



# 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 9th December 2022

Dear Parents,

It is the end of another busy week! I hope you enjoyed the Nativities that took place on Monday and Tuesday of this week (as well as last Friday's offering from Reception). My thanks to all the staff who organised and practised with the children and thanks to the children too for learning their lines and for singing so well. As I am sure you are aware, such performances take a great deal of hard work behind the scenes but the final product is always worth it!

KS2 enjoyed their day out on Wednesday at *Nativity! The Musical* and their behaviour was exemplary. It is a privilege to take them out of school and be complimented on their conduct.

We have ended the week with Madam Grange's wonderful choir and keyboard concert in place of our usual *Gifts from God* celebration assembly. It was an excellent way to end the week and just serves to demonstrate how well the children have nurtured and grown the gifts and talents that God has furnished them with. Here, at St Ambrose Barlow, we believe in teaching all children to live their life to the full and this is just another example of this.

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Chris Jobin for joining our school a few weeks ago and settling in so well. He has tried so hard to learn our classroom rules and routines, and has made lots of new friends. Chris has shown a great attitude around the school, using his manners and being so polite to everyone. Well done, Chris!

**Year One:** Bella Mills consistently puts in 100% effort into all of her lessons and she always works hard to use her phonics in her writing. Bella was super throughout all of our Nativity rehearsals - singing and dancing with enthusiasm and she said her line with great expression and volume. Bella is a great role model for the rest of class, constantly using her manners and showing excellent behaviour. Well done, Bella!

**Year Two:** Emily Healy for an excellent piece of writing in Literacy this week. Her traditional tale with a twist was a fantastic read! She also did a great job of leading the bidding prayers on Thursday and read her prayer with eloquence and with a smile! She is an absolute superstar!

**Year Three:** Francis Fitzpatrick for working so hard to learn the words for the carols in the carol service and showing enthusiasm when performing. He has been a good role model to others, following the school rules and contributing to all class discussions. Well done, Francis!

**Year Four:** Lila Delaney – everyday, Lila strives to achieve her best in everything that she does. Lila is a kind and caring member of the class, always willing to help her peers and put a smile on their faces. Well done, Lila, keep it up!

**Year Five:** Alessandra Kartsios for showing her determination and persevering with hard word problems in Maths. Alex did not give up and gave each word problem her all! Alex is always polite and uses her manners impeccably in the classroom and around school.

**Year Six:** Charlie Burke for being the perfect prefect! He is a kind and considerate friend who always puts the needs of others first. He works hard in all

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

lessons, day in, day out, to ensure that he always produces the best work possible and his behaviour around school is always exemplary.

### **Peter, our wonderful Lollypop Man**

Next week is Peter's last week before his retirement. He has been a fantastic asset to our school since he joined and I know you will miss him greatly. I will keep you updated with his replacement, but please make his final five days with us a delight.

### **Christmas dinner**

This was a resounding success. We all ate together – which very rarely happens - and my thanks again to the staff who organised the service and shepherded almost 210 children to their seats. As you may have seen on Twitter, my thanks also go to the kitchen staff who worked tirelessly to prepare the food. A special mention to Mrs Maggie Hardiman, chief cook and chef extraordinaire – who took everyone's order and served the roast potatoes, mashed potatoes, carrots, sweetcorn, sprouts, peas, pigs-in-blankets, stuffing, gravy, ham, turkey, Quorn, Yorkshire puddings for main and then mince pies, festive chocolate hedgehogs, custard, yoghurts and ice cream for dessert. What a great way to spend your birthday!



### **End of term arrangements**

As you are aware, we will close at 2pm on Friday. Our After-School club will start ninety minutes earlier to help with childcare. If you wish to attend, please let the office know. It will close at the usual

time of 5:30 and then school is closed until Wed 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Club will resume at 7:30am on that morning.

### **Kids Zone @ SAB**

I hope you agree that this has been a welcome addition to the school day and a pleasing success. If you wish your child to attend, please fill in a form from the office. I know some parents have yet to pay for all sessions attended this term but teething problems are always present at the start of a new venture: our team will be in touch after Christmas to notify of any payments that are due and with an offer to cover the cost in instalments.

### **Christmas Carol Concert:**

#### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 7pm**

Please can all KS2 children wear a white shirt and their tie for this performance. Children can be dropped off at the parish hall from 6:15 and all children must arrive by 6:30. Children can leave their jumpers and coats in the hall before processing in, and then collect all their belongings afterwards.

I am, of course, aware of the clash with the World Cup semi-final. In the event of England beating France on Saturday, I will share Plan B with you on Monday morning by email. If England lose, we will proceed as planned.

### **Film Club**

This will take place on Tuesday in the hall. Children who normally attend Kids Zone, but have paid their £2 to watch the film, will have their Kids Zone account credited and any credits will roll over to the new term.

Children will be dismissed at the end of the Film Club in a slightly different manner, with Reception from their usual door and Year One and Year Two children from the Year One. All other children will be dismissed from the dining hall direct to the

front of school, a class at a time starting with Year Three.

### **PTA Christmas Raffle**

This will be drawn at the parish Christmas fayre on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December. 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-McGuiness
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!

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

Happy birthday to Hammer in Year Five who was ten on Monday. He celebrated with Maria in Year One who was six on Monday also. Jack in Year Six was eleven on Tuesday and Francis in Year One is six today! Happy birthday to all.

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

**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  
**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Parish Christmas Fayre

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

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** INSET – school closed to children  
**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Return to school

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Three 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  
**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. I shall see you on Monday morning for our final week before Christmas. God bless,



Mr Clinton