



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents,

This weekend sees the first Mass of Advent and that means our daily *Walk With Me* assemblies start on Monday. Each day we will read the scripture and reflect on what it means for us as Christians as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

On Sunday, we also have our second Confirmation preparation Mass, which will be led by our Year Six children. On Sunday 4th December, we will ask our children from across KS2 to lead the readings at Mass too. It therefore seems a fitting resolution for Advent to try and attend Mass every Sunday during the run up to Christmas. It is a wonderful way to prepare ourselves spiritually for the festive period. Fr Paul celebrates Mass at 5:30pm on a Saturday, at 10am on Sunday morning and 5:30pm on a Sunday evening.

Another way of preparing ourselves is to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation: this will be offered to all children in Years Four, Five and Six on Monday afternoon. Please join with me in praying for Year Three as they make their First Confessions on Thursday evening.

Golden Book

Reception: Georgia Wood for always showing a fantastic attitude towards her learning. Georgia has shown great determination this week in Maths and did not give up when finding different ways of making five. Keep up the hard work, Georgia!

Year One: Tommy Fitzpatrick has worked really hard this week during our nativity

rehearsals to use fantastic expression and volume when saying his lines. He's been showing off his excellent singing and fabulous dance moves too. Tommy always gives 100% to everything he tries and he is always smiling! Well done for all your hard work, Tommy!

Year Two: Oliver Ellard for being so fantastic during our nativity rehearsals. He knows exactly when to come on and off the stage: he says his lines confidently and eloquently and sings to every song without needing reminders. What a superstar!

Year Three: Poppy Nixon for always having a confident and willing attitude in class. She contributes to all class discussions, sharing her knowledge with others. Around school, she is always bright and cheerful, saying hello to all members of staff and students. Well done, Poppy!

Year Four: Sonny Fitzpatrick for having an outstanding attitude to learning and living to our values and virtues. Everyday Sonny comes into school with a positive mindset, fully prepared for the day, making him a fantastic role model to the class. Sonny is always willing to help those in class and around school and takes great pride in doing so. Keep it up, Sonny!

Year Five: Noel Brose has been working really hard this week. He has tried his very best in our assessments and has shown his knowledge and understanding through discussion in class. Noel is always polite and says 'Good Morning' to staff and children every day. Keep it up, Noel!

Year Six: Naomi Cunnane for being a role-model in all that she does. Naomi has an outstanding attitude to her learning, always doing her very best and going above and beyond what is expected of her. Her behaviour in the classroom and

With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side,
we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

around school is exemplary and she always displays our KiVa values.

School sleepover

It was exhausting but it is done. The children were brilliantly behaved and I am incredibly grateful for all the staff who gave up their time on Friday night and Saturday morning to ensure all went smoothly. Thank you also to those who sponsored the children: our treasurers are yet to total up the final amount but it looks to be in the region of £1600 or so. Of course, staying over in school is also great preparation for the upcoming Year Five and Six residentials. Please endeavour to send in any final outstanding amounts so our treasurers can organise the counting and sign the proverbial cheques!

Reception Open Day

Our final Open Afternoon has been arranged for Wednesday 30th November at 2pm. Please tell anyone you know who may be interested! Our previous two open days were well attended and it is a wonderful way to show off all the good things that happen in our school.

Reminder: school absence

If your child is ill, please phone the office before 9am. There is an option to leave a message if the call is not answered but there is usually someone on site from when school opens but certainly from 7:30. We have had some recent cases of Conjunctivitis and, following advice from the NHS, children must stay off school until 24 hours after treatment has started. It is contagious and such measures are intended to limit outbreaks.

Finally, COVID infections are on the rise again. Following a positive test, please ensure children remain off school for five days to reduce the risk of the virus being passed on.

Nativities

It is Reception's Nativity next Friday at 2pm, and then KS1 will perform on Monday and Tuesday at 2pm. For ease, can we request that Year One parents attend on a Monday and Year Two parents attend on Tuesday? Each child has been allocated four adult spaces, which means the capacity of the hall can remain at 120 adults. Tickets to follow, which can be swapped according to work shifts, etc.

Our PTA will be selling hot drinks and mince pies and proceeds will go towards our Advent charities.

Writing Workshops

- Year Five Writing workshop: Tuesday 29th November 9am
- Year Three Writing workshop: Thursday 5th January 9am
- Year Two Writing workshop: Tuesday 10th Jan 9am
- Year One Writing workshop: Tuesday 17th January 9am

St Ambrose Barlow PTA

Film club letters are rolling in – you may have seen the envelopes being deposited in our orange bucket in the morning. The snacks have been kindly purchased for the children and all plans are progressing well for Film Club to take place on **Tuesday 13th December**.

A reminder that tickets for the Christmas raffle are £1 a strip and can be bought from the class reps below:

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

Prizes are as follows:

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

Tickets can be sold to whoever: friends, family, staff, children, parishioners! If you wish to share ideas, please email our chair, Mrs Currington (Alex from Year Two's mother) at SAB.PTA@outlook.com

The PTA are also providing snacks for KS2's theatre trip, and a little something special for every child in school when we receive a very special jolly visitor at some point before the end of term.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Odhran in Year One who was six on Monday. Lauren in Year Six was eleven on Tuesday and Tianna in Reception was five on Wednesday. Today, James in Year Six celebrates his eleventh birthday and tomorrow, Arla in Year One celebrates her sixth birthday.

Finally ...

Thank you for your gifts and donations of beer, gin, rum, bubble bath, cordial, wine, rose and fizz. Mr Hawkins has already delivered them to church where they will form the prizes for the tombola on Saturday 17th December.

November dates for your diary

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'

Wed 30th Nov: Open Afternoon 2pm for parents of prospective Reception starters 2023

December dates for your diary

Thurs 1st Dec: SAB Day of Pilgrimage

Thurs 1st Dec: Mini-Vinnies at Manningford House, Druids Heath

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

Sat 17th Dec: Parish Christmas Fayre

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 10th Jan: PTA Pantomime 2pm

Tues 17th Jan: Year One Writing workshop

Fri 20th Jan: Year One Class Assembly

Fri 27th Jan: Year Four Class Mass

February dates for your diary

Thurs 2nd Feb: Parent Confirmation meeting
6pm Parish hall

Fri 3rd Feb: Year Two Class Assembly

Sat 4th Feb: Year Six Confirmation
workshop

Sun 5th Feb: Confirmation preparation
Mass 10am

Fri 10th Feb: Year Six Confirmation Sponsor
workshop 2pm

Fri 10th Feb: Confirmation 7pm

Fri 17th Feb: Year Five Class Mass

Fri 17th Feb: Break up at 3:30

God bless you all. School is a wonderful place to be during Advent – with practises for upcoming activities and carol concerts, so I hope the final three weeks are as enjoyable and as rewarding for everyone.



Mr Clinton