



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 13th May 2022

Dear Parents,

Let me begin by wishing you all a very Happy Easter! It sounds odd saying it so late after Easter Sunday but that is a necessary consequence of the school being in for Holy Week and the inevitable late return of the children. Easter, of course, is more than just one day – it is a season of fifty days ending with Pentecost.

It was a pleasure to be present for the two First Holy Communion Masses that Fr Paul celebrated for Year Three last Saturday. Every child behaved in an exemplary manner and there was a real community feel as the school, parish, and home came together in prayer. This is exactly how a Catholic school should function and I look forward to many more successful Sacramental celebrations in the coming years. Year Three will celebrate their Going Forth Mass on Sunday 26th June. If you wish to volunteer to help afterwards (serving teas and coffees, etc.) then please do so. Your reward in heaven will be great (and I am sure there will be cake provided too). I am acutely aware that due to a variety of factors – the transition in leadership of the school and COVID to name but two – that parent involvement has slightly suffered in previous years. However, there are plans afoot to address this. See below for some interesting developments and, as ever, your support is hugely appreciated.

Golden Book

Reception: Lawson Wilkins for working so hard in his writing this week. Lawson has produced a fantastic piece of writing about *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* using his best handwriting and excellent use of his phonics. He has also tried really hard during his reading practice sessions. Keep up the hard work, Lawson!

Year One: Oliver Grange has worked hard recently, especially on his handwriting. He has been able to ensure his letters are the correct size and his writing is now reflecting the quality of his work. Oliver is a good friend to the children in the class and he interacts well when completing group work. Well done for your hard work Oliver - keep it up!

Year Two: Emily O'Keeffe for always having a smile on her face and being an excellent role model for her peers. Her handwriting is always fantastic and she puts so much effort into your writing. Well done, Emily.

Year Three: Henry Slattery for his outstanding behaviour and attitude towards his work. Henry always puts 100% effort into all that he does and is a great role model to others.

Year Four: Patrisha Arulprasad for settling back into school fabulously for summer term, always giving maximum effort in lessons and keen to contribute her ideas. Patrisha has been demonstrating brilliant skills in Maths with converting units of measures and using her decimal place knowledge. Keep it up, Patrisha!

Year Five: Joshua Aju for displaying our school value and virtues and constantly being well mannered and polite. As well as his exceptional manners, Joshua puts a huge amount of effort into his written work and his Sci-Fi story opening was

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exceptional. Joshua used a wide range of vocabulary, sentence types and futuristic language. Well done, Joshua!

Year Six: Lucas Chan for excellent focus when revising for our SATS this week, particularly when explaining his reasoning in Maths.

In fact, the whole of Year Six deserve a special mention this week for their effort, application and work ethic as they undertook their SATS. They worked to the best of their ability and, regardless of outcome, I am proud of each and every one of them. Thank you also to Miss Newman and Mr Turner for their hard work this year, and to all the staff who supported the children this week.

'Caught being KiVa'

I would like to give an additional mention this week for Bianca Hammondson, Year Four, who gave up her Saturday morning to serve for Year Three's Communion Masses. She volunteered, without being prompted, and I am delighted by her thoughtfulness and her generosity of spirit!

FOSABS Summer Fete

Keep this date in the diary! Write it on the calendar, highlight it, and then draw a big circle around the date too. St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, its pupils, its parents and its extended community in the form of FOSABS are relaunching the Summer Fete on **Saturday 9th July at 12pm until 3pm.**

Plans are in their infancy but are moving quickly as time is short. The makeshift committee met and discussed plans at the start of their week and we will meet again on Monday 23rd May. This meeting has been scheduled for 5:30pm to allow as many parents as possible to attend. If you cannot attend, please see a parent or FOSABS member so they can share ideas

on your behalf. So far, we have tentative plans for the following:

- A BBQ
- A licensed bar
- Pizza (supplied by Papa Johns) sold by the slice
- Beat the goalie
- Raffle
- Guess the name of the teddy bear stall
- Guess the number of sweets
- A cake stall
- A sweet stall
- A tombolo
- A book sale
- A bouncy castle / inflatable course
- 'Soak the teacher' stand
- A choir performance
- A karate workshop
- An Irish dancing performance
- Face painting
- A beauty and nail stall

Of course, events of this nature cannot run without donations, without volunteers, without a great deal of goodwill, and without careful planning and risk assessment. I will update you weekly but if you are in a position to help, please do not be a stranger! Make yourself known – speak to me, to Mrs Thorne, to Mrs Pickering, Mrs Healy, Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Finnegan, Mrs Fayaz or anyone else who you know is involved in FOSABS. I think if we make the Summer Fete a great success – and we will – then the profile of FOSABS will be even higher next year and plans can be more ambitious. Ideally, moving forward I would like maybe six events a year – a Film Club per term, a Christmas card making competition, Christmas wreath workshops, a wine tasting or Race Night, etc. Again, an active parent community will only strengthen the links between the school and the parish and I know that this is something that both Fr Paul and I greatly desire.

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Rosary Club

Annie Stephenson, Year Five, has requested that we reintroduce our prayer club during school lunchtimes. This seems like a wonderful way to celebrate Mary's month, so for the next two weeks, children can bring in their rosary beads and pray the Rosary at 1pm in the prayer garden, led by a different member of staff each day.

May Procession

Another way that we will celebrate and bring glory to Mary, the mother of Jesus and the mother of us all, is to hold a May Procession. This will take place on Friday 27th May at 2pm. Children are asked to learn the hymn that their class will sing and to bring in flowers that can be laid at the foot of Mary's statue.

Reading at St Ambrose Barlow

****Library visits****

Every class from year Two upwards will have to opportunity to visit Hall Green library each Friday on a rota-basis. More information will follow in coming weeks however the visits will start after half term. In preparation of these visits, registration forms will be sent out so we can ensure all children have a library card.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Mila in Year One who was six on Monday; Sebastian in Year Six was eleven on Tuesday and celebrated by taking part in the SATs Reading paper; on Wednesday Charlie from Year Three was eight; on Thursday, Teuta in Year Six was eleven and celebrated with a Maths paper and an ice lolly afterwards. Today, Alex in Reception turns five and, on Sunday, Callan in Year Three turns eight. Happy birthday, one and all. Happy birthday to those who have celebrated their birthdays since the last newsletter was sent. If you had a birthday over Easter or last week, I hope you enjoyed you special day!

May dates for your diary

Fri 20th May: Year One class assembly 9am

Mon 23rd May: Summer Fete Committee Meeting (FOSABS) 5:30pm

Thurs 26th May: Whole School Mass 9:30 (The Ascension)

Fri 27th May: May Procession 2pm

June dates for your diary

Fri 10th June: Year Two Hall Green Library visit 2pm

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

Fri 17th June: Year Three Hall Green Library visit 2pm

Fri 24th June: Reception class assembly 9am

Fri 24th June: Year Four Hall Green Library visit 2pm

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

July date for your diary

Fri 1st July: Year Five Hall Green Library visit 2pm

Fri 8th July: Year Six Hall Green Library visit 2pm

Sat 9th July: Summer Fete 12pm -3pm

Thurs 14th July: Keyboard and Choir 'Bastille Day' concert

Friday 15th July: Reports given out

Thurs 21st July: Leavers' Mass 9:30am (venue TBC)

Thurs 21st July: Break up for Summer at 2pm

Have a wonderful and relaxing weekend and I shall see you on Monday morning. God bless,



Mr Clinton