



# 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 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Dear Parents,

Keeping with November's theme of remembrance for the dearly departed, today the whole school took part in a minute's silence for those who served or lost their lives during war. This was also the theme of Year One's class Mass, which was so well attended and was a beautiful and spiritual experience.

Our PTA coffee morning was also very well attended. I was teaching this morning but managed to show my face for a few moments to greet both our committee and our parents. It is a wish of mine that the PTA goes from strength to strength this year, organising activities for the benefit of the children (and parents) and all ideas are greatly received. If you wish to share ideas, please email our chair, Mrs Currington (Alex from Year Two's mother), at [SAB.PTA@outlook.com](mailto:SAB.PTA@outlook.com)

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Freya Bucknall for being a fantastic role model to her peers! Freya always follows our classroom rules and encourages her classmates to do so too. She has tried really hard with recognising her sounds in phonics and has shown great determination when writing CVC words. Well done, Freya!

**Year One:** Ethan Uchenna has been working really hard in class this week. He has consistently tried his best in all his subjects. Ethan has also showcased his singing skills by learning songs for the nativity and hymns for the Year One Class Mass. Well done for all of your hard work!

**Year Two:** Dermot Pickering for trying extremely hard with his writing this week. He has done his best to include lots of sentence tricks and keep his handwriting nice and neat while retelling the story of Prince Cinders. He always displays fantastic listening skills and shows such independence when working in the classroom. Well done, Dermot.

**Year Three:** Hope Coughlan for working very hard to improve her phonics and reading skills. She has shown a determination to improve and she is always enthusiastic to read in both small groups and whole class. Keep up the hard work, Hope!

**Year Four:** Ailish Kingston has worked incredibly hard in literacy this week. She has written some fantastic work based on inference skills and is an active participant in lessons where she shares her valuable knowledge with her peers. Well done, Ailish - keep up the good work!

**Year Five:** Amelia Corcoran has impressed all teachers that she has worked with this week. Amelia shows determination and increasing maturity towards her work and contributions to class discussions. Keep up the excellent work, Amelia!

**Year Six:** Ellie Gretszy-Helliwell for being consistently brilliant in all that she does. Ellie is a role model for exceptional behaviour at all times, produces work to a very high standard every day and always puts one hundred percent effort into all areas of school life. She is a worthy vice-president of the Mini-Vinnies!

### **Caught being 'KiVa'**

This week, as Miss Ball was leaving school on Wednesday evening after teaching in Year Six, Oliver Ellard approached her from

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After-school club and told her that she just *had* to go and look at James Smyth's and Dermot's handwriting from today because it was so fantastic! It was lovely to hear him praising the success of others and feeling proud of his classmates!

### **\*Important\* Parent Meetings**

- Year Four Writing workshop: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 9am
- Year Six Writing workshop: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 9am
- Year Five Writing workshop: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9am
- Year Three Writing workshop: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 9am
- Year Two Writing workshop: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 9am
- Year One Writing workshop: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 9am
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### **St Ambrose Barlow PTA**

Thanks to all who attended our coffee morning today. It was intended to give the new committee chance to introduce themselves so you can put a name to a face. Our new chair, Mrs Currington, will work closely with the secretary and the school to drive forward certain events. There are already whispers of the famous 'Race Night' returning. The next event in the diary is on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** when we are hosting our first Film Club. Tickets will be bought for £2 from the class reps in a few weeks:

Reception	Melissa Brown
Year One	Cara Burns
Year Two	Emily Aston-McGuiness
Year Three	Laura Fitzpatrick
Year Four	Magdalena Szemla
Year Five	Amy Brady
Year Six	Jenny McGarry

### **SAB PTA Raffle**

Tickets are £1 a strip and prizes are as follows:

- £250 cash
- £100 cash
- £50 cash
- Hospitality tickets for Birmingham City Football club
- Dishoom restaurant vouchers

Again, tickets are available from class reps and can be sold to whoever: friends, family, staff, children, parishioners!



### **Christmas Card 'Live Simply'**

In an effort to cut down on waste, may I suggest that rather than sending numerous cards to lots of different children, that each child sends only ONE card to the whole class? That way, Year Two for instance will have only thirty cards on display in their class, and then every child can take one card home at the end. This cuts down on waste and help protect the earth's precious resources.

Likewise, I know parents sometimes like to buy gifts for staff and I cannot stop you from doing so. It is hugely generous of you but I want to assure you that there is no

expectation and no need to do so. I know the staff here are wonderful and I know you appreciate all they do; knowing this is enough, so please do not feel under pressure to buy any individual gifts for us whatsoever.

### 'City Serve' School Lunches

We have tried as long as possible to maintain the low cost of meals but, at some point this academic year, we may have to put up the price. This will be a decision taken by the Governors, following advice from the local authority. I will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible and keep any price rise to an absolute minimum.

On a related note, anyone who wishes to buy either a sausage or bacon sandwich on Tuesdays will now have to pay in advance on Monday, so we can reduce our waste and cater for exact numbers only. The price of this sandwich is rising to £1 from January 2023. Toast will remain at 30p and can be purchased on the day.

### 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. (The is the same hall that our staff helped to paint during the INSET day on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Presidentf02@svp.org.uk) - for an informal*

*chat about the job, please call him on 07855 824434.*

### Reception Open Day

This was a great success. I always enjoy welcoming visitors to our wonderful school and the feedback from our potential new parents was very positive. One final Open Afternoon has been arranged for Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm. Please tell anyone you know who may be interested!

### Mini-Vinnies news

Consent letters and sponsorship forms were sent out last week for the Year Five and Year Six sleepover. Our President, Carys Henvey, held a meeting today and it was decided that all sponsorship forms must be returned by next Thursday, as this forms part of your consent letter. You can return funds at this time too, but the forms will be returned after the sleepover so donations can be collected. The deadline for all funds to be given is Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November.



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

Happy birthday to Ambrose in Year Two who was seven on Wednesday; happy birthday also to Logan in Year One who was six on Wednesday too; finally, happy birthday to Esmee in Reception who was five on.... Wednesday also! Happy birthday to all!

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

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Chess tournament 1:30pm  
**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Six rearranged visit to the library 1:30pm  
**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Four writing workshop 9am  
**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Five visit to Hall Green library 1:30pm  
**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Confirmation Parent meeting @ Parish Hall 6pm  
**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three Assembly 9am  
**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year 5/6 Sleepover organised by the Mini-Vinnies  
**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov:** Year Six writing workshop 9am  
**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Four visit to Hall Green library  
**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Non-uniform day in exchange for a bottle donation (Parish Christmas Fayre)  
**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 (am)  
**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Five writing workshop 9am  
**Tues 29<sup>th</sup> Nov:** KS1 Theatre trip (pm) to Mac for 'Pins and Needles'  
**Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Open Afternoon 2pm for parents of prospective Reception starters 2023

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

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** SAB Day of Pilgrimage  
**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** Mini-Vinnies at Manningford House, Druids Heath  
Year Three Reconciliation Service 6pm

**Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** Year Three visit to Hall Green library

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

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Children to lead reading at Mass (more details to follow)

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

**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

**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year Two visit to Hall Green library

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** School choir to sing at the Dementia café

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Keyboard and choir concert 2pm – all parents welcome

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Flute concert 9:30am

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** PTA Film Club 3:40pm £2

**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

### **January dates for your diary**

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** INSET

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Return to school

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Five writing workshop

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Whole School Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany 9:30

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Two Writing workshop

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Jan:** PTA Pantomime 2pm

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year One Writing workshop

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year One Class Assembly

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Four Class Mass

### **February dates for your diary**

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** Parent Confirmation meeting 6pm Parish hall

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** Year Two Class Assembly

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six Confirmation workshop

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Confirmation preparation Mass 10am

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six Confirmation Sponsor workshop 2pm

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Confirmation 7pm

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**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Five Class Mass

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Break up at 3:30

Have a wonderful weekend and I will see you next week.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Mr Clinton