



# 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  
Email: [enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk)

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### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear Parents,

Hopefully, this morning you will have been greeted at the top of the drive by our new school sign – slightly more visible than the old sign and one that takes pride of place on the lawn outside our school gates; never again will people drive past the school without knowing we are here!

It has been a busy week at school: we all took part the visit by the illustrator that Mrs Healy organised. See our Twitter feed (address above) for a short video where Mrs Healy's morning playground meander is disturbed by a fire-breathing visitor. My thanks to Mrs Healy and to the children's illustrator himself, Mark Robertson. The day was a great success and much enjoyed by all.

Staff are looking at slightly revising our feedback policy and pupil interviews are being undertaken to discern how children feel they can best access and act upon such feedback. We are also having a huge push on presentation with children taking as much pride as possible in their work. Hopefully, while the books may look a little different next time you see them (during Spring Parent Consultations), you will still see how much joy the children take in completing their tasks.

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### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Arlo Williams for showing great enthusiasm towards his learning, particularly in his writing this week. Arlo has worked very hard with his letter formation and letter sounds. Keep up the fantastic work, Arlo!

**Year One:** Dermot has come back extremely focused and ready to learn. He has thrown himself into nativity practice and his enthusiasm is infectious.

**Year Two:** Maeve Henvey for always being so attentive with her hand up in every lesson! She has used some really adventurous vocabulary

in her writing and is always thinking of ways to improve her work. Well done, Maeve!

**Year Three:** Aaron for his thoughtful and persuasive letter about climate change and his kind approach to other classmates and helpful nature

**Year Four:** Rory Goddard for showing great resilience and producing a fabulous advert full of persuasive devices! Keep up the excellent work, Rory!

**Year Five:** Carys Henvey for always having beautifully presented work across all subjects. And for going out of her way to help EYFS and KS1 during her break-time and lunchtimes. She has been a wonderful friend and a role model throughout the entire school. Well done, Carys!

**Year Six:** Dharam Singh for having an excellent attitude towards his work this week. He has worked with independence and resilience. His presentation has been excellent and he has used lots of adventurous vocabulary in his writing.

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### **School Council**



We have met this morning to start work on our St Ambrose Barlow Children' Charter, detailing what we think every child who attends St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School should have the opportunity to do. Some great ideas so far. Watch this space!

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### **School Nurse Virtual Drop-in Clinic**

The School Nurse Service is here to help both parents and children feel healthy, happy and safe during the school day and enable children to get the best from their education.

Every Tuesday, from 16:30 until 17:30, there is an online drop-in service which is free, friendly and totally confidential.

Should you need to avail yourself of this service, please visit <https://nhs.uk/BCHC/c-F/Schl-Nurse/Drop-In>

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### **Open Day**

My thanks to those prospective and current parents who attended our Open Afternoons both last week and this week. The feedback was all very positive.

In case anyone missed the opportunity to look around, we will have one final Open Afternoon on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 14:00, should prospective parents want one extra look around before making their decision.

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### **Parental involvement**

On that point, in their role as first educators of their children, we understand the importance of inviting parents into school and involving them in the learning process.

Next term, we will be running INSPIRE workshops around Numeracy, so parents are aware of the work we do in school and how parents can best support our vision at home. Dates and times will be shared next week.

Additionally, once we have finalised our approach to Phonics in Reception and Key Stage One, we will also invite those relevant parents to Phonics workshops, as early reading underpins all we want to achieve in foundation stage.

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### **Year Four and Five Flute Assembly**

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, at 2:45, Mrs Morson (our peripatetic flute teacher) is hosting a concert with our Year Four class and the selection of Year Five children who have elected to continue with their tuition. All parents are welcome. Every good musician needs an audience!

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### **Nativities**

With COVID cases on the increase, we have slightly adapted our risk assessment for the Nativity performances. To reduce the risk of transmission, we are limiting the numbers of attendees. Therefore, the following measures are now in place:

- Reception children will perform a separate Nativity on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 10:00. Each child will be given two tickets.
- Year One and Year Two will perform twice. Again, each child will be given two tickets: parents of children in Year One can attend on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December and parents of children in Year Two can attend on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 14:00.
- Parents can swap tickets amongst themselves (or with school, who will retain some spare tickets) and attend either performance. The tickets are to limit numbers, not dictate which performance parents attend.

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### **Advent Fundraising**

We will be holding collections after each of the Nativities and after the carol concert, raising money for our chosen advent charities.

This year, we are raising money for Edward's Trust (see below), Migrant Help UK (see below also) as well as Tabor House.

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## Christmas Jumper Day

This year, as one of our Advent Charities, we are donating all the proceeds from Christmas Jumper Day (Tuesday 7th December) to Edward's Trust, a charity that supports children and families facing loss and bereavement.

## Christmas Hampers

Ahead of Christmas, we will be holding a coloured hamper raffle. Below is the colour each class has been given and any donations towards the hamper would be gratefully received. Once hampers are full and raffle tickets have been purchased, we will see who the lucky winners are! All proceeds to Tabor House.

Please start donating your coloured gifts (or gifts wrapped in that particular paper) from next week. Thank you for your generosity.

Reception:	Purple
Year 1:	Red
Year 2:	Green
Year 3:	Blue
Year 4:	Yellow/gold
Year 5:	Orange
Year 6:	Pink

## Carol Singing in the Community

We are delighted to take a selection of our children down to the Dementia Café that runs at St Ambrose Barlow Parish Church. This will happen on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November and our children will eat with the attendees afterwards.

## Christmas Shoe Box appeal

Please see the flyer below. We are asking children to fill a shoebox for a particular age-range, wrap it and drop it to school. We will then pass it onto Migrant Help.

**migrant help**  
**Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Help us make Christmas a little brighter for those who need it most.  
Fill a shoebox with useful items and small gifts for asylum seekers.

**\* FIND AN EMPTY SHOEBOX**

**\* WRAP IN CHRISTMAS PAPER**  
Please wrap the box and lid separately and label clearly whether for a girl/boy, woman/man

**\* FILL IT WITH USEFUL GIFTS**

**Gift Ideas for children:**

- \* Board games
- \* Chocolates
- \* Toys
- \* Trainers
- \* Socks
- \* Hats, scarfs, gloves

**Gift Ideas for adults:**

- \* Chocolates
- \* Biscuits
- \* Sweets (suitable for vegetarians)
- \* Toiletries sets (not for bath)
- \* Trainers
- \* Reusable containers: cup, water bottle etc. (fill an empty container with non-liquid items such as sunglasses or flannel to make use of the space)

In regards to collection and delivery please contact Sameera Hussain by e-mail: [Sameera.Hussain@migranhelpuk.org](mailto:Sameera.Hussain@migranhelpuk.org)

## Year Three FHC meeting and Assembly

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November, parents and their children are invited into school for a First Holy Communion meeting that will begin at 6pm. There will be a short stalk from Fr Paul and Mrs Bresnen before parents are invited to complete a task with their child.

The following day, Year Three will lead our collective worship at 9am in the school hall: all are welcome to share in this celebration!

## Sporting News

Our Year Six girls will take part in an indoor five aside tournament on Thursday 18th November. This has been organised by Miss Ball.



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### Adult/Parent volunteers

Thank you to those parents who agreed to help with our adult to children ratios for the two theatre trips taking place in December. For future trips, if you wish to make yourself available, then please let the teacher organising the trip know. We would be most appreciative of your help; we decide the number of adult helps needed after a thorough risk assessment for each trip.

### A reminder....

School will close on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 14:00**

### November dates for your diary

**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 (am):** Whole School Mass (Immaculate Conception) at 9:30 in the parish church

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December (pm):** Reception Open Day 14:00

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

Children's Christmas dinner

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

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** Reception Nativity 10:00

**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)

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December:** KS2 Carol Concert at 7pm in the church

**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

### 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 9:00

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

### Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Ambrose in Year One who was six on Tuesday and a happy birthday to Logan in Reception, who was five (also on Tuesday). Many happy returns to both.

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

Mr Clinton  
Head of School