



# 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 25th March 2022

Dear Parents,

I want to share with you a card we received in the post on Wednesday regarding the children's conduct and behaviour at Mass:

*"Just a short note to mention that I was present at St Ambrose Barlow Church on Ash Wednesday, at 9:30am, when the children attended Mass. They showed such reverence, respect and kindness to each other. In particular, the older children, who were sitting and looking after young school pupils. The examples they set were a credit to themselves and their school. They are positive role models for the future, guided by such dedicated staff. I felt they needed a mention!"*

I am delighted to share such kind sentiments with you, and I have also shared with the children during our celebration assembly. Related to this, as a parish and a school, we celebrated Confirmation on Friday evening, led by Bishop David and Father Paul. The children, again, were a credit to themselves. Yesterday, the Year Three children and their parents joined in with Communion workshop, also attended by Father Paul. They learnt that the Eucharist is a thanksgiving to God. During the workshop, they compared and contrasted the celebration of Mass and other celebrations and were helped to see important links but also the important differences. Our Year Three children will lead Mass this Sunday at 10am – please come along and celebrate as a school and parish community!

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Tommy Fitzpatrick for being such a good friend to everyone in our class and always being so kind and caring. Tommy always contributes to class discussions with fantastic ideas and gets stuck into his work straight away. Tommy has such a positive attitude and is always smiling! Keep up the hard work, Tommy!

**Year One:** James Symth has been working hard on using capital letters in his sentences correctly. He is trying to make sure his sentences are correct and is beginning to show a real improvement in his handwriting. He is making a conscious effort to be independent in lessons and keep his focus throughout tasks set. Keep up the great work, James!

**Year Two:** Darron Mariampillai for working extremely hard in our fractions lessons. He was able to find a half, a quarter and a third of a quantity and work as a group to share his ideas to help others. What an excellent mathematician he is!

**Year Three:** Noah Parkes-Brown for working really hard this week, especially in his Maths lessons. He has been putting in lots of effort, always trying his best and never giving up!

**Year Four:** Macy Melland for being a fabulous member of Year Four. Macy consistently works to the best of her ability, shares her ideas with her peers and is always willing to help. Macy is a superb role model everyone. Keep up the excellent work, Macy!

**Year Five:** Erin Fegan showed excellent sportsmanship during our PE lesson on Monday, with her demonstrations of how to bowl a ball. She is always polite to her peers and staff members. Erin is also an

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avid reader, showing so much enthusiasm for reading for pleasure as well as reading for learning. Her current book is Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, which she is thoroughly enjoying! Erin is a fantastic example of reading for pleasure and how much love can come from reading. Well done, Erin.

**Year Six:** Joey Owens for always contributing his excellent ideas during class discussions. He makes great links between different areas of the curriculum and uses his prior knowledge to help with new learning.

#### Caught being KiVa



Annie Stephenson and Carys Henvey, both Year Five, showed great compassion to a younger pupil who was upset during lunchtime. They ate lunch with them and cheered them up with a great game which involved animals and pretending to squirt water over the teachers.

#### Attendance

Some families may have received a letter regarding attendance in the post this week. This is part of a whole school initiative to address and improve attendance. Obviously, illness happens and COVID is responsible for higher levels of absence than normal. However, the fact remains that there are 190 days that children attend school across the year and every single lesson is important: each lesson is an essential part of the learning process. **If a child's attendance were to drop to 95%, that is equivalent to 9 days of lost learning.**

We have employed an Education Welfare Officer to emphasise how serious we are about addressing persistent low attendance. It is also important to arrive at school on time. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer.

#### Uniform

In September, we are rolling out a new school jumper with an embroidered badge. This should emphasise the pride that children take in wearing their school uniform when representing St Ambrose Barlow. In addition to this, there will be a new school tie with our new school badge on. The designs are still being finalised but there is likely to be a KS1 tie (a clip on tie of a standard length) and a KS2 tie that will need to be tied in the standard manner. As I said to the children, they have five months now to learn to tie one independently - this is NOT a job for parents and is not intended to be an added stress in the mornings. As ever, I welcome feedback on which format would be preferable. The old uniform (plain grey jumpers and ties) can still be worn as we gradually use the old stock and phase it out. I am aware of the cost of uniform and obviously there will be measures in place to address this.

#### Reading at St Ambrose Barlow

Yesterday, Year One to Six took part in a theatre workshop, based around Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was a hugely successful day and will form part of their written Literacy work next week. Every child enjoyed it and lots could talk about the favourite characters afterwards.

Year One has voted that *The Finger Eater* by Dick King-Smith will be their next class reader. They will start it on Monday. Alongside *Charlie and The Great Glass Elevator*, Year Two are reading *The*

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*Hodgeheg* by Dick King-Smith, as they'll be using this story to write a non-chronological report in their Literacy lessons. Year Five are now reading *The Christmas Pig* by JK Rowling. They enjoyed *The Silver Sword*: the overall consensus was that it was a good book but the vocabulary was slightly dated by our standards. Roy and Joy, both in Year One, have just finished *Kitchen Disco* by Clare Foges and next week they will start *Paddington's Easter Egg Hunt* by Michael Bond. Mrs Haughton, who supports Roy and Joy, is reading *Rainy Days for the Harper Girls* by Rosie Clarke.

Miss Atkins is reading *Run, Rose, Run* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson which she is enjoying! It's currently on the front seat of her car for whenever she needs it. Miss Traynor is reading *The Return* by Victoria Hislop and Mr Clinton is reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, which he picked up in the staffroom from our book corner, leaving a copy of *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

### **Year Six residential**

We wave goodbye to our Year Six class on Monday as they spend four nights at Boreatton, taking part in all manner of team-building activities (canoeing, kayaking, abseiling, archery, climbing, orienteering). I am sure you will join me in wishing them a safe journey and hope they have a wonderful time. I am sure they will.

Year Six, a reminder to study that kit list carefully and bring all you need. I do not need to remind you about your conduct here, because I know you will do yourselves and the school proud.

### **First Holy Communion reminder – a message from Mrs Bresnen**

A reminder of notices ahead of First Holy Communion Masses that will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May: all children now know which Mass they will be making their Communion at. A photographer will be in the Church hall from 9am until 11:30am for photographs, and this should allow children opportunity to have their photograph taken before celebrating Mass. Father Paul has suggested that we could have a whole class photo taken between the two Masses, if timings allow.

Seating in Church will be arranged so all children can be seen via the webcam; please try and keep your guest numbers as close to ten people as possible, to avoid overcrowding.

### **Sporting Success**

A bumper crop of news!

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, our football team played in a friendly match: unfortunately, we were not to be successful but the boys showed great resilience and sportsmanship, especially in the cold conditions! On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, we competed in the first round of the HMS Birmingham Vase and with a resounding 6-0 win, we find ourselves through to the quarter finals! Our Boys football team have their next round of matches in South Birmingham league tonight and hope to keep their lead at the top of the table.

Last Friday, our girls had their second round of league matches. We drew one and lost one but had a fantastic evening and the home support was excellent!

Finally, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, we have the Year Four/Five Boys football tournament. We have won the shield twice in a row... hopefully we can make it a hattrick!

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

**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

**Wed 6th April:** Reception Class trip to the farm – letter to follow – Consent on School Money.

**Fri 8th April:** KS1 Easter Egg hunt (details to follow)

**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 St Peter and Paul 9:30am

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

Happy birthday to Naomi in Year Five who was ten on Wednesday and celebrated by taking the whole of the class to the Black Country Museum, which was very generous of her! Happy birthday also to Bianca in Year Four who is nine on Sunday – she will surely celebrate by serving Mass (as she does every week).

Have a safe and relaxing weekend and I shall see you all on Monday morning.

Enjoy the sunshine (while it lasts)!



Mr Clinton