



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 4th November 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after a well-deserved break over half-term. As you are aware, November is the month where we remember our dearly departed, praying for them and celebrating their memories. This will happen in class liturgies and will be a focus of each altar in the classroom. Please join us in this special celebration of your loved ones: each class is sending the prayer bag home for children to write their own prayers or draw a picture with the following message.

Throughout the month of November, children will be bringing the prayer bag home for one evening. It is important the bag is returned to school the next day for children to lead their class in Collective Worship and in order for everyone to get a chance to have a go at taking the prayer bag home.

In your bag you will find a holding cross, an exercise book and a laminated prayer card. Please follow the prayer card and once completed write your own prayer in this exercise book. Your prayer may be about a certain person who has died or about a particular saint. Children will then share this prayer tomorrow with their class.

Please colour a section of the picture below and add a drawing of anyone who has died that you would like us to pray for during the month of November.

If you have any photographs or memory cards of people who have passed away that you would like to remember, please bring them into school and we will place them on our class altars. They will be kept safe and returned to you at the end of the month.

Finally, please join us for our Year Three Sacramental Preparation Mass this Sunday. The Year Three children who are preparing for their First Confession and their Communion will be leading us and Mrs Vinti will be leading us in our music. I can remember Fr Paul once generously gifting house points to each child who attended Mass one weekend. He has my permission to do this again, no matter which class the child is in! I will leave the amount he thinks appropriate totally to him. I fully expect to be almost bankrupt after Monday's assembly.

Golden Book

Reception: Cayden Corbett has put so much effort into all of his work this week. Cayden always tries his best in everything he does and is beginning to grow in confidence with his letter formation. He contributes to every lesson with his fantastic ideas and is always so helpful around the classroom. Cayden has also done really well with trying different foods at lunch! Keep up the hard work, Cayden!

Year One: Adam Malik has shown a massive improvement in his attitude to learning this week and he has given 100% effort when completing his work. He has applied his prior knowledge to his Maths work to help him work independently at

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speed to complete the task. He wrote a fantastic story map of our book *Zog* and worked hard to use capital letters at the beginning of sentences. Keep it up Adam!

Year Two: James McColgan for always setting the perfect example to his classmates. He always gives 100% effort to everything he does from his school work to behaviour around school. Miss Ball has said that it is a pleasure to have you in the class, James!

Year Three: Orlaith Quinn for being so resilient and always trying her best in everything she does. She always comes to school with a smile on her face, full of enthusiasm and determination. Thank you for being a star, Orlaith!

Year Four: Richard Qui has worked incredibly well in Science this week, hearing his insights and his impressive knowledge about renewable and non-renewable energy.

Year Five: Corey Osborne has shown some amazing reflective thinking across the curriculum which he has then demonstrated in his written work. He is an excellent sportsman and participates really well in our PE lessons, especially tennis. Keep up the hard work, Corey.

Year Six: Sadie Kelly for being a role model for our Values and Virtues, each and every day. She always puts the needs and feelings of others first and goes out of her way to make sure that her classmates are happy. She speaks to staff eloquently and with beautiful manners and always tries to look on the positive side of things.

St Ambrose Barlow PTA

What was formally 'FoSABS' is now St Ambrose Barlow Parent and Teacher Association (SAB PTA). We have a new chair and vice-chair, a new treasurer and a new secretary and have adopted a constitution that details clear roles and responsibilities. The minutes of the AGM will be sent out with this newsletter. There are three dates to be aware of.

On **Friday 11th November**, straight after drop off from 8:45, there is a 'drop in' session for 45 minutes or so to come and sat hello, grab a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and share any ideas with the committee, or just come for a friendly chat. All are welcome!

On **Tuesday 13th December** at 3:30, we are hosting our first Film Club. Tickets will be bought for £2 from the class reps in a few weeks. Children who attend will be given a drink and a snack and all tickets go into a draw to win a copy of the DVD at the end.

Finally, as a thank you to all parents and children and extended families who supported our family fete in July, the PTA is funding a Pantomime for ALL children on **Tuesday 10th January**. There is no charge whatsoever for this – this is the PTA giving something back to say thank you for your support and generosity.

***Important* Parent Meetings**

Thank you to the parents who attended Reception's Phonics meeting last Wednesday and to the parents our of Year Three children who attended last night's Sacramental Preparation meeting. Your support is always hugely appreciated.

The following dates are all coming up this half term and after Christmas:

- Year One Phonics and Reading Workshop: Thursday 10th November 5:30pm
- Year Four Writing workshop: Thursday 17th November 9am
- Year Six Writing workshop: Tuesday 22nd November 9am
- Year Five Writing workshop: Tuesday 29th November 9am
- Year Three Writing workshop: Thursday 5th January 9am

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- Year Two Writing workshop:
Tuesday 10th Jan 9am
- Year One Writing workshop:
Tuesday 17th January 9am

Job opportunity with SVP...

The SVP is looking to recruit a Centre Manager for its new SVP Support Centre which will begin operating out of Manningford Hall in Druids Heath within the next month or two. This is the same hall that our staff helped to paint during the INSET day on Friday 21st October.

The manager will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Centre, developing its services and identifying fundraising opportunities to enable it to be self-sustaining. Initially, the Centre will operate, and the manager work, for three days a week. We expect this to increase to four days in the first half of 2023. Salary will be around £30K per annum, pro rata (so about £18K for 3 days) For a full job description, please email Andy Gudge: Presidentf02@svp.org.uk

For an informal chat about the job, please call him on 07855 824434.

Reception Open Day

We are holding two Open Afternoons for parents of prospective Reception children on Tuesday 8th November and Thursday 10th November. If you have a child who is due to start school in September, please come and join us for a school tour, a talk about our faith and curriculum and how we cater for our Reception children. We will be delighted to meet you – no booking necessary!

Mini-Vinnies news

Consent letters and sponsorship forms will be sent today for the Year Five and Year Six sleepover. Thank you to all the children who helped draft the letters and produce posters.



In other exciting news, some group of our Mini-Vinnies have also been invited to meet the Archbishop at the unveiling of the new SVP Support Centre at Manningford Hall on Wednesday 1st December. I am very proud of their progress in this short space of time!

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Andreas in Year Two who was seven on Tuesday. Yesterday, Caitlyn in year Six was eleven, Ava-Mary in year Four was nine, and Corey in Year Five was ten. Today, Gracie in Year One celebrates her sixth birthday. Happy birthday to all!

November dates for your diary

Sat 5th Nov: FHC Children @ Parish Hall 10am-12pm

Sun 6th Nov: FHC children @ Sunday Mass 10am

Tues 8th Nov: Open Afternoon for new Reception parents 2pm

Thurs 10th Nov: Year Six visit to Hall Green library

Thurs 10th Nov: Open Afternoon for new Reception parents 2pm

Thurs 10th Nov: Year One Phonics and Reading workshop 5:30pm

Fri 11th Nov: SAB PTA Coffee morning 'drop in' session from 8:45am

Fri 11th Nov: Year One Class Mass 2:30pm

Tues 15th Nov: Chess tournament 1:30pm

Thurs 17th Nov: Year Four writing workshop 9am

Thurs 17th Nov: Year Five visit to Hall Green library

Thurs 17th Nov: Confirmation Parent meeting @ Parish Hall 6pm

Fri 18th Nov: Year Three Assembly 9am

Fri 18th Nov: Year 5/6 Sleepover organised by the Mini-Vinnies

Tues 22nd Nov: Year Six writing workshop 9am

Thurs 24th Nov: Year Four visit to Hall Green library

Fri 25th Nov: Non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle donation (Parish Christmas Fayre)

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: Year Five writing workshop 9am

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

Thurs 1st Dec: Year Three visit to Hall Green library

Fri 2nd Dec: Reception Nativity 2pm

Sun 4th Dec: Children to lead reading at Mass

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

Thurs 8th Dec: Year Two visit to Hall Green library

Fri 9th Dec: School choir to sing at the Dementia café

Fri 9th Dec: Keyboard and choir concert 2pm – all parents welcome

Tues 13th Dec: Flute concert 9:30am

Tues 13th Dec: PTA Film Club 3:40pm £2

Wed 14th Dec: KS2 Carol Concert 7pm

Fri 16th Dec: Whole School Mass 9:30am

Fri 16th Dec: Break up at 2pm

January dates for your diary

Tues 3rd Jan: INSET

Wed 4th Jan: Return to school

Thurs 5th Jan: Year Five writing workshop

Fri 6th Jan: Whole School Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany 9:30

Tues 10th Jan: Year Two Writing workshop

Tues 17th Jan: Year One Writing workshop

Fri 20th Jan: Year One Class Assembly

Fri 27th Jan: Year Four Class Mass

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



Mr Clinton