



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

www.sab.bham.sch.uk

enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

@SAB_B28

St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents,

Here we are! We have reached the end of another long but successful term: new Reception starters, a slightly adapted uniform, a new Before and After School club, and an Ofsted inspection navigated (and, dare I say, enjoyed?!). Assemblies, nativities, carol services, sacramental classes, Reconciliations, and now.... rest!

My thanks to the staff for all their hard work, to the children for being consistently outstanding (as Father Paul rightly keeps reminding them) and to the parents and extended friends of the school for their support. Thank you, also, for the many gifts you have given the staff for Christmas. They are all hugely appreciated!

Golden Book

Reception: Lennon Mooney for reading so beautifully in our school Mass this morning. Lennon always has such a positive attitude towards his work and has tried so hard this term with his handwriting. Well done, Lennon!

Year One: Aibhlinn Brady is a star! She has worked hard this half term to improve her writing using a range of adjectives to describe and modelling lovely pre-cursive handwriting. She always tries her best and is always around to help anyone around her who may need any help. Aibhlinn is always kind and a good friend to everyone. Well done for all your hard work!

Year Two: Kieron Bradbury-Slater for trying extremely hard with his presentation during R.E this week while recounting John the Baptist's proclamation at the River Jordan. He also contributed

some great answers in Literacy while writing instructions for how to decorate a Christmas tree. Keep up the good work, Kieron.

Year Three: Emily O'Keefe for being such a superstar this term. She always works hard, trying her best in everything she does. She is kind and helpful and always has a smile for her friends and teachers. Thank you, Emily!

Year Four: Ava-Mary Hodgkins for her general demeanour, her attitude, her winning smile and her amazing application in her role as Mary on Wednesday evening. She was perfectly cast, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas! She is an amazing role model and should be very proud of herself.

Year Five: Rory Goddard for being a fabulous member of Year Five. Rory has worked really hard this week and created a superb play script in Literacy along with his dramatised version of Scrooge. As well as this, his solo in the Carol service was mesmerising and his voice was beautiful. An amazing first full term in Year Five! Well done Rory.

Year Six: Maeve Cunningham for being a ray of sunshine around school. She is always cheerful, positive and full of kind words for others. Her singing in the carol service was beautiful and she always tries her best with whatever is asked of her.

A huge thank you for your generosity

On Wednesday evening, at the start of our Carol service, I made an appeal for donations – no matter how small – that we could pass to St Anthony's Catholic School, in order for them to give to the family of Jack Johnson to help address the cost of the funeral. I was bowled over by your

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

generosity. We raised £1004.76 and then Fr Paul doubled it with the parish funds. This cheque was passed onto Kieran Scanlon, the Deputy Headteacher of St Anthony's this morning.

We also received a sizeable anonymous donation that will also be passed on, given on the condition that no publicity was attached to it. Again, such an act of kindness was truly unexpected and was totally unprecedented. Thank you again.

May those poor children rest in peace and may their families find comfort at this sad and tragic time. Amen.

Christmas Masses at St Ambrose Barlow Church

Saturday 24th December 5pm (carols before)

Saturday 24th December 7pm (carols before)

Sunday 25th December 10am
(No 5.30pm Mass)

26th-30th December 9.30am

Saturday 31st December 5.30pm

Sunday 1st January 10am
Sunday 1st January 5.30pm

2nd-5th January 9.30am

Friday 6th January 9.30am & 7pm

And Merry Christmas from Fr Paul...

The children walked down to Mass today with a surprise for Father Paul – the children were all wearing their lovely warm new jumpers that he has bought for them. They were delivered earlier in the week and we thought it would be a lovely end of the school term to wear them for our Mass.

Parents, you can let the children wear them as frequently or as little as you choose. An ordinary grey jumper will still suffice for every day wear. However, there will be occasions – assemblies, Masses, concerts, trips – where it would be pleasing (aesthetically and otherwise) for children to wear the full uniform, including the branded jumper.

In light of the current cost of living, it would also be hugely appreciated if you return the jumper when it gets too small and we can run a swap shop at no charge here at school.

Goodbye to....

Peter, our wonderful crossing supervisor, who has been a superb addition to our school and will be sorely missed. Enjoy the retirement, Peter. Enjoy also the small token of appreciation from the school and the other gifts from the parents. Hopefully a drop of something small will keep you warm in the evenings. (Parents, you will be pleased to know that a replacement has now been appointed. More details in the new year).

Miss Harkin's long-term period of employment with us has now come to an end. Since Autumn term 2021, she has worked every Monday to Wednesday with us, covering PPA and working with Year Three. However, she is not gone – she will return, when needed, to cover short-term absences so you will not have seen the last of her by any means!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Martin, who has been a wonderful help to our children of Year Three, and to Orlaith especially. Mrs Martin made no secret of her desire to train and get qualified in another career but still agreed in September to take on a role with us at short notice for a temporary amount of time. This time has now come to an end but she leaves a huge gap and

will be greatly missed by us all. And if you ever need a fully trained plumber, you know who to call....

Miss Perkins is also leaving us to take up a new position at St Chad's, Newtown. She joined us last January to cover Miss Reynolds' maternity leave which has now come to an end. She has taught Year Three and stayed with the class as they moved to Year Four and now she is saying goodbye. Thank you, Beth – we wish you all the best!

Welcome back...

The return of both Mrs Healy (after the birth of Joseph) and Miss Reynolds (after the birth of Samuel) has surely not passed you by. Miss Reynolds returns to the class she left last January, now in year Four. Mrs Healy will support Reception, KS1 and Year Three in their curriculum. They are both very welcome!

Hall Green Library

There is currently a 'fine amnesty' at Hall Green Library, as part of their 'warm space' approach. Why not take advantage of this? Visit, take a book out, stay warm, be greeted with a smile (and take those long overdue library books back at the same time). If you are one of the children who doesn't have a library card currently, it is probably because of some outstanding charges on the account. Take advantage of this amnesty now while you can....

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Theresa in Reception who is five today! Happy birthday also to Selina in Year Five who is ten tomorrow and, finally, happy birthday to Alex in Year Two who is seven on Sunday.

Happy birthday also to anyone who celebrates over Christmas and before our return in January. Many Happy Returns to you all.

January dates for your diary

Tues 3rd Jan: INSET – school closed to children

Wed 4th Jan: Return to school

Thurs 5th Jan: Year Three 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

Have a wonderful weekend and Christmas break. I shall hopefully see you on the parish Christmas fayre tomorrow. Good luck in the raffle! Have a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and may God bless you all.



Mr Clinton