



# 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

Tel: 0121 464 2791  
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### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear Parents,

A few changes are slowly being introduced here at school: a lick of paint here, a new display board there, a newly stocked library, a few new faces amongst the staff, a slightly different timetable and a slightly new approach to the organisation of lessons that focuses on retrieval of key facts. Teachers are being very clear about what we want children to know, what we want them to remember (and how we as professionals know this) and what we want them to do with this knowledge. This is all for the benefit of the learning environment and process and, ultimately, the children.

At the top of the drive, the ivy has been cleared off the wall ready for the new electronic sliding gate and the intercom and card access system being installed in the coming weeks. To this end, we have slightly adapted our badge and logo (see at the top of this newsletter) ready for a new monolith to replace the previous signage – this will take pride of place of the green lawn in front of the wall and be visible from the road. All these changes are a way of celebrating our school: we should be proud of it and it should stand out!

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### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Albie Sweet has tried so hard in Literacy and Phonics this week. He listened carefully to identify sounds and used them in his writing. Keep up the good work, Albie!

**Year One:** Ailbhe Lillington for being a thoughtful and kind member of Year One. She leads by example and is always cheerful. In her writing this week she has produced an excellent retelling of the story including ambitious vocabulary.

**Year Two:** Layton Parsons for a huge improvement with his reading. Layton has impressed all of the adults in Year Two with how fluent and clear he has been when reading recently.

**Year Three:** John Aju for his detailed annotated drawings of rock formation in science and his constant dedication to his learning across all subjects.

**Year Four:** Harry Merricks for starting the new half term with a great attitude towards his learning and always greeting everyone with a smile! Keep it up, Harry!

**Year Five:** Hayden Perry has been excelling in all subjects since the start of September. He has worked really hard to keep a high standard of work in all his books and is a great asset to the class. He supports his peers with work without hesitation. Well done, Hayden - keep up the amazing work!

**Year Six:** Niall Kelly for really applying himself to his learning this week. He has shown excellent reasoning skills in maths, tackling challenging problems with confidence. He has used ambitious vocabulary in his writing and has played an active part in class discussions.

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### **Whole school masses**

The children will celebrate the following two whole school masses this half term:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Immaculate Conception

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Mass

Both of these masses will start at 9:30 at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Church and parents are welcome to join us either at mass or as we walk down to church from school with a class. So far this year, we have joined with the parish mass for the feast of St Ambrose Barlow on September 10<sup>th</sup> and parents were invited into school to take part in our Harvest Mass. The role of the parish is huge in the life of our school and I am delighted that these links are getting ever-closer and stronger.

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### **Welcome to new staff**

I would like to welcome Mrs Yusef who has joined the staff at St Ambrose Barlow to support the children working in Reception. She is an extremely experienced and professional practitioner and we are lucky to have her working closely with Miss Hodgkins.

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### **Year Six Class Mass**

This took place that afternoon in the classroom and was well attended. My thanks to Fr Paul for celebrating, to the children who read and to Mr Turner and Miss Newman for preparing them so well. Our faith is such a huge part of our school and, as I've said before, the stronger the links are between the parish and the school and the home, the more successful we will all be.

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### **Some parent feedback...**

Our Open Afternoons for Reception parents were very successful. Our visitors to the school were very complimentary about the approach we have to the children's learning. Our Head Boy and Girl and prefects were exemplary in their conduct as they showed our prospective parents around.

Below is an extract from an email, shared with permission, from the mother of a child who attended on Wednesday (and whose father attended the following day on Thursday):

*"I attended the Reception Open Day this afternoon and I just wanted to say how well organised it was.*

*It was an absolute pleasure to walk around your school and your children are an absolute credit to you. I really feel like I got a flavour of what St. Ambrose Barlow it is all about and it was wonderful to have such a warm welcome from all your staff. The children who showed us around were so well-mannered, well-spoken,*

*and knowledgeable - they did a great job of 'selling' the school!*

*Mr Clinton and Mrs Healy were very comprehensive during their talks, yet were very relaxed and approachable. As a first time parent, these things can be very daunting and everyone put me at ease.*

*Thank you once again. I look forward to returning with my husband, as your school is definitely top of our list!"*

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### **ABC Before and After Club**

Tara from ABC Before and After School club has also passed on the many compliments she receives as the children walk to and from school each morning. Many are parents of children from other schools and this again highlights how visible we are in the community and how we should take pride in our school and the uniform we wear!

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### **End of term**

School will close on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 14:00** and will re-open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8:45. This slightly earlier finish allows both staff and children to clear the site in good time (and for classrooms to be prepared for the return in January).

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### **Reception Open Day**

A talk and tour of the school for the parents of current Reception children will take place this Monday at 2:30pm. Parents can leave with their children (and siblings) straight away after the meeting, which should last about 45 minutes. 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. There is no need to book and all parents are welcome.

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### **Paris Parents' Meeting:**

Following the meeting last night, a new letter will be sent out to all applicable parents with a new payment plan and any additional details. This is likely to be sent on Monday but should be totally comprehensive and contain all details, including a new payment plan that is as simple and affordable as possible. I thank all the parents who attended either (or both) meetings and am pleased that progress is being made with regards to these ambitious plans. Your support is hugely appreciated and I want to thank those who gave their feedback.

### **Dinner money payments**

Please make any payments for school dinners via School Money and pay any outstanding balances. Please contact Mrs Corrigan in the office if there are any issues.

### **Illustrator visit**

Mrs Healy has organised an illustrator to attend school on Thursday 11th November. This will supplement the work we do in Literacy. Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter about a book sale that he is holding after school, to which you are invited.

### **Sporting success**



Boys from Year Six again represented the school and took part in a match against St Bernard's. This was a much closer encounter than before but the teams shared the spoils after a hard-fought 1-1 draw. Ronan scored the only goal for St Ambrose Barlow and was a great organiser of the boys and Jayden excelled in his role as captain. My thanks again to Miss Ball for organising and Mrs Bresnen for supporting and to parents for all their help and support too.

As you may be aware, the girls' football match was cancelled but will be rearranged. And next Friday, both boys and girls are taking part in a football tournament.

### **Choir and music provision**

We are starting our own after-school St Ambrose Barlow choir after Christmas. This is part of our vision for children to be given as many opportunities as possible: the eventual aim of this choir would be to perform at masses, to sing in the community, to perform on stage, to even perform at the Albert Hall! The day is yet to be confirmed but is likely to run simultaneously with another club that is being offered. The price will be in line with all our other clubs at £3 per child for 60 minutes.

We are also going to be in a position to offer instrumental tuition (piano, keyboard, clarinet) through a peripatetic music teacher. This will be in addition to the whole class fife lessons offered to Year Four and the elective flute lessons offered to Year Five.



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### November dates for your diary

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** Reception Open Day  
(for parents of current) 14:30

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November:** Nasal Flu Vaccination

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November:** FHC meeting 6pm  
School Hall Year 3 Parents

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November:** Year Three Class  
Assembly

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Year Four (and Year  
Five elective) Flute concert at 2pm for KS2

### December dates for your diary

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December:** Sacrament of  
Reconciliation 6pm Parish Church Year 3

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December:** KS1 @ One Snowy Night  
1pm (MAC Theatre trip)

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December:** Whole School  
Mass (Immaculate Conception) at 9:30 in the  
parish church

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas Jumper Day  
£1 donation for Advent charities AND  
Staff / Children Christmas meal

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December:** KS2 @ James and the  
Giant Peach (Theatre trip)

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Reception Nativity 9:30

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December:** KS1 Nativity 14:00

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December:** KS1 Nativity 14:00

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December:** Christmas parties  
(pm)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** Whole School mass at  
9:30 in the parish church

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December:** School closes at 14:00

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### January dates for your diary

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January:** School re-opens at 8:45

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January:** Whole School Mass at  
9:30 (Epiphany)

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January:** Year Six St Chad's  
cathedral visit

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January:** Year Five class assembly  
9am

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January:** Year One Class Mass  
14:00

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### Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Andreas in Year One who was six on Monday. Caitlyn in Year Five was ten on Wednesday and to Ava-Mary in Year Three was eight on Wednesday also. Corey (Year Four) was nine on Thursday, as was Gracie (Reception) who was five. Mia in Year Six is eleven today and Jacob (also from Year Six) is eleven tomorrow. Happy birthday one and all!

All that remains for me to say is to enjoy any firework displays or bonfires you may be attending but please put your safety first!

May God bless all the children and their families you and keep you all safe, ready to return on Monday!

Mr Clinton  
Head of School



## BOOK ORDER FORM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A BOOK AND YOUR CHILD IS UNABLE TO MAKE THE BOOK SALE PLEASE PLACE A TICK BESIDE THE BOOK(S) YOU WOULD LIKE AND GIVE THE MONEY TO THE TEACHER ALONG WITH THIS FORM. YOU CAN VIEW THE BOOKS AT MY WEBSITE: [WWW.MPROBERTSON.COM](http://WWW.MPROBERTSON.COM).

AT THE BOOK SALE CASH IS PREFERRED BUT A CARD MACHINE IS AVAILABLE

- THE EGG.** George discovers an oversized egg in his mother's chicken house. When a dragon hatches out he knows it is his motherly duty to teach the dragon *dragony* ways. **£7**
- THE DRAGON SNATCHER.** George and his dragon travel to an icy world to take on an egg snatching wizard. Can they teach him the error of his evil ways? **£7**
- THE GREAT DRAGON RESCUE.** Can George and his dragon outwit a toad gobbling witch? **£7**
- DARE TO CARE for a PET DRAGON.** A practical guide about caring for a pet Dragon. **£7**
- THE SANDCASTLE.** A boy gets more than he wishes for when his sandcastle becomes a reality. A modern day fairytale with magic shells and mermaids tails. **£7**
- SEVEN WAYS TO CATCH THE MOON.** A gentle rhyming text about a girl who wishes to catch the Moon. Perfect bedtime reading. **£7**
- ICE TRAP** When Shackleton's ship, The endurance, is trapped in pack ice he must lead his men to safety. A story of survival where men's wits are pitted against the elements to survive. **£7**
- FOOD CHAIN.** A naughty little boy sets off a chain of events that he may regret when he tips his pet goldfish down the loo. **£7**
- HIERONYMUS/HERMIONE BETTS and his/her UNUSUAL PETS.** Available in two editions one with boy siblings one with girls, please state which edition you would like. **£7**
- HOW TO GROW AND EAT MONSTER VEGETABLES.** An essential guide to growing and surviving the dangerous task of growing monster veg. **HARDBACK £10**
- CH1P** Is my latest book, a tender LOVE story between two ROBOTS. Highly imaginative and IMHO one of my most beautifully illustrated books. **HARDBACK £10**

