



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents,

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent: our prayer altars in each classroom are shrouded in purple and our class RE displays are displaying the appropriate vocabulary. Our daily *Walk With Me* assemblies have started too - why not ask your child about the important content that they have been asked to remember from each assembly? One Lenten resolution that you could *take up* (as opposed to 'giving up') is attending Mass each and every week at our parish church. This is especially important for all children preparing for their Sacraments in Year Three and Year Six but, actually, important for us all.



Golden Book

Reception: Adam Malik for trying really hard with his phonics this week. Adam has been practicing his sounds and using them in both his reading and writing. Adam has also tried extra hard with his listening and has really impressed us this week. Keep up the hard work, Adam!

Year One: Florence Young has settled back into the routine of school after the break and has maintained her positive attitude to learning. She is always able to contribute ideas and work well with other children sharing and listening to ideas. She

embraced world book day and made a great Hermione Granger. Keep up your brilliant work!

Year Two: Annabelle Spencer for working really hard in maths this week and having a positive attitude towards the topic of fractions. We are delighted with the work she has produced this week!

Year Three: Lily Cunnachie because of the focus and attention that he has shown in class this week. She has worked exceptionally hard on her reading skills and it has been wonderful and inspirational for all of the class to see her confidence bloom. Keep up this wonderful work!

Year Four: Danishka Sangha is flourishing in Year Four, showing off her gifts and talents, particularly with her reading and comprehension skills. Dani brightens up each day, always smiling and willing to help others. Keep up the superb work, Dani!

Year Five: Charlie Mills is making a conscious effort to focus on his beautiful cursive handwriting. He has been working hard on his presentation in all his books. He is an asset to Year Five and always starts his day with a "good morning" and a smile.

Year Six: Katie Lin for acting out St Teresa of Calcutta's motto by 'doing small things with great love'. She pays care and attention to all that she does and thinks intentionally about her words and actions.

If I could have a nomination - and sometimes I do grant myself this special privilege - it would be for Miss Hodgkins who has led both staff and children in our Phonics and Reading Practice sessions. She is a thoroughly professional practitioner who cares deeply about the children and works so hard to help them achieve their very best. Miss Hodgkins, you are an asset!

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

Caught being KiVa



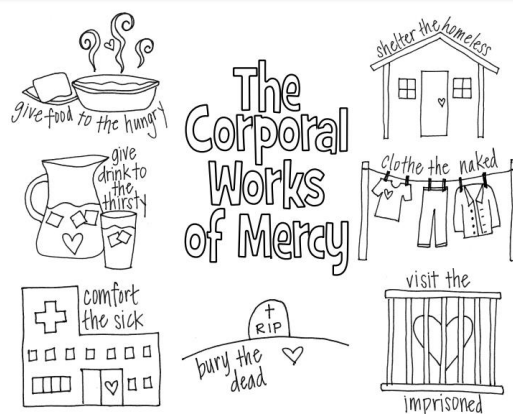
This week, the whole of Year Six have been 'caught being KiVa' for how responsibly and thoughtfully they looked after and guided our Reception children during Ash Wednesday's Mass. It was a very prayerful atmosphere throughout and this is, in no small part, down to the example Year Six set our youngest children.

Also, Macy Mellard in Year Four helped another child in flute without being asked. This then meant that they could continue enjoying their flute lesson with the bare minimum of fuss. And Amara Sandhu-Hicks in Year Five was very kind and thoughtful when lending Miss Traynor a book that the latter had been meaning to read for a while. Wonderful examples to share and all worthy of celebration!

Lenten Charities

This Lent, we are focusing on the Corporal Works of Mercy and how these can help us to live out our Christian vocation. The Corporal Works of Mercy are as follows:

- Feed the hungry
- Visit the lonely/imprisoned
- Pray for/bury the dead
- Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick
- Shelter the homeless
- Offer drink to the thirsty



Each week during Lent, the whole school will take part in a fundraising activity; each class has chosen a specific Work of Mercy and will choose a charity that reflects this. At the end of Lent, we will donate the funds each class has raised to that particular charity. Whole school fundraising activities will include the following:

Friday 11th March: Silver Coin Artwork - children will bring silver coins (5p, 10p, 20p and 50p) and create a design in the school hall.

Thursday 17th March: Wear Green for St Patrick's Day – Ireland shirts, Gaelic tops, Celtic jerseys, green face paint, Shamrock hats, green scarves, etc. I shall dig out my beloved Meath shirt.

Friday 25th March: Board Game Friday Fun. Children are asked to bring a donation so they can spend the afternoon playing board games within their class.

Friday 1st April: Copper Coin Races – children to bring 1p and 2p coins and take part in a relay race to lie the coins in a line around the playground. Which class will win?

Friday 8th April: Film Club – a donation so each child can watch a film in the afternoon. School will provide the popcorn!

Father Hudson's 'Good Shepherd' Appeal

Mrs Bresnen has this morning launched our Good Shepherd Appeal, giving out envelopes to all children. Any donations, no matter how small, are gratefully appreciated. I do understand the additional burden that donating to charity may place on our families in the current climate. For that reason, I have not specified any amounts. Just give what you can spare and that will suffice.



World Book Day

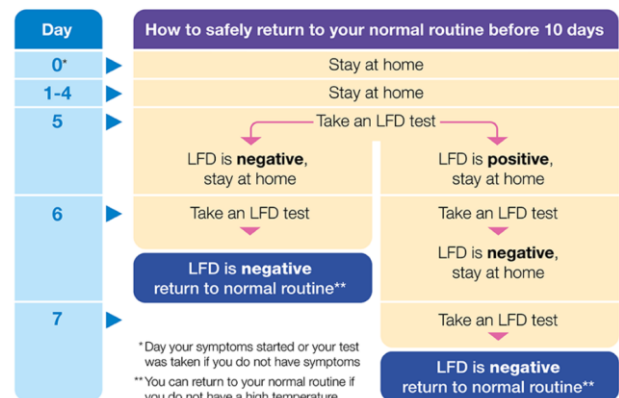
This was a resounding success. We had Harry Potters, Hermione Grangers, Luna Lovegoods, Bellatrix Lestranges, Where's Wallys, a fantastic Tutankhamen, Mary Poppins, Alice in Wonderland, lots of Willy Wonkas (and associated characters, including chocolate bars), Fantastic Mr (and Mrs) Foxes, Gruffalos, Oliver Twists, Rat Burgers, Horrid Henrys, as well as an assortment of Tigers Who Came To Tea and the occasional Dalmatian too. Thank you, both parents and children, for your support and your enthusiasm. World Book Day is just one day of the year but our enthusiasm (both for reading and for learning to read) is constant, daily and extremely important. It is the number one priority when it comes to delivering the curriculum in this school.

Rory's Reading challenge

You may remember from a previous newsletter that Rory in Year Four set himself the challenge of reading 28 books by the end of February. Well, February came and went and I am delighted to report that Rory completed his challenge. I am even more delighted to say that Rory chose to raise money for the National Institute of Conducive Education, a charity that benefits one of our Year One Pupils (who has a sister in Year Four). If you wish to show your support and donate also, the link is below:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RoryGoddard?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=RoryGoddard&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=66b3d869b54b45f5815f370a509fdaba.

COVID and the school risk assessment



As you are no doubt aware, restrictions have ended. However, guidelines remain in place and we would ask all parents and pupils to follow these guidelines.

These guidelines are as follows:

- Test if symptomatic
- Stay at home if you test positive or are feeling unwell
- Remain at home until two negative lateral flow tests have been returned, 24 hours apart.

Staffing information

Miss Perkins will take over Year Three now, allowing Mrs Reynolds to complete her Parent Consultations before she begins her maternity leave.

Ten: Ten Workshops

Thank you for your attendance at the two meetings that have taken place this week. We will have one further meeting on Monday at 3pm and then Mrs Corrigan will email out the curriculum overview to each parent, so you are aware of what is being taught in each year band and when this is happening.

Parent Consultations

These are scheduled to take place on Monday 14th March and Wednesday 16th March. They will again take place in the school hall, with children's books on display in the classrooms. Miss Traynor will contact you directly to make an appointment with her, should one be needed. I will be available at any point on either day should you wish to speak to me.

March dates for your diary

Mon 7th March: Ten:Ten Parents' Meeting 15:00

Mon 14th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

Wed 16th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

Fri 18th March: Year Six Confirmation

Wed 23rd March: Year Five trip to Black Country Museum

Thurs 24th March: A *Midsummer Night's Dream* theatre production (in school)

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

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 9am

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 Francis Fitzpatrick, Year Two, who was seven on Ash Wednesday! Ethan Drumm, Year Five, was ten on Thursday. Happy birthday to Henry Doran, Reception, who is five tomorrow and to Oisín Finnegan, Year Five, who is ten tomorrow also.



Mr Clinton

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