so much for your generosity! It was a wonderful end to our week.

Golden Book

Reception: Ezra Roberts for trying so hard every day and always producing excellent work. Ezra is a great listener in class and is always so helpful and kind.

Year One: Lola Hardiman has grown independence and has worked hard in all aspects of her work this week. She has shown great willingness to learn and to give things a go!

Year Two: Abel Smith for contributing fantastic, thoughtful answers during our comprehension lesson and for making a conscious effort to join up his handwriting. His writing has really impressed Miss Ball and Mrs O' Driscoll this week.

Year Three: Nicolas Grange for his excellent writing in Literacy and his care and attention to his work.

Year Four: Logan Wilkins for fantastic recall of his time tables, always giving maximum effort and sharing his knowledge in all lessons. Keep up the fabulous work Logan!

Year Five: Eoin Kelly for always being supportive, welcoming and understanding to everyone in our class and the wider St Ambrose Barlow school community.

Year Six: Liyana Nawaz for putting 100% effort into all that she does. She always contributes actively to class discussions and shares her fabulous ideas. This has led to her making super progress this week, especially in Maths.

'Go Green' for CAFOD

World leaders are meeting in Glasgow this November to make important decisions about the future of our planet and its people. With Catholic schools around the country, we are playing our part by joining CAFOD's Go Green day to support Amazon communities protecting the rainforest, and people around the world dealing with the climate crisis.

Our children watched the CAFOD assembly this week. To raise money for CAFOD and the work they do in developing nations, we are asking children to GO GREEN next Thursday: any green items from t-shirts to trousers, jumpers and cardigans, shirts to shoes.

If children wear a green item of clothing (along with their own clothes so NO school uniform necessary), please bring in £1 ready to donate.

Reception Open Day (Prospective Parents)

This will take place on 2/11/21, 3/11/21, 4/11/21 at 14:00-15:00. It will involve a talk about our Catholic ethos and vision for curriculum, a short tour of the Reception area and time for Q&As.

Use the booking function via Eventbrite to book your slot: <https://tinyurl.com/SAB-bookhere>

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Current Reception Parent Meeting

In addition to Parent Consultations (see below), parents of children in the CURRENT Reception class are invited in on Monday 8th November. I can only apologise this not being arranged sooner – I had erroneously assumed that such a meeting had occurred last academic year.

If *at least* one parent of each child could attend this talk, then information can be shared about our Catholic ethos, our approach to spelling, our homework policy and our approach to phonics and early reading.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations have been arranged for Monday 18th October and Wednesday 20th October.

More details will follow regarding timings and organisation but this is the opportunity to speak to your child's teacher about their progress in school and have a look at their classroom and learning environment.

Book Fair

To coincide with Parent Consultations, the Book Fair will also be present in the school hall on these two days. Your child will also have opportunity to visit the book fair during the week and browse. Purchases can be made before or after school or during the day and, to make life easier, vouchers can be ordered in advance by email: see

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers> for more details.

First Holy Communion meeting

A reminder that parents of children in Year Three who are making their First Holy Communion this academic year are invited to a Parent Meeting at 6pm this Thursday 7th October, which will take place in the school hall.

This will be followed by a mass at St Ambrose Barlow Parish Church on Sunday 10th October at 10am

Free School Meals: URGENT

Mrs Corrigan has sent communication to parents about the funding that school can receive following a FSM application. For every successful application the school gains an additional £1,345 per year. As a school, we rely heavily on this extra funding to pursue activities for the children, such as:

- targeted additional adult support in every classroom
- financial support so that children can attend day and residential trips
- Employing intervention Support Teaching Assistants to provide support for children who are at risk of not making progress.

Please take the opportunity to access the online portal via

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/>

The process takes a few minutes only and you will receive email confirmation of your application and the decision based on your personal circumstances – all of the data is completely private and confidential.

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Uniform

A reminder that until further information is sent out regarding uniform following our first full Governing Body meeting of the year, the following rules still apply:

- All shoes should be black and have laces, a strap or velcro fastening. No trainers
- Long hair should be tied back
- No extreme hairstyles (lines, patterns, shaved) or colouring
- No ear rings should be worn for PE

For PE, ALL children should have the following:

- Blue t- shirt with school logo
- Navy blue shorts
- Black plimsolls

All of this can be found on the website and had not been updated from last year:
<https://www.sab.bham.sch.uk/uniform.htm>

After half-term, children will revert to winter uniform (white shirt and tie, grey pullover).

Following the FGB meeting, and as mentioned in previous newsletters, they may be some small changes to the policy.

End of day routines

Parents should ensure that children, once dismissed from their teacher, remain by their side. There have been instances where children have been dismissed to the parent and then proceeded to wander off. Also, no children (including toddlers) should use the playground equipment during dismissal times.

There are plans to install new gates at the top of the drive, both on the road and the pedestrian footpath. The gates to the car park will be automated and will only open with a

security fob or ID card. Parents should therefore no longer walk up the drive and instead should **use the footpath** at the end of the day.

Natasha's Law

A change in legislation regarding food prepared on school premises is coming into effect from 1st October. All businesses have to provide a full list of ingredients and allergen labels. To this end, without exception, if your child has a diagnosed allergy, can you contact the school office on enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk with the heading **Allergens** with the following information:

- Name
- Class
- Allergen information
- Date and location of test
- Severity
- Medicine needed

This will allow our staff to ensure that no child is served an ingredient that he or she may be allergic too.

Healthy lunchboxes

A reminder that children having packed lunches should not have unhealthy snacks. An exception is made is made on Friday where chocolate is allowed. A reminder that NO NUTS are allowed school at any time: this includes Snickers, peanut butter and Nutella. More information regarding healthy snacks can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthy-lunchboxes#lunchbox-swaps>

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Snacks at break-time

Toast or fruit is sold at break time by our kitchen staff. If children wish to bring in their own healthy snack (i.e. a piece of fruit) then this is also permitted.

School fund

If you haven't yet done so, please pay the voluntary contribution for school fund via Parent Pay, our school app.

We request that each **family pay £39**, which works out at £1 per week. In these days of ever-decreasing budgets (and rising prices), I know this may be a struggle for some families. However, it is a voluntary contribution that supplements the school budget in a variety of ways: subsidising school trips, paying for travel, classroom resources, books, competition prizes, and on items and resources for the children that enrich their experience of the curriculum within school.

Year Six Secondary Applications

For a place at secondary school, an application must be submitted before 31st October. If you live in Birmingham, you should apply for your child's secondary school place online at www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

It is important to note that applications received after the national closing date of 31st October 2021 will be treated as late applications. Late applicants are less likely to be offered a place at one of their preferred schools, and these applications will be processed after 1 March 2022, in accordance with Birmingham's co-ordinated admissions scheme.

Christmas Meal

This will take place on Tuesday 7th December. The cost is £2-40 per pupil and all pupils and staff will eat together. This will also coincide with Christmas Jumper day, where children can wear their novelty jumpers for a £1 donation to our Advent charity.

After-school clubs

Mon pm: Gaelic football (KS2)
Tues am: Karate (KS2)
Tues pm: Aston Villa Football (Year Five and Six)
Wed pm: Tennis (Year Three and Four)
Thurs pm: Dance (Year One and Two)

Gaelic Football

This is open to ALL Ks1 and KS2 children and for this Monday's session on 4th October there is no charge. Children will just need their PE kit in school, along with trainers and possibly some jogging or tracksuit bottoms.

Again, my thanks to the volunteers from Sean McDermotts GAA. If you wish your child to attend, just email enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk with the subject line: **GAA** and your child's name, your name and emergency contact details.

From next week, the weekly charge will be £3 per child, broadly in line with the other clubs that are offered.

KiVA Champions

As many of you are aware, we are a KiVa school. KiVa is an anti-bullying project that will prevent new bullying cases from emerging, tackle bullying cases effectively and minimise negative effects caused by bullying. As part of the project, KiVa champions have been selected for this half term by staff in school.

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They will wear a special vest at playtimes and will be spotting those who are 'being KiVa'. They should be proud of themselves, as staff felt they were the perfect example to launch this project to the rest of the school.

Year 3 - Sam
Year 4 - Helena
Year 5 - Amara
Year 6 – Joey

Dates for your diary

Thursday 7th October: Go Green for CAFOD £1 donation
Thursday 7th October: FHC meeting for Year Three parents at 6pm
Friday 8th October: INSET – school closed
Monday 18th October: Parent Consultations
Wednesday 20th October: Parent Consultations
Friday 22nd October: Break up for half term
Monday 1st November: School re-opens
Tuesday 2nd November: Reception Open day for prospective parents
Wednesday 3rd November: Reception Open day for prospective parents
Thursday 4th November: Reception Open Day for prospective parents
Monday 8th November: Reception Open Day (current pupils)
Thursday 18th November: FHC meeting 6pm School hall
Thursday 2nd December: Sacrament of Reconciliation 6pm Parish Church
Friday 3rd December: KS1 @ One Snowy Night 1pm (MAC Theatre trip)
Wednesday 8th December: Whole School Mass (Immaculate Conception)
Tuesday 7th December: Christmas Jumper Day £1 donation for Advent charities AND Staff and children Christmas meal
Thursday 9th December: KS2 @ James and the Giant Peach (Theatre trip)
Monday 13th December: KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 14th December: KS1 Nativity

Wednesday 15th December: KS1/2 Christmas parties (pm)

Friday 17th December: Whole School mass

Birthdays this week

A very 'Happy Birthday' to the following children who are celebrating their birthday this week: Finley (Reception) who was five on Monday; Dani in Year Four who is nine today; and Helena (Year One) who will be six tomorrow.

Happy birthday also to Miss Ball (Year Two) whose age is yet to be disclosed but who celebrated her birthday on Thursday. Many happy returns to all.

Have a safe and peaceful weekend and I will see you all on Monday morning. God bless,

Mr Clinton
Head of School