



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

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St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I am sure the children are all delighted to have returned and (I say this genuinely) the teachers are glad to meet and start to teach their new classes. Staff started the school year with two INSETS – we joined Fr Paul for Mass on the Monday and then had Safeguarding training and a session about the school culture we want to build; on Tuesday we looked at the School Improvement Plan and how this links to and underpins our approach to curriculum. The children joined us on Wednesday, looking so smart in their uniform and with big smiles on their faces!

On Thursday evening, we heard the tragic news about the passing of the Queen Elizabeth II. It is right and proper that we mourn the passing of the Head of State and give thanks for her many long years of service and example. The school is, of course, closed on Monday for the funeral, as directed by the DfE.

On a happier note, today is the first day that we welcome all of our new Reception children. You are all so welcome and we are so pleased to have you. New parents, you are equally as welcome. My door is always open and I hope you feel at home and fully supported by our approach here at school.

All of you will have by now noticed our new mosaic. It really stands out and is just another indication of how proud we are of our school. Every child played their own part in designing and building it and it will

stand at the entrance of our school for many years to come. Children, perhaps one day you can show your own children and grandchildren which particular tile you laid!

### Golden Book

**Reception:** All of our Reception children have made a fantastic start and we are delighted they have joined our school community. It would not be fair to pick out one particular child when they have all been so well-behaved and ready for a new chapter in their development.

**Year One:** Albie has settled well into Year One. He is trying his best in all of his lessons and has been able to use his phonics to write words that make a short sentence- which is a great start! Albie has also shown kindness towards his peers and ensures that they are ok. Brilliant start Albie - keep it up!

**Year Two:** Rico Augustus has settled into life in Year Two in the best way possible. He has been the perfect pupil this week, giving everything a go and trying his best to be independent. He has really impressed with his reading and handwriting. Well done, Rico!

**Year Three:** Henry Newton has settled into Year Three so well. He has tried his best every single day, working with enthusiasm and producing beautifully presented work. What a brilliant start to the year!

**Year Four:** Annie Sylvester has made an excellent start to the school year. Annie is an outstanding role model to her peers, demonstrating our values and virtues in everything she does. Her answers in Guided Reading this week were thoughtful and detailed too!

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**Year Five:** Logan Wilkins has been working hard on his presentation across all lessons and has been showing off a range of knowledge in Maths and Literacy. He has been supportive of his peers and has been actively participating in class discussions and answering a range of questions to demonstrate his knowledge as well as asking investigative questions to gain more knowledge about our learning. A fabulous start to the year, Logan. Well done!

**Year Six:** Erin Fegan for putting 100% effort into all that she does. Her work is always beautifully presented, she includes a wide range of sentence types and high level vocabulary and always contributes fully to class discussions. She is a fantastic role model!

#### **Congratulations to...**

Congratulations to James McMahon and Amara Sandhu-Hicks who have been appointed as our new Head Boy and Girl during today's first 'Celebration Assembly' of the new academic year. I am sure they will build on Liam and Keira's wonderful work last year and represent the school maturely and reliably.

Congratulations also to the following children who have been appointed school prefects:

- Charlie Burke
- Naomi Cunnane
- James Foster
- Anthony Mano
- Ava-Leigh Newton
- Annie Stephenson

I know that they will support the Head Boy and Head Girl in their duties and be a source of great help to the teachers when called upon.

#### **Lunchboxes**

A reminder that there should be NO NUTS brought into school and that, as much as possible, products containing nuts (spread

such as Nutella, or nut-based muesli bars, should be avoided). Please ensure that the contents of your child's lunchbox are balanced and healthy: small chocolate bars as an occasional treat as permissible; far healthier are pieces of fruit and snacks that are low in sugar.

#### **School Council**

Year One to Six will elect the new School Councillors on Friday next week. This is democracy in action! Children can design posters or speeches if they feel they have the necessary skills to represent their class for the year. Winners will be announced in next week's newsletter.

#### **Kids Zone @ SAB Breakfast & After School Clubs**

This is now up and running and feedback given so far is that it is both welcome and a success. If you are interested in your child attending before school from 7:30 or after school from 3:30 until either 4:30 or 5:30, please pick up a form in the office. The morning sessions are paid in cash – it is £1 each morning for each child, and includes toast. The afternoon sessions are £5 per hour, which covers the cost of staffing and the use of space and equipment.

#### **Uniform**

The children looked very smart on their return school in their uniform and their smart shoes. All children should now be wearing their Autumn/Winter uniform: that is, shirt and tie (either the previous tie or the slightly new design). On this note, the new tie design comes in two formats: a clip-on one for ease for KS1, and an adult-style tie for KS2. Children can, of course, still wear their old-style tie. New ties have been ordered from our supplier and, once they have arrived, anyone who is unhappy with the quality of the tie they purchased previously can exchange it for free of charge in the school office.

### **A message from Father Paul...**

*I was delighted to see children at Mass last Friday, even though the circumstances surrounding the Queen's death on Thursday meant the atmosphere was more muted than normal.*

*I remarked to Mr Clinton how smart the new design of the jumper looked. Saying so is not intended to detract from any other child in a grey jumper, of course; all children looked smart but I was especially struck by how it made a real difference to appearance! I have since spoken to Mr Clinton and the parish would like to gift EVERY pupil in the school a new jumper. This is intended to help with the cost of living crisis that we are all experiencing, as well as making sure our children are warm and comfortable in the coming winter months.*

*The idea behind the purchase would be that children could still wear their ordinary grey jumpers or cardigans day to day, but there will be special days of celebration – whole school Masses, perhaps, or school photographs - where every child can wear the new St Ambrose Barlow jumper.*

*I honestly think it will give children pride in their appearance and a real 'sense of occasion' to these special days. I know that school funds are stretched but I feel that the parish is in a fortunate position to be able to make this one-off outlay to celebrate our special school. Father Paul*

This is hugely generous of Fr Paul and the parish and I wish to thank him sincerely for his support and generosity. We have extremely high standards at our school and having special smart uniform days will only emphasise and celebrate this.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

A happy consequence of the closer ties between the school and parish is that now Sacramental preparation is to be shared - with some workshops taking place at the Church hall and led by school staff, and children will attend and enjoy workshops on Saturday morning led by parish catechists.

The first of these workshops will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 6pm. This is for parents of children making their first Holy Communion and will look at the function of Catholic schools, the special position that parents hold, and how teachers can best support parents in their role as first-educators.

Please make every effort to come along and share your ideas and feedback. It is intended to be a laidback and open dialogue! The children will then have their first session on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 10am until midday.

Attached to this letter will be the dates for all children and parents who wish to make either their First Holy Communion or their Confirmation.

### **Children reading at Sunday Mass 10am**

The first Sunday of every month, the children of St Ambrose Barlow School will now read at the parish church at the 10am Mass. This will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> October with Year Six's Mass of Enrolment - as part of their Sacramental preparation – and will continue with different children until July.

If any children or families wish to take up the offertory during the Mass, please speak to a warden in the Church foyer (or Mrs Thorne here at school). Everyone is welcome to volunteer!

### **Hall Green Library**

As you know, reading remains our #1 priority with regards to curriculum. We have extremely high quality literacy books for each text genre in Literacy, fifteen copies of each texts for whole class reading for Guided Reading sessions, updated class libraries, a recently replenished and restocked school library and we travel once a week to our local library.

Library visits have now resumed and will take place every THURSDAY for each class. The class will walk down at 1:30pm and return for 3pm. Please see the schedule below.

15 <sup>th</sup> Sept:	Year Six
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept:	Year Five
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept:	Year Four
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct:	Year Three
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct:	Year Two

Children can either return their books of their own accord or leave them in school on Thursday morning and we will return them on their behalf.

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

Happy birthday to Charlie Burke, Year Six, who was eleven on Wednesday and to Nico Hansa, Year Five, who was ten yesterday. Happy birthday to all who celebrated last week when there was no newsletter, and to all who celebrated over summer also!

### **September dates for your diary**

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Sept:** School closed for the Queen's funeral

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept:** Year Five @ Hall Green library

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept:** 6pm Parent meeting for FHC children @ Parish Hall

**Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Sept:** FHC parish workshop 10am

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Three FHC Enrolment Mass 10am

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Four @ Hall Green library

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Confirmation Parent meeting @ Parish Hall 6pm

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Harvest Mass @ 2pm in school hall

### **October Dates for your diary**

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Oct:** Year Six Confirmation children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct:** Enrolment Mass for Year Six children 10am

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Three @ Hall Green library

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Two Class Mass 2:30pm

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Parent Consultation 3:40 – 6:20

**Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Two children @ Hall Green library

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Six Assembly 9am

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct:** School closes for half term

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Oct:** School closed for INSET

**Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Oct:** School re-opens for all children

### **November dates for your diary**

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** FHC parents @ Parish Hall 6pm

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Six @ St Chad's

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Nov:** FHC Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Nov:** FHC children @ Sunday Mass 10am

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year One Class Mass 2:30pm

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three Assembly 9am

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Confirmation children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm

**Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Confirmation children @ Sunday Mass 10am

**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Influenza vaccinations

### **December dates for your diary**

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** Year Three Reconciliation Service 6pm

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** Reception Nativity 2pm

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year One Nativity 2pm

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**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year Two Nativity 2pm  
**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 theatre trip 'Nativity Two' @ B'ham Rep  
**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Whole School Mass of the Immaculate Conception 9:30  
**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Staff and children Christmas dinner  
**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 Carol Concert 7pm  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Whole School Mass 9:30am  
**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Break up at 2pm

There will be more dates to follow! Please check the diary dates each newsletter – there are always additions!

I hope you all have a well-deserved rest over the weekend and that you can pay your respects to her Majesty on Monday in any way you feel is appropriate. The Queen has given many years of service to the country and it is fitting that schools and shops close on this Bank Holiday so we can each pay tribute in our own way. I will see you on Tuesday morning for the start of a new week of learning and working together.



Mr Clinton





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### Year Three Sacrament Preparation

Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Parents @ Parish Hall 6pm 'Belonging'
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Enrolment Mass 10am
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Parents @ Parish Hall 'Forgiveness'
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday Mass 10am
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday Mass 10am
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	9am INSPIRE workshop: parents and child in school
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Children 'Holy Week workshop' 10am
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Children to lead Palm Sunday Procession
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	9am INSPIRE workshop: parents and children in school
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	First Communion 10am and 11:30am
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Children to lead Corpus Christi Procession
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Parent celebration and evaluation 6pm
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Going Forth Mass and Communion breakfast

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### Year Six Sacrament Preparation

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent meeting @ Parish Hall 6pm
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Enrolment Mass 10am
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm 'Advent' workshop
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Sunday Mass 10am
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	10am Children workshop 'Forgiveness' and Confession
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday Mass 10am
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	6pm Parent meeting
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	2pm Sponsor Workshop
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Confirmation 7pm; drinks and photographs afterwards

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Food On  
Our Doorstep

# Birmingham FOOD Clubs

## Food On Our Doorstep

### Good-quality food at a low price

Family Action has launched Food On Our Doorstep (FOOD) clubs in Birmingham to provide families with good-quality food at a low cost, while also reducing food waste. It costs just £1 a year for your family to become a member.

Once you've joined, you can purchase a bag of tasty food items every week worth approx. £15 for just £3.50!

To become a member you must live or work within 15 minutes of the club.

## Where and when

- Highfield Community Centre, Highfield Road, Hall Green, B28 0HS.
- Time:  
Tuesday 3-5pm

### To find out more call

07816408755

Or

Email: [birminghamfoodclubs@family-action.org.uk](mailto:birminghamfoodclubs@family-action.org.uk)

Facebook: @birminghamfoodclubs



[www.family-action.org.uk](http://www.family-action.org.uk)

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