



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

www.sab.bham.sch.uk

enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

@SAB_B28

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

Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your kind wishes following my appointment as the substantive Headteacher, which was made last Friday after a (somewhat gruelling) two-day interview. One task on the Thursday was to write a hypothetical letter to parents to introduce myself and share my vision. On the day, the words flowed quite freely: I found it relatively enjoyable to share my vision because it is something that I have been doing since September, mainly via the medium of this newsletter. I will not reproduce it all below but the sentiment was as follows.

I wish parents to know that staff at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School want ALL children, regardless of background, to achieve their full potential and use their God-given gifts for the benefit and good of others. It is part of our vision that the children at our school have the skills, experience, knowledge, and confidence to do all they could ever need to or want to in life. This vision underpins our ethos of what we offer in this school and it starts right from the very first days in Reception and continues through to the children's final days in Year Six. Hopefully, you have seen the positive changes that have already started in school: the increase in sporting provision; the wider variety of after-school clubs that are now offered; the trips that focus on personal development; new residential where more children can access a wider range of activities; the music lessons and MFL lessons that are now being delivered; the

presence of parents at class Masses; the presence of children at whole parish Masses that the whole school attends; the new Phonics scheme and parent workshops; the emphasis placed on the lives of the saints; the visible Catholic Life of the school and the artwork that celebrates this so proudly; the emphasis on reading (and the thousands of pounds we've spent on restocking and improving the titles in the library). It is a belief of mine that by working together, parents – as first educators of your children – the school and the parish can bring continued and sustained success to the lives of our children. And I thank the governors who have allowed me to share this vision and trusted me to deliver it, and the staff for whole-heartedly and without reservation buying into it also.

The school will have an Ofsted inspection very soon: nobody knows when but it is long overdue. The last Ofsted inspection was in December 2008 and it was carried out under a very different framework. This new framework is hugely challenging but one that I buy into totally – it focuses on how children learn best and how well teachers sequence the learning so children can know more and remember more. What makes St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School so different is that we want children to be able to do more with this knowledge too. That's why the quality of Catholic education that we offer focuses so much on vocation – on who God is calling them to be. It's the job of St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School to create the environment where this vocation can take root and grow and truly prosper.

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

It's a long road and a difficult process to bring the school to where we all want it to be, but I know that it is something that we can achieve together.

Golden Book

Reception: Amelia Kirk for always having such a positive attitude towards her work and for being kind to others. Millie is an excellent role model for her friends as she is always so helpful and polite. Well done, Millie!

Year One: George Parkes for being a lovely, polite boy who is always looking out for others. He has really begun to focus on his work in class and has picked up his speed to show what he can do. This week in Science we did a tasting experiment. George tried most of the foods, including foods that he has never tried before! Well done!

Year Two: Niall Earp for coming back after the Christmas break with a positive attitude towards his learning. He's also been trying extremely hard at swimming and has impressed his swimming teacher!

Year Three: Callan Kerr because his dedication to improving his reading since the start of term. He has taken every opportunity to improve his fluency and his enthusiasm for reading and talking about books has been inspirational. Keep up this excellent progress, Callan!

Year Four: Cody Davies - For producing great pieces of writing in both literacy and RE, demonstrating great listening skills, good vocabulary and showing off what he has learnt. Keep up the great work Cody!

Year Five: Jack Kelly continuously puts all his effort into his work, he is kind to his peers and always says good morning when he comes into school with a smile on his face. Well done, Jack!

Year Six: Riley Stone - for having an excellent knowledge and understanding of Confirmation. He regularly uses the fruits of the Holy Spirit, showing kindness and patience when helping his classmates.

INSET DAY

Monday 28th February is now an INSET day so children will return to school after half-term on Tuesday 1st March.

Local Elections

Birmingham City Council has requested to use the school site as a polling station for the local elections on Thursday 5th May 2022. Therefore, school will be closed to all staff and children on this day

Queen's Jubilee

A reminder that, due to the Queen's Jubilee, school will now be closed on Friday 22nd July, so the school year will now end on Thursday 21st July at 2pm.

Caught being KiVa

You may be aware that we are taking part in an anti-bullying pilot called KiVa, where we focus on building positive relationships. We draw attention to children 'caught being KiVa' when they go out of their way to help others. In addition to this, every half term we have KiVa ambassadors who have displayed the behaviours we wish to see in the playground. Mrs Reynolds and Miss Traynor mentioned to me that Ava Mary and Ailish from Year Three have been doing exactly this all week!



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February dates for your diary

Fri 4th Feb: Year Four Class assembly 9:00
Tues 8th Feb: Year Six Day Retreat to Alton Castle
Fri 18th Feb: Year Two class Mass 14:30
Fri 18th Feb: Break up at 15:30
Mon 28th Feb: School closed (INSET day)

March dates for your diary

Tues 1st March: School re-opens
Wed 2nd March: Whole School Mass for Ash Wednesday 9:30
Thurs 3rd March: World Book Day (Children to dress as book characters)
Mon 14th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20
Wed 16th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20
Fri 18th March: Year Six Confirmation
Fri 25th March: Year Two Class Assembly 9am
Mon 28th March: Year Six @ Boreatton Park (Five day residential)

April dates for your diary

Fri 1st April: Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm
Mon 4th April: Reconciliation for KS2
Wed 6th April: Piano and choir concert 2pm
Mon 11th April: Year Three Holy Week Assembly
Tues 12th April: Year Four Holy Week Assembly
Wed 13th April: Year Five Holy Week Assembly
Thurs 14th April: Year Six Holy Week Assembly
School closes at 2pm for end of term

May dates for your diary

Tues 3rd May: School re-opens after Easter
Tues 3rd May: First Communion parents meeting 6pm
Thurs 5th May: School closed for local elections
Sat 7th May: First Holy Communion (10am and 11:30am)
Fri 20th May: Year One class assembly
Thurs 26th May: Whole School Mass 9:30 (The Ascension)
Fri 27th May: Procession 2pm

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Harrison Walsh in Year Three who is eight today. And, He has nobody to share the birthday limelight with, except the author of this newsletter.

God bless you all. Have a lovely weekend and I shall see you on Monday morning.

Mr Clinton