



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 30th September 2022

Dear Parents,

You will have received some communication on Wednesday regarding a slight change to our curriculum approach that you may see more of in the coming months. Please allow me to outline below what these changes are.

At St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, we go over and above the requirements of the National Curriculum and - as voluntary aided Catholic school - we have both a right and a duty to do so. When teaching, we are doing so through the lens of our Catholic faith, promoting Catholic Social teaching in order to build God's kingdom here on Earth. This has always been the case in many Catholic schools but, at St Ambrose Barlow, we are now doing so explicitly. Children can learn lessons from History about mistakes to avoid in the future, from Geography about the impact humans are having on the world, from even the literature they study in Literacy. In short, we are teaching children to ask questions about why the world is the way it is and what we as Christians can do to address and change it. Our Catholic Life and Mission underpins everything we do: assemblies, prayer, interactions with staff and pupils alike, policies and curriculum.

We also have a number of groups that function in school – such as the Spiritual Council and the Mini-Vinnies - that aim to bring about action through faith. I could not be more proud of the children involved in these ventures.

The staff and children and governors are also working towards both the CAFOD 'Live Simply' award where we try to show a global impact, a local impact and a school impact by trying to live sustainably and show solidarity with our brothers and sisters across the globe. Finally, we are also aiming to become a 'School of Sanctuary', showing solidarity with refugees who have fled their homes to seek safe haven elsewhere. We had an assembly on Monday, leading on from last Sunday's Gospel about the rich man who did nothing to help Lazarus, and we examined the words of St James' letter, where he says faith without action is worthless. It is through our faith that we are required to act and that is what will bring about a positive change in our world.

Golden Book

Reception: Archie White for consistently following our school rules and trying his best with all of his work this week. Archie has settled into Reception very well and always ensures to use his manners around the school. Well done, Archie!

Year One: Ethan Hughes has shown enormous progress in his attitude towards learning and shown determination to try and work independently. He is working hard to blend and spell words using his phonics! Keep smiling, Ethan - we are really proud of you!

Year Two: Helena Ridgeway for living out our values and virtues each day. She always puts 100% into everything that she does, setting a fantastic example to others. She has shown how compassionate and loving she is towards her classmates, often helping those who need in during lessons. She is a star!

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Year Three: Chloe Partridge for working extremely hard in all subjects. She has started Year Three with a positive attitude, putting one hundred percent effort into everything she does. Keep up the good work, Chloe!

Year Four: Halle Parsons for always being a kind and considerate member of Year Four. Halle consistently puts 100% effort into everything she does, which enables her to produce some fantastic work – work that is always beautifully presented too.

Year Five: Caoimhe Kerr always comes into the classroom with a smile on her face. She is unfailingly positive and polite. She demonstrates kindness, patience and respect for her friends and teachers. Miss Atkins and Mrs Drewry are always amazed at her positivity. Keep it up, Caoimhe.

Year Six: Lainey-Mae Neal for being a role-model to others in all that she does. Despite being new to our school, she follows our values and virtues every day! Her work is always perfectly presented and she is a compassionate and loving friend to everyone.

School Council

The results are in! See below for those who are privileged enough to serve their fellow classmates for the year. This is an excellent way for children to feedback to their class about initiatives in school (and vice versa), all the time working on their confidence, their eloquence and their advocacy.

Year One: Tommy and Amelia; Odhran and Arla.

Year Two: Alex and Mila

Year Three: Poppy and Niall

Year Four: Annie and Jude

Year Five: Alessandra and Liam

Year Six: Maeve and Charlie M.

Spiritual Council and Collective Worship

Mrs Bresnen has also engaged children from across the school to monitor our prayer areas, evaluate our collective

worship, our assemblies, even Fr Paul's homilies. We have a huge push on Collective Worship this year: as you are aware, we have a Gospel assembly every Monday morning and a Celebration assembly every Friday afternoon. We also have a Key Stage assembly every other Wednesday and when children enjoy teacher-led prayer services every other week. Eventually, children will lead these themselves, choosing readings, themes, music and little 'Going Forth' activities to help children in spreading the Good News.

From Monday, prayer bags will be sent home daily for children to write a reflection to Our Lady in October, a prayer for the faithful departed in November, and an Advent message in December. Please support your child in doing this.

Mini-Vinnies

Carys Henvey, Year Six, has been appointed as President of the Mini-Vinnies this year. It is not an easy job and it is a role that I thought long and hard about before speaking to Carys. However, I know Carys will lead the Mini-Vinnie committee with thoughtfulness, eloquence and compassion.

The positions of vice-president, treasurer, secretary and communications officer still need to be filled. These positions are open to anyone in Year Five and Six. I will mention more in assembly this Monday about how to apply and then we will announce who has been successful in next Friday's newsletter. Applications are open to all – regardless of whether they already have a job or role in class or school, including the School or Spiritual Council.

Caught Being KiVa

I was delighted that Tommy Fitzpatrick's name was read out at Sunday morning Mass by Father Paul. We never know who we are impressing when we are 'caught'

doing the right thing! This week, I am nominating Cody Davies in Year Five who, while in my office yesterday, rocketed in my estimation after demonstrating his thoughtfulness and his caring nature.

Sacramental Preparation

This was a great success last week for Year Three's Reconciliation and Communion preparation and will hopefully be a great success tomorrow for Year Six's Confirmation workshop. Please join us for Mass on Sunday at 10am to see Year Six enrolled officially on their programme at their Mass of Enrolment. Thank you to all the parish catechists and staff who so generously give up their time to support the children's provision.

Today, Year Six have been sent home with a Sacramental Preparation Application Form. Please fill this in and return to Father Paul tomorrow morning.

Friends of St Ambrose Barlow (FoSABS) AGM

If you are a new parent with a child in Reception, an existing parent or grandparent of a child in school, a member of the parish or someone with an interest in fundraising and supporting the school, please come to our Friends of St Ambrose Barlow (FoSABS) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 1st November at the parish hall at 5:30pm. Tea, coffee and cake will be served!

During the meeting, we will go over the constitution of the body, hear the reports from the previous year's activities from the current committee, and elect the chair, secretary, and treasurer for the coming year.

We had a hugely successful Summer Fete to relaunch FoSABS after a) Covid, and b) the new leadership of the school, and I sincerely believe we can now go from strength to strength, with parents and

friends leading this group with support from staff at school and members of the parish.

Possible events for this year -pending the committee's approval - include Film Clubs for KS1 and KS2, a quiz night or wine tasting in the parish centre, a Christmas card making competition, a disco, a 50/50 club. The fundraising ideas to support the school can literally be endless...

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Amelia in Year Five who was ten on Monday, and Finley in Year One who was six on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Tobias in Year One who is six tomorrow, and Dani in Year Five who is ten tomorrow. Happy birthday to Helena in Year Two will be seven on Sunday and is celebrating by being in the Golden Book this week!

October Dates for your diary

- Sat 1st Oct:** Year Six Confirmation children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
- Sun 2nd Oct:** Enrolment Mass for Year Six children 10am
- Thurs 6th Oct:** Year Three @ Hall Green library
- Fri 7th Oct:** Year Two Class Mass 2:30pm
- Mon 10th Oct:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20
- Wed 12th Oct:** Parent Consultation 3:40 – 6:20
- Thurs 13th Oct:** Year Two children @ Hall Green library
- Thurs 13th Oct:** Year Five and Six parent meeting re: residential trip 3pm
- Fri 14th Oct:** Year Six Assembly 9am
- Thurs 20th Oct:** School closes for half term
- Fri 21st Oct:** School closed for INSET
- Mon 31st Oct:** School re-opens for all children

November dates for your diary

- Tuesday 1st Nov:** Whole School Mass for All Saints' Day 9:30

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Tues 1st Nov: FOSABS AGM 5:30pm @ Parish Hall
Thurs 3rd Nov: FHC parents @ Parish Hall 6pm
Fri 4th Nov: Year Six @ St Chad's
Sat 5th Nov: FHC Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
Sun 6th Nov: FHC children @ Sunday Mass 10am
Fri 11th Nov: Year One Class Mass 2:30pm
Thurs 17th Nov: Confirmation Parent meeting @ Parish Hall 6pm
Fri 18th Nov: Year Three Assembly 9am
Sat 26th Nov: Confirmation children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm
Sun 27th Nov: Confirmation children @ Sunday Mass 10am
Tues 29th Nov: Influenza vaccinations (am)
Tues 29th Nov: KS1 Theatre trip (pm) to Mac for 'Pins and Needles'

December dates for your diary

Thurs 1st Dec: Year Three Reconciliation Service 6pm
Fri 2nd Dec: Reception Nativity 2pm
Mon 5th Dec: Year One Nativity 2pm
Tues 6th Dec: Year Two Nativity 2pm
Wed 7th Dec: KS2 theatre trip 'Nativity Two' @ B'ham Rep
Thurs 8th Dec: Whole School Mass of the Immaculate Conception 9:30
Thurs 8th Dec: Staff and children Christmas dinner
Wed 14th Dec: KS2 Carol Concert 7pm
Fri 16th Dec: Whole School Mass 9:30am
Fri 16th Dec: Break up at 2pm

Have a good weekend and I will see you all either at Mass this Sunday at 10am with our Year Six children, or on the gate on Monday morning.

God bless,



Mr Clinton

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