



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

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Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents,

I will start this newsletter in exactly the same manner that I ended last week's - by encouraging the children to attend Sunday Mass. Someone must have alerted Father Paul because he tried his hardest to clear me out of house points by Monday morning! Since it was Trinity Sunday, I had to give three house points out to all who attended – one for the Father, one for the Son, and one for the Holy Spirit.

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the feast of *Corpus Christi*, Latin for 'the Body of Christ'. The children will recognise the Gospel as the Feeding of the 5,000 and it is one of my favourites. As I will tell the children on Monday, we can understand the Gospel as a literal miracle where Jesus defies the laws of physics and turns five loaves and two fish into a quantity so great that nobody goes hungry. We can also understand it in a metaphorical manner, with the explanation being that everyone searches around for a scrap of food that they've bought and they find they have enough to share: so much to share, and so many people present, that nobody ends up going hungry. It is surely the same for the world today: there is not a shortage of food, there is a shortage of sharing.

We have celebrated Reception class Mass today – the final class Mass of the year. I love them, and I hope you do too. It is really important for parents and extended family to join in with our Catholic Life in school, and I am looking forward to next year's class Masses already.

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Ella Kirby for always making a great effort to achieve her best in every lesson. Ella has grown in confidence in both her reading practice sessions and phonics and trying really hard when writing phase 4 words. She is always kind, thoughtful and supportive of her peers. Keep up the hard work, Ella!

**Year One:** Ethan Burke is in the golden book this week for consistently producing work of a high standard. This week he wrote a fantastic story about robots using his imagination. He is a fantastic role model to everyone and he should be very proud of himself.

**Year Two:** Poppy Nixon for some excellent maths work during Year Two's 2D and 3D shape topics. As well always putting 100% effort and concentration into her work, Poppy is always so helpful around the classroom. Thank you for consistently making the right choices and leading by example!

**Year Three:** Halle Parsons for her hard work and determination across all lessons this week, which has led to some excellent work being produced. Well done, Halle - keep up the good work!

**Year Four:** Danielle Velasquez for writing and performing a fabulous narrative poem, showing off the values and virtues of eloquent and attentive. Danielle has also made superb progress during recent swimming lessons, demonstrating a variety of strokes. Keep up the excellent work, Danielle!

**Year Five:** Sami Thafiq has worked hard to produce an amazing piece of extended sci-fi writing in Literacy. He showed off a range of ambitious vocabulary and complex sentence types. As well as this, Sami

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displayed excellent sportsmanship in PE this week, supporting his teammates and encouraging them during team games.

**Year Six:** Nigel Tong for settling into Year Six really well and working very hard since he started with us. He has produced some super writing this week, using excellent vocabulary and a range of new sentence types.

### **Academic Dates for next year**

These are on the website but I have reproduced them below. If there are any changes, you will be notified as early as possible.

As you are aware, children attend school for 190 days per year, while staff attend for 195. This means that there are five additional INSET days where school is closed to children, but this does not come out of a child's statutory entitlement to education. For the academic year, the following INSET days have been arranged:

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Sept:** School closed to pupils  
**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Sept:** School closed to pupils  
**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Oct:** Staff retreat\*  
**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** School closed to pupils  
**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Apr:** School closed to pupils

Four of these days are where the staff focus on curriculum development, safeguarding training or new innovations for the benefit of the children.

*\*One of these INSET days is devoted to the staff's spiritual development. For the academic year 2022/23, this has been arranged for Friday 21st October, where staff will attend Mass at St Chad's, volunteer at St Chad's Sanctuary and also deliver food to the homeless in our local area. I am a big believer in staff setting an example for the children to follow and helping the homeless in the local area is an example of the staff at St Ambrose Barlow putting their faith into action.*

Autumn term will start on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept and run until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.**

Spring term will run from **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January until Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April.** Again, the governors have agreed to change the term dates from those released from the local authority so that children remain in school for Holy Week. I know this may cause some slight inconvenience for those of you with children (or indeed jobs) at other Catholic schools, but I am of the opinion that the quality of work produced by the children and the depth of spiritual reflection experienced by the children during Holy Week makes this a worthwhile decision.

Summer term will run from **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April until Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **Reading at St Ambrose Barlow**

I would like to thank both parents and children for their continued support with the Book Fair. By buying books, you are encouraging and supporting your child to develop a love for reading. The money raised is used to buy books for the children's classroom libraries, supplemented by school budget.

Last week, a competition was run for KS2 to design a book cover and for KS1 to design bunting, promoting the book fair. All of the designs were fantastic so choosing the winners proved extremely difficult. The winners for their book cover designs were Seamus Griffin, Year Four, Logan Wilkins, Year Four, and Mikey Timms, Year Four. Bunting design winners were Ailbhe Lillington and Florence Young, both from Year One. They all won a book of their choice.

Mrs Hunt accompanied me on Tuesday to buy new books for next year. We have now supplemented each class library with new and modern high-quality books both

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for reading for pleasure and for when teaching each Literacy genre. We are also reviewing our Guided Reading practice in KS2, looking at whole class reading and buying books so every child can access the same text at the same time, rather than small group provision (which will continue for those who require additional support and/or further challenge).

### **Friends of St Ambrose Barlow School (FOSABS) Summer Fete arrangements**



Our next meeting is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 3:40 in the school hall and will allow anyone who wishes to sign up to a stall to do so. Even if you volunteer for only half an hour, it allows things to run more smoothly. The Summer Fete would not run without your input and I am hugely grateful for all that you do for the school and the children. Please come along. You can have a cup of tea or coffee, a chat, meet like-minded parents, and offer your services! If you cannot make the meeting, please see the following parent

representatives for information on dates, times, stall and how you can help out:

Reception	Mrs Kelly (Ohran's Mother)
Year One	Madam Grange (Oliver's Mother)
Year Two	Miss Purnell (Nevaeh's Mother)
Year Three	Mrs Fitzpatrick (Sonny's Mother)
Year Four	Mrs Brady (Tierney's Mother)
Year Five	Mrs Cunnane (Naomi's Mother)
Year Six	Miss McGarry (Niall's Mother)

If anyone would like to have an advertisement in the fete brochure, please email Laura Fitzpatrick at [laurafitz80@yahoo.com](mailto:laurafitz80@yahoo.com) - half a page is £10 and a full page is £20. The cut off date for advertisements to be added is the 1st July. If you have a small business and would like to come and sell your goods, please email Fiona Healy at [fjhealy12@gmail.com](mailto:fjhealy12@gmail.com) - hurry, there are not too many stall spaces left!

At the end of this letter, please find a flyer for the Summer Fete raffle. Tickets are £1 per strip and can be paid via cash or by balance transfer. Please see the class reps for further details. Heartfelt thanks to Miss Hemming, mother of Lauren and Finley Dewell who has sold 100 tickets already! Incredible!

A book stall will be at the Summer Fete. If you have any books that are in 'nearly new' condition (i.e no missing pages, no damaged front covers, etc.) then please start sending them in with your children and we can organise them into appropriate age genres. Parents, feel free to give your own books to the office also because you might find something new to read at the

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Summer Fete too. Just last week, while at the library with Year Two, I picked up Mark Cavendish's autobiography and Margaret Attwood's *The Testaments*, a sequel of sorts to *The Handmaid's Tale*.

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

Happy birthday to Tyler in Year Three who was eight on Monday, and happy birthday to Roy and Joy, Year One, who were both six on Wednesday!

### **Finally, Sports Day...**

This is not yet finalised but plans are afoot to relaunch our Sports Day with a bang. The date is confirmed. It will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July. The location is confirmed. It will take place at Moseley Rugby Club, Billesley Common, Yardley Wood Rd, Birmingham B13 0PT

The format is yet *to be* confirmed but it is likely to be team games in the morning and then track and field events in the afternoon. Naturally, parents are invited as all athletes feed off the enthusiasm of the spectators but more details will follow! For the moment, put the date in your diary.

### **June dates for your diary**

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June:** Year One & Year Three to attend Twycross Zoo

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> June:** Summer Fete planning session at 3.40 in the school hall

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** FHC parent meeting 6pm

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception class assembly 9am

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Four Hall Green Library visit 2pm

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Three Going Forth Mass 10am

**Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Whole School Mass St Peter and Paul 9:30am

### **July dates for your diary**

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July:** Year Five Hall Green Library visit 2pm

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> July:** Children to wear own clothes in exchange for a donation of sweets – details and polythene bag to follow in the coming weeks

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Two and Year Four @ Thinktank

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> July:** 'Meet the Teacher' Transition Day

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July:** Children to wear own clothes for a donation of cakes

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Hall Green Library visit 2pm

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer Fete 12pm -3pm

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Sports Day

**\*\*This is an all-day event which will take place off site – more details to follow\*\***

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Keyboard and Choir 'Bastille Day' concert

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Reports given out

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers' Assembly in School Hall 9am

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Leavers' Mass 9:30am at St Ambrose Barlow Church

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Break up for Summer at 2pm

May God bless you and keep you safe over the weekend. Enjoy the warm weather for as long as it lasts, and enjoy the rain when the warm weather inevitably ends.



Mr Clinton





# Summer Fete Raffle £1 a strip

Can pay via cash or bank transfer



Samsung Tablet  
Raja Monkey Voucher  
£50 cash  
2x English Football League  
tickets  
Hydra Facial  
Zoe Lloyd Blow Dry Voucher  
2x £10 Voucher for Buckley  
Deli  
Urban Angels Cut & Blow dry  
Barbers Haircut  
Shellac Nails by LT Beauty

*Thank you  
to all the  
businesses  
that have  
donated!*

£30 Toby Carvery Voucher  
Pom Pom Party Voucher  
£40 Cineworld Voucher  
£40 Restaurant Voucher  
Aston Villa Football Kit  
Swimming Course voucher  
2 day pass at Village Gym  
Birthday cake & Cook book  
Wax Melt Hamper  
Personalised Balloon Arch  
Personalised T-shirt set for Children  
Family Ticket To Lottie Land



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