



# 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of the second week of Spring term. It has been a busy week but an enjoyable one. Our virtues focus for this half term, launched last week, is 'Curious and Active' and will be a focus for every assembly we have each week. Our newly launched House Points are slowly adding up, and the display in the hall looks fabulous. Children earn tangible tokens for displays of behaviour that go above and beyond the ordinary and they then place their coloured token in the specific slot in the hall (think The Great Hall in the *Harry Potter* books). Children can see the tokens add up over time and are hopefully motivated to earn more House Points by displaying Saint-like behaviour. It is, after all, what we are all called to be.

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Finley Dewell for working so well in class this week: he is always tidying up and offering to help and has tried so hard in Literacy and Phonics too.

**Year One:** Andreas Kartsios has been really focused this week and he has put his hand up and volunteered answers. He has tried hard in all his lessons and improved his pace to get more work completed. Keep it up Andreas!

**Year Two:** Edward Newman for listening really carefully and producing some excellent pieces of writing this week about Jack and the beanstalk - you included lots of impressive vocabulary and different sentence types. Well done, Edward!

**Year Three:** Dylan Edginton because his dedication this week to improving his presentation in all subjects. The pride and care that he has shown in his work this week has been an example to the rest of the class. Keep up the excellent work!

**Year Four:** Bianca Hammondson for producing a fantastic explanation text, contributing constantly throughout lessons and recalling previous learning particularly about the water cycle

**Year Five:** Lauren Dewell for always having a "can do" attitude in class. She is always bright and cheery, saying hello to all members of staff and students. Lauren's attitude around school is lovely to watch! Well done, Lauren!

**Year Six:** Wojciech Nadolny for always having an outstanding attitude towards his learning. He has a thirst for knowledge and demonstrates our 'curious and active' values and virtues every day.

### **Keyboard lessons**

Thank you for all your interest in keyboard lessons. These will start this Thursday during school time. Lessons are £6 a week, paid half-termly in full via school money. If you wish to rent (or purchase a keyboard) please let the school office know. There is a nominal charge for the rental (and a refundable deposit). Mrs Corrigan has all the details.

### **Choir**

Mrs Grange will start an after-school choir each and every Thursday, starting from Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January. The cost is £3.50 per person and the choir will run from 3:30 until 4:30pm. Those interested should contact the office for more details or pay via School Money. Every choir needs an

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audience and it is incumbent on me to find a competition that they can take part in (and hopefully win). Places are limited to 20.

### **St Chad's visit**

Year Six will attend St Chad's this Thursday. Mrs Bresnen will send out a letter with more details but ALL children will require a packed lunch (as they eat on site, in the crypt) and can bring a small amount of money if they wish to visit the piety stall. We will travel via train from Hall Green so all year Six children will need to be dropped at the station by 9am at the latest. All children will also require a facemask.

### **INSET DAY**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February is now an INSET day so children will return to school after half-term on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The focus of the day is on curriculum and effective feedback, both with the intention of improving the quality of education that children receive here at St Ambrose Barlow.

### **Year Six Alton Castle**

On Tuesday 8th February, Year Six will travel to Alton Castle for a Confirmation day retreat. Ahead of making their Confirmation, our Year Six children will think about how they will use the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to let the flame of their faith shine. As they prepare to be confirmed into their faith and prepare for the Holy Spirit to be sealed within them, this day retreat programme will enable them to explore their unique relationship with God through the challenges the children are set. This day will start at 10am, but children will travel by coach and depart from school at 8:30am. They will return by 4pm. Mrs Bresnen has sent a letter out regarding this. Thank you, parents, for your continued support in your child's journey of faith.

### **After-school clubs**

The following clubs are operating this term. All are now full except Karate, which is open to Year Two and above, and Tag Rugby, which is open to Year One and above.

Gaelic football will start after half-term when the nights are a little lighter.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Cohort</b>
Monday	Gaelic football	All (starting from Feb half-term)
Tuesday (am)	Karate	KS2 – spaces available.
Tuesday (pm)	AVFC Football	KS2
Wednesday	Tennis	KS2
Thursday (hall)	Dance	Rec and KS1
Thursday (playground)	Tag Rugby	KS1 and KS2 – spaces available.
Thursday (library)	Choir	KS2

If you wish your child to attend, please pay via School Money or contact the office for further details.

### **Phonics Workshops**

We have organised Phonics workshops that will take place next week on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of January at 2:30pm. The purpose of these workshops is to give further information our new Phonics strategy - *Little Wandle Revised Sounds and Letters* - that has now been rolled out in school. As stated last week, I cannot emphasise enough how important early reading is and how highly it ranks on our School Development Plan. Please, come along on any of the dates and find out how best you can support your child at home.

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### Class reader news

News from Year Two: 'We have finished *The Golden Goose* by Dick King-Smith. It was great! Eugene Newman said, "If there was a part 2 to that book, I'd read it!" One of our previous class readers was *Dirty Bertie: Pirate* by Alan Macdonald - we enjoyed that so much that few of the children have brought in other books from the series from home for us to enjoy as a class. Rian Kelly kindly brought in *Dirty Bertie: Dinosaur* which we all loved. Our next class reader has been brought in by Katie Deeley. We are starting *Dirty Bertie: Disco* today.'

As for me, I've finally finished Jonathan Coe's *What a Carve Up!* and have started *Beautiful Word, Where Are You?* by Sally Rooney. It comes highly recommended by Miss Atkins. Miss Traynor is giving Rory a run for his money and has read TEN books so far this year. She's currently reading Lionel Shriver's *Let's Talk About Kevin*. Mrs Thompson is reading *Liverpool Annie* by Maureen Lee, which was passed to her by Mrs Haughton.

### January dates for your diary

**Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Phonics workshops for Reception parents 14:30

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Phonics workshops for Year One parents 14:30

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Phonics workshops for all other parents who may be interested 14:30

**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

### 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

### Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Annie in Year Five who was ten on Monday; *bonne anniversaire* to Mikey Timms in Year Four who was nine on Tuesday, and many happy returns to Tierney Brady, also in Year Four, who is nine today!

Enjoy the weekend, all. I shall see you on Monday morning.

God bless,

Mr Clinton

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