



# St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

Head of School: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

[www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

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

@SAB\_B28

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

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents,

We have had a fantastic week and a very successful term. I cannot tell you how much pleasure this week has brought the children, with their wonderful nativities, Christmas parties and, finally, our Mass today. This term, we've had own clothes days, class assemblies, reconciliation services, theatre trips, artists visiting the school, parent consultations, football matches, sports clubs, and many more memorable events.

We have ended our term on a high and I hope I speak for all when I say what a pleasure it has been to be in school these past few months. Time has flown since September, as it always does when one is having fun.

We return on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January, hopefully to new electronic gates and vinyls in the hall windows and foyer!

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Phoebe Maxwell-Duffy for an excellent attitude towards her work this week. Phoebe has produced a fantastic piece of work in RE with beautiful illustrations and writing. She has shown kindness to her all of her peers and is always considerate towards others.

**Year One:** Kieron Bradbury-Slater for being a magnificent angel in our Christmas nativity and enjoying performing for everybody.

**Year Two:** Orlaith Quinn for being a super star this term. She has tried really hard in all aspects of school life and is a valued member of our class!

**Year Three:** Violetta Johnson-Szemla because her determination to improve herself and her behaviour this week as well as her concentration and care taken whilst making her Christmas decorations. Keep up this effort in the new year!

**Year Four:** Nico Hansa for having a fantastic attitude towards his learning and showing excellent enthusiasm while learning our French Christmas carol.

**Year Five:** Annie Stephenson, for being a supportive and thoughtful member of Year Five. Annie consistently puts 100% effort into all her work and is always trying her best in all aspects of school life. Well done, Annie, on having an amazing first term!

**Year Six:** Olivia Bradbury-Slater for consistently working hard and being an excellent role model this term. She has worked tirelessly, made excellent progress and shown a mature attitude each and every day.

### **Welcome**

We would like to welcome Miss Hunt, who is joining our staff from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January. She is an experienced Key Stage One practitioner and will take over Mrs Healy's Year One class when she departs at the end of January. The four weeks spent together should result in a seamless transition.

We are also recruiting for a teacher to take over Year Three, for when Mrs Reynolds begins her maternity. This has been advertised on the City Council website, should you know of anyone who is looking to start a new position around Easter time (or before). Please let them know!

With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side,  
we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

### **Admission Policy Consultation**

Please see the section on the website if you have any comments to make about our proposed Admission Policy for 2023/24. As stated before, schools must undertake this formal process every seven years, even when there are no changes.

<https://www.sab.bham.sch.uk/admissions.htm>

### **Congratulations to our Raffle winners!**

Purple Hamper: Erin (Reception)

Red Hamper: Mr Tighe (Parish)

Red Hamper: Ella (Reception)

Green Hamper: Oliver (Year Three)

Blue Hamper: Aibhlinn (Reception)

Gold Hamper: Mrs K, our trainee TA at St Ambrose Barlow

Orange Hamper: Mr J Bloomer (parish)

Pink Hamper: Oliver (Year One)

### **Heartfelt thanks**

Thank you, parents, for all your generosity, both in donating gifts and in buying the tickets. The raffle raised £674.00! This will be donated to Tabor House. Thank you, also, to the kind family that donated Pantomime tickets – a very generous gift that has been hugely appreciated.

And thank you to Mrs Thorne – who is adamant that she needs no thanks at all, but she gives so much of her time to the school, so she really does.

Thank you to those who donated books and chocolates for our Christmas party afternoon, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Special thanks to Tesco for donating mince pies for our sale during the Nativity, and to the Boden Group for their chocolate Santas.

Finally, thank you to all those parents for their kind gifts and cards for the staff. They are never expected but they are always appreciated.

### **January dates for your diary**

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Jan:** School re-opens at 8:45

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

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six St Chad's Cathedral visit

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Jan:** Year Five Class assembly 9:00

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

### **February dates for your diary**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Four Class assembly 9:00

**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six Day Retreat to Alton Castle (details to follow)

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Two class Mass 14:00

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Break up at 15:30

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Feb:** School closed (INSET day)

### **March dates for your diary**

**Tues 1<sup>st</sup> March:** School re-opens

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Whole School Mass for Ash Wednesday 9:30

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March:** World Book Day (Children to dress as book characters)

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Two Class Assembly 9am

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Six @ Boreatton Park (Five day residential)

### **April dates for your diary**

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Year Five Class Mass

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Reconciliation for KS2

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April:** Piano and choir concert 2pm

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Three Holy Week Assembly

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Four Holy Week Assembly

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Five Holy Week Assembly

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Six Holy Week Assembly

School closes at 2pm for end of term

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### **Birthdays this week...**

Happy birthday to Selina Lin, Year Four, who is nine today. And happy birthday to Alex Currington in Year One who is six tomorrow; Katie Lin, in Year Six, who is eleven tomorrow too.

Happy birthday to all those who will celebrate over the festive break.

Please have a restful and a peaceful, Christmas, if such a thing is possible. But whatever you are doing, enjoy but remember to take time to remember why Christmas is so special. I will leave you with the words of our Communion reflection from mass, read so wonderfully by Liam Cunnane, our Head Boy.

*“Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause. Pause a while to look around us to recognize Jesus, who was born into the world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. Let us take a moment to look around to recognise Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives.*

*By being born to poor parents, in an environment of extreme poverty, Jesus is telling us where He dwells - not in places of majesty and glamour but among the poor and the down-trodden, the sick and dying, the hungry, the oppressed; in those we love and even in those we hate.*

*In short, He is among the masses. He is present here. This Christmas, let us truly welcome Jesus into our hearts and into our homes, then it will surely become the day when hope shall sing of triumph and sadness flees away.*

Mr Clinton

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