



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Our new monolith outside the school grounds and our newly designed badge and logo have been joined by a new letterhead and newsletter format. Small, visible changes but hopefully demonstrative of larger changes that are happening within the school. As said before, we are having a huge focus on curriculum and timetabling, organising lessons and timetables to match how we know children best learn, and bringing effective practice into our everyday routines. It won't be a quick process but I have full confidence that it will be a hugely beneficial one.

It has been a busy week in school. We are gearing up for the start of Advent this Sunday. Every day during Advent, the children will celebrate an assembly led by a different member of staff, focusing on the readings from the Walk With Me booklet. You can join in this at home by asking your child which member of staff led the assembly and what the important message they've been asked to remember is.

Golden Book

Reception: Francis Corcoran for excellent effort in practicing his pre-cursive handwriting this week. He has listened carefully and remembered his sounds in phonics too. Well done, Francis!

Year One: Sophia Davies has worked very hard this week and every week. Sophia has taken her teacher's feedback and used it to

improve her work, especially her handwriting. She works hard each day and is a great example to others.

Year Two: Alesha Perry, for always reading so fluently with expression during guided reading. Also, during nativity practice, she has been singing so beautifully and delivering her lines clearly for all to hear. Well done, Alesha!

Year Three: Bronagh Brady for her focus and attention to all of the work that she has completed this week. She is a kind and caring member of the classroom who is always eager to learn. Well done, Bronagh!

Year Four: Sophie Fernando for having fantastic enthusiasm in all lessons, listening carefully and taking pride in her work. Sophie is a fabulous role model who is demonstrating the values and virtues of the half term well.

Year Five: Aileen Leech for being such a supportive member of Year Five and being kind and considerate to all her peers. Her attitude in class and around school is exemplary! Well done, Aileen!

Year Six: Morgan Davies for being so conscientious and focused with her learning this week. Her hard work and determination has led to some excellent work and super progress.

Admission Policy Consultation

We are about to start a full consultation for the school's proposed admissions arrangements for 2023/24. This is a formal process that must be undertaken if a) there are any changes to the proposed policy, or b) every seven years, even if there are no changes. This latter element applies to St Ambrose Barlow. The consultation will run from 1st December for six weeks, and its

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purpose is to allow anyone with an interest in the school's arrangements to comment or object to the planned policy before it is finalised.

To this end, the new policy will be emailed out to all parents of current pupils as well as being sent to local nurseries so any parents of children in the immediate area can comment. A copy of the policy will also be sent to the local authority (Birmingham), any neighbouring local authorities (Solihull) as well as the Diocese.

Should you have any comments, please follow the process and contact the school. The consultation will run for six weeks: it will begin on 1st December and end on 12th January 2022. All of this information is on our website and will be pinned to our Twitter feed.

Christmas Raffle

Please continue to donate your gifts to school. We will sell raffle tickets at the end of every school day once Advent starts, and they will be sold at church too. My thanks to Mrs Thorne, who is already so generous with her time in volunteering at school, who has also volunteered to sell at mass.

A reminder of the colours below:

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

Gifts can be the colour of the year band (e.g. a box or Cadbury's Roses for Blue; a bar of Dairy Milk for Purple) or, if you are really struggling, just wrapped in that particular coloured paper!

Attendance at mass

The Year Three children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and First Confession did themselves and the school proud on Sunday, as did the readers from Year Four. It would be a wonderful Advent resolution for as many children as possible to aim to attend mass at St Ambrose Barlow every week during Advent, especially if you don't normally attend. I know there is a temptation for our every day activities to intrude upon our time at the weekend but I do think it is important to make time for our spiritual nourishment too.

Christmas cards

There is a growing trend for children (and adults) not to send Christmas cards and to make a donation to charity instead, which is in line with the Church's teaching about sustainability and stewardship. However, should you wish to send Christmas cards, may I suggest either of the following:

- a) Children send ONE Christmas card to the teacher and the rest of the children, which can then be displayed in class
- b) If children are sending individual Christmas cards, that they write the name of that child and the class on the envelope and that these are posted in our special Christmas postbox in the hall. The prefects, though they don't know this yet, will then sort and deliver these cards each afternoon.

Of course, you may wish not to send any cards at all and that is perfectly fine.

COVID

Children who are absent from school following a positive test will have work set for them to complete when they are able. Siblings have to attend as normal, following government guidelines.

Our hand washing, ventilation and sanitising system remains but class bubbles will not return unless advised by Public Health England following five positive cases in the same vicinity with a limited time frame. Thankfully, this has not happened and hopefully will not.

Reminders from previous letters

- We are raising money for Edward's Trust, Migrant Help UK and Tabor House this Advent. This might be a suitable destination for any charity donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards this year.
- On Tuesday 30th November, at **14:45**, Mrs Morson is hosting a concert with our Year Four and Five flute and fife players. **All parents are welcome and children can be collected afterwards.**
- Our Christmas dinner is on Tuesday 7th December; we will wear our **festive jumpers** and all children are invited to enjoy this beautiful meal.
- The cost for the meal is £2.40 and can be paid via School Money.
- A £1 donation can be made either via School Money or with cash for those wearing their Christmas jumper on this day.
- Our FOURTH and FINAL Open Day will take place on **Wednesday 8th December at 2pm**
- School will close on **Friday 17th December at 14:00**

December dates for your diary

Thurs 2nd Dec: Sacrament of Reconciliation 6pm Parish Church Year 3

Fri 3rd Dec: KS1 @ One Snowy Night 1pm (MAC Theatre trip)

Tues 7th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day and Children's Christmas Dinner

Wed 8th Dec (am): Whole School Mass (Immaculate Conception) at 9:30 in church

Wed 8th Dec (pm): Reception Open Day 14:00 - [>>Book here!<<](#)

Thurs 9th Dec: KS2 @ James and the Giant Peach (Theatre trip) 10:30

Fri 10th Dec: Reception Nativity 10:00

****Deadline for Christmas Shoebox Appeal****

Mon 13th Dec: KS1 Nativity 14:00

Tues 14th Dec: KS1 Nativity 14:00

Wed 15th Dec: Christmas parties (pm)

Thurs 16th Dec: KS2 Carol Concert at 7pm in the church

Fri 17th Dec: Whole School mass at 9:30 in the parish church

Fri 17th Dec: School closes at 14:00

January dates for your diary

Tues 4th Jan: School re-opens at 8:45

Thurs 6th Jan: Whole School Mass at 9:30 (Epiphany)

Thurs 20th Jan: Year Six St Chad's Cathedral visit

Fri 21st Jan: Year Five class assembly 9:00

Fri 28th Jan: Year One Class Mass 14:00 – **all parents welcome!**

February dates for your diary

Fri 4th Feb: Year Four Class assembly 9:00

Fri 18th Feb: Year Two class mass 14:00

Fri 18th Feb: Break up at 15:30

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Lauren Dewell in Year Five who was ten on Monday. Cian Rose in Year Six also celebrated his eleventh birthday on the same day; James McMahon, Year Five, was ten yesterday and happy birthday to Arla Jones in Reception who is five today!

Have a wonderful weekend and we shall see you all safely returned on Monday.

Mr Clinton
Head of School

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