



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 4th February 2022

Dear Parents,

As last week's newsletter was being sent out, I was enjoying Year One's Class Mass, led by the children and celebrated by Fr Paul. It was a joyous occasion but what made it so truly special, was the sheer amount of parents, grandparents and friends of the school who attended. There is no better sign of this than staff having to give up their chairs to accommodate more special guests. The children read beautifully and sang wonderfully and there was a very real sense of community. As we say to the children in assembly, Jesus teaches us that 'when two or three are gathered in my name, then I am truly present' and there is no doubt that Jesus was present that afternoon.

I would like Class Masses to go from strength to strength so please make a note of the date of your child's Class Mass in your diary. They will all start at 2:30pm and children (and siblings) are free to leave straight away afterwards.

I had a meeting with Father Paul before the Mass and we discussed how to strengthen the links between Parish and the school. Parents, you already know how much of a role I believe you play in this! To this end, I am going to ask children to lead some of the readings at Sunday Mass – potentially the first Sunday of every month - hopefully accompanied by the folk group. Both Father Paul and I believe this will lead to a real sense of vibrancy and spiritual nourishment.

Finally, I have just finished watching Year Four's fantastic assembly on *Laudato Si*. They told us that the earth is God's gift to us, and that humans have a responsibility to look after the earth and care for their brothers and sisters. We have one Father in heaven and a duty to care for those less fortunate.

Golden Book

Reception: Logan Harris for always showing enthusiasm towards all of his work and developing his independence in the classroom. Logan contributes to our lessons with fantastic ideas and always listens to classroom instructions. Well done, Logan!

Year One: Vinnie Shaw has worked hard this week. He has tried hard to use his phonics in his writing, sounding out words. Vinnie is making sure his handwriting is nice and neat so an adult can read it. Mrs Fayaz is really impressed with how his reading is improving and his confidence is building in blending words. His attitude to learning has really improved this week and we couldn't be happier! Keep it up, Vinnie!

Year Two: Jonathan Qiu for an excellent recount of the parable of the Prodigal Son. You have impressed your teachers with your writing this week with a fabulous description of an animal and acrostic poem.

Year Three: Ava-Mary Hodgkins because she has shown determination and commitment in all of her lessons this week, producing thoughtful pieces of work. She is always a caring member of the class, setting an example to others and allowing this kindness to spread throughout the rest of the class.

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

Year Four: Peter Ridgeway for showing excellent enthusiasm both in lessons and throughout assembly practice. Peter consistently shares his great ideas and super vocabulary throughout lessons and is always keen to help others. Keep up the brilliant work, Peter!

Year Five: Lily Tighe for her attitude to school life. She has shown our school values in her everyday life which included waiting for a teacher to go through a door. She has gained multiple house points for her positive attitude.

Year Six: Keira Sweeney for always paying attention to detail in her work. She consistently produces work of an excellent standard and always checks it thoroughly for accuracy.

Norovirus

You would have all received a text and an email detailing the current pressures school is under with our Norovirus outbreak. Thankfully, we have managed to remain open, acting upon advice from Public Health England.

Please ask children to continue washing hands. We have an increased cleaning regime in place: we wipe down all shared surfaces and deep clean communal areas, including toilets twice daily. If a child is sick or shows any other symptoms, they must remain at home for 48 hours (therefore missing the next two days).

KiVa Champion

This week's award for being kind and for going above and beyond in helping others is our very own Mrs Haughton, who has selflessly cleaned, mopped, disinfected and sanitised everywhere she can. She has been an absolute Godsend and we cannot thank her enough. Mrs Haughton, you are hugely appreciated and we do not know what we would do without you!

PE Kits

A slight change to our rules that we have in place, which should make life a little easier. Any children attending after school clubs no longer have to wear their school PE kit. Instead, they can wear the appropriate clothes for the chosen club. On the day of the club, children can now they bring in suitable clothing (shorts, tracksuit bottoms t-shirts, footwear) to change into for the club. This means PE kits can stay in school, ready for lessons. For clubs that are outside, such as tag-rugby and football, children may need joggers and trainers.

Class reader news

Year Two are now reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. What a treat! I popped in just as Mr Bucket's job screwing toothpaste caps onto toothpaste tubes was being mentioned, and enjoyed listening to a discussion about the families daily diet of watery cabbage soup.

Following a close vote for the next class reader after they finished *Fantastic Mr Fox*, Year Three have chosen Eoin Colfer's *Artemis Fowl* to read together. This story follows the genius twelve-year-old criminal mastermind and his trusted bodyguard Butler, in a plot to steal fairy gold and restore his family's name. Year Three are looking forward to finding out how he will uncover their secrets and whether his plans will be derailed by Captain Holly Short, the hero of the story.

As for me, I'm back to feeding my Jonathan Coe habit – this time it's *Number Eleven*, a sort of sequel to *What a Carve Up!* featuring similar characters and themes and a trip along the Number 11C bus route to The Spread Eagle in Acocks Green.

School closures

A reminder that Monday 28th February is an INSET day so children will return to school after half-term on Tuesday 1st March. Also, 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. Finally, we break up for summer on Thursday 21st July at 2pm due to the Queen's Jubilee.

Year Six Prayer table

Thank you to Fr Paul, to Mrs Thorne, and to the family of Teresa Griffin for donating our beautiful statue of Jesus to Year Six, as part of their Confirmation preparation. As St Margaret Mary tells us, the Sacred Heart of Jesus burns with love for all of humanity.



Sean McDermott's Gaelic Football training

Mrs Corrigan emailed out a flyer from Sean McDermott's about their Gaelic football training for boys and girls aged 5 and above. Sean McDermott's organise our Monday after-school club and uptake is excellent: the coaches are brilliant and I highly recommend the club. I should state, for the record, that my heart belongs to *Erin Go Bragh*: the club my brothers and I were involved with when I was a young boy but Sean McDermott's are a close second.

SEAN McDERMOTT'S SEAN McDERMOTT'S GAA CLUB FOUNDED 1957

UNDERAGE GAELIC FOOTBALL TRAINING

WHO?
Gaelic Football training for boys and girls aged between 5-17

WHERE?
Birmingham Exiles RFC
Old Damson Ln, Edmondson, Solihull B92 9ED

WHEN?
Starting from mid-February, final dates & times TBC

COST?
Completely free!
No monthly fees or subs!

CONTACT for more info
Keith Sweeney: 07812251699
Tara McLean: 07976 592298
Lana Finnegan: 07928 661658
Jeanette Harris: 07790440594

#WONTHEMACS @SeanMcDermottsI
Sean McDermotts Gaa
@sean_mcdermotts_gaa

February dates for your diary

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)

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

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

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

June dates for your diary

Fri 17th June: Reception class mass 2:30pm

Fri 24th June: Reception class assembly
9am

Sun 26th June: Year Three Going Forth
mass 10am (followed by Communion
breakfast)

Wed 29th June: Whole School Mass Ss
Peter and Paul 9:30am

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Zane Fernando in Year
Two who is seven tomorrow, and happy
birthday to Dermot Pickering from Year
One who is six on Sunday.

God bless you all. Have a lovely weekend
and I shall see you on Monday morning for
the final two weeks of this half term.

Mr Clinton

I shall leave you with a message from Fr
Paul. This has been copied but also sent as
an additional attachment, so that you can
share with others in your family or the
parish.

Dear Parents,

*You may have heard that the parish is
currently undertaking a listening exercise
called Walking Together and I welcome
your help by sharing your own thoughts
and experience of the church.*

*Enclosed with this letter is our weekly
update about our Walking Together
journey and it includes details about the
next listening sessions. Specifically, you are
invited to pop into the parish hall this
Monday, 7th February, from 7pm and
again on Tuesday, 8th February, from 7pm.
All are welcome. The update is full of useful
information.*

*Many of you have already shared lots of
thoughts over Christmas, last weekend and
at the Listening Sessions we have already
undertaken. These thoughts are displayed,
anonymously, on the Walking Together
boards in church and over in the hall. I hope
many more of you will be able to share your
thoughts. This is about listening to each
other and hearing our thoughts rather than
directing the conversation. It is,
sometimes, easier to answer questions or
to be inspired by others and that is why we
are sharing our thoughts on a display.*

*To help the conversation one of the popular
questions that people say helps is: "If you
were asked to 'dare to dream' about how
you see the church in the Third
Millennium, what might your dream for
the church be?" I'd love to know what your
dream looks like.*

*If you are able to come along, please do so.
If you are not able to join us, then use the*

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

sheets at the back of church or just jot some thoughts onto a piece of paper and drop them into the bright red box at the back of church. Or you could just email or text some ideas and I'll make sure to add them to the box for you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for all that you do for our parish and for our community. You are an essential part of our parish and I hope that you know how important you are to us. Each day I pray for our school community, for our families with young children and for all who are in my care. I hope you might pray for me from time to time. With every blessing,

Fr. Paul

Fr Paul.

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

WALKING TOGETHER

WEEKLY UPDATE – 5th & 6th FEBRUARY

THANK YOU to those who took part in the Listening Sessions last week.

We had very fruitful and open sharing of views and reflections on our experiences of the Church today and our hopes for the future. Everyone found the session worthwhile and food for further personal prayer and reflection as we walk together on this path of discernment.

This week's Listening Sessions are in the Parish Hall THIS MONDAY 7th February and again on TUESDAY 8th February starting at 7pm and will end by 8.30pm latest.

There will be a **final** Listening Session on Thursday 16th February which will be flagged again next weekend. So please try to come along and remember *you can come to as many sessions as you wish*. **EVERYONE** is welcome

The style of these sessions is to encourage everyone to “listen attentively” to what people want to share. This is not a discussion group of any kind so do come along to listen and also to share your own reflections.

There is no intention to steer anyone's thinking as you should feel to raise whatever is most important to you. However, the first two sessions have shown that there are some questions that *may* be fruitful to consider if anyone is unsure about what to say:

By calling a synod, Pope Francis is asking the whole church, world-wide to pray and reflect on the following question:

“If you were asked to “dare to dream” about how you see the church in the Third Millennium, what might your dream for the church be?”

The Archdiocese is, amongst whatever else is raised by the laity, also hoping for some insights into:

“How is the church perceived by members of your family, your friends, neighbours and work colleagues?”

and

“Which of your concerns does the church fail or struggle to respond to?”

We hope to see you at the Listening Sessions and, as always, you are also free to continue to share your reflections by dropping a note in the Red Box. **The Display Board in the church is regularly updated – so do take a moment to see the range of reflections being shared!**

Please continue to pray for the success of this initiative.

1. OUR ARCHDIOCESE WEBSITE CONTAINS LOTS OF INFORMATION. This is the link, or search for it on-line at birminghamdiocese.org.uk

[The Synod, 2021 - 2023 | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

2. DIOCESAN email for personal comments and reflections:

If you wish you can share your reflections directly with the Archdiocese at synodalpathway@rcaob.org.uk

3. SOME COMMON QUESTIONS:

Q: If the process is already defined, how do we 'walk together?'

A: Every member of the Church has the right to speak, and the obligation to allow those charged with the work of discernment the freedom to do so. Pope Francis says "we need a respectful, mutual listening, free of ideology and predetermined agendas".

Q: Is this just for parishes and dioceses?

A: No, it involves everyone: Schools, young people, hospital chaplaincies, university chaplaincies, prison chaplaincies, the religious and consecrated communities, the societies of apostolic life, those with a distinctive charism in the church all have a voice that speaks into the conversation. Catholic organisations and charities also have a role to play in this work.

Echoing the experience of the Second Vatican Council, Ecumenical and Interreligious engagement is also encouraged, and this is best facilitated at the local level. This is an important voice from outside the Church that offers an insight into the collaboration for the good of all.

Q: Can we talk about any topic?

A: Pope Francis says "what is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not the traditional truths of Christian doctrine. The Synod is concerned mainly with how teaching can be lived and applied in the changing contexts of our time."

4. SUMMARY OF THE TIMELINE LEADING TO ROME IN OCTOBER 2023

Diocesan Phase (Local) to April 2022

During which ANY individual can participate in the diocesan consultation *either/and/or:*

- *using their Parish Listening Sessions and personal comment forms*
- *directly to the Archdiocese at synodalpathway@rcaob.org.uk*
- *through other channels in schools, youth groups, etc, and wherever the synod is discussed*

This phase will end locally for the Birmingham Archdiocese with a pre-synodal assembly in April: the culminating moment of Diocesan discernment.

National Phase April onwards

A period of discernment will begin for bishops of England & Wales gathered in an assembly (Episcopal Conference). They will listen to what the Spirit has inspired in the churches entrusted to them.

Continental Phase

September 2022 – March 2023

This discernment period will set out the key themes and issues that will be discussed at the world-wide Synod of Bishops in Rome

Synod of Bishops (Rome)

October 2023

The fruits of all this work will culminate with the celebration of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission". [#Synod2023](https://twitter.com/Synod2023)