



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 6th January 2023

Dear Parents,

A Happy New Year to you! And, as it is the feast of the Epiphany today, I hope I can still get away with wishing you a Merry Christmas too. We are just back from celebrating a beautiful Mass with Fr Paul, which was a lovely start to the day and a very fitting end to our first week back.

On that note, welcome back to all our children, families and staff from what was hopefully a pleasant break. It is wonderful to see everyone back safe and sound after what was a long and exhausting term last year.

Thank you for the many gifts given to the staff for Christmas. They were not necessary, but very kind of you and all hugely appreciated!

Golden Book

This will start again next week with the return of our "Gifts from God" assembly.

Hall Green Library

In addition to the 'fine amnesty' in operation at Hall Green library, we are delighted that our weekly trips are returning, starting with Year Three next week.

If your child still does not have a library card, please take the opportunity to visit Hall Green Library this weekend or next to pick up a form and register: in many cases, when these trips started and the original forms were returned last year, if there were either outstanding fines or missing books on the account then a new card

could not be issued. Take advantage of the amnesty to have such fines written off and have a new card so your child can take a full and active part in these wonderfully fulfilling 'reading for pleasure' sessions.

PTA

I met this week with Mrs Currington, the PTA chair, and Mrs Fitzpatrick, our treasurer, to arrange further events for this year. It was a hugely productive meeting and my thanks to both for their enthusiasm and their ideas. Some dates to be aware of:

- **Fri 13th Jan: SAB PTA Coffee morning**
Come along for a chat, a hot drink, a biscuit (is 9am too early for cake? We shall see) and an update about funds and events.
- **Tues 7th Feb:** KS1 School Disco (held at school)
- **Thurs 9th Feb:** KS2 School Disco (held at school) - £3 entry and children can wear own clothes all day
- **Sat 8th July:** The SAB Summer Fete
This was a huge and resounding success last year and I cannot wait for its return. Start praying now for good weather! Barbecue, bar, sunshine, tombola, stalls, bouncy castle!
- **Thurs 30th March:** Rec and KS1 Easter Bonnet parade 2pm - a bit of fun to come and hear your child sing a little and see them 'strut their stuff' in an Easter hat.

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

A Confirmation plea from the PTA...

Our Year Six will be confirmed on Friday 10th February 7pm. We usually have a small gathering in the parish hall afterwards. During the meeting with the PTA chair and treasurer yesterday, it was suggested that perhaps our Year Five parents might volunteer to serve teas and coffees this year, and then reap the rewards of this kind and generous action next year. Please let Mrs Currington or myself know if you are willing to help.

Homework

You will already be aware that our simple approach is based solely on reading daily, learning spellings and number bonds/times tables.

The latter is achieved through *Numbots* (KS1) or *Times Table Rock Stars* (KS2) and children have a set amount of time to spend on the respective app each week, spanning from 15 minutes in Year One to 35 minutes by the end of KS2. Please support the school is helping your child achieve this amount which vastly improves their confidence and ability in the classroom.

Year Five/Six Residential

Please endeavour to pay any outstanding amounts for either Paris or Boreatton Park. Both trips are happening on Monday 22nd May – the former for five days and the latter for three and it is hoped that all children take part in either one or the other.

The cost for Paris is £650 and the cost for Boreatton is £270.

Dinner Money

The price of a dinner remains at £2.40 but is likely to rise after Easter half-term. The new price will be confirmed in the coming weeks after it has been agreed by the Governors.

Please pay any owed amounts as soon as possible and try to keep the account in credit. Please speak to the office or make an appointment to see Mr Clinton in total confidence if there are any issues.

Mini- Vinnies

An update will follow next week from the committee regarding their fundraising efforts, future actions, and their enrolment badges and certificates.

Sports Day

This will take place on Monday 10th July and will, again, be a whole day of activities at a sporting venue off-site, TBC. Children, again, are to wear the colour of their house. Parents are welcome to attend for either part or all of the day and take part in the parent races. There are crowns to be won and kudos to be earned if one can warm up properly and stay injury free...!

Finally...

Welcome to Mr Oghad (pronounced *Argud*) Duda, who is our new crossing supervisor. Please say hello to him and greet him by name in the morning and afternoons. I know you will make him feel very welcome here at St Ambrose Barlow.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Elijah in Year Four who was nine on Monday. Happy birthday to Niall in Year Three who was eight on Tuesday and happy birthday to Danielle in Year Five who is ten on Sunday! Happy birthday also to anyone who celebrated over Christmas and before our return in January. Many happy returns to you all.

January dates for your diary

Tues 10th Jan: Year Two Writing workshop

Tues 10th Jan: PTA Pantomime 2pm

Thurs 12th Jan: Year Three at Hall Green library

Tues 17th Jan: Year One Writing workshop

Thurs 19th Jan: Year Two at Hall Green library

Fri 20th Jan: Year One Class Assembly

Thurs 26th Jan: Year Six at Hall Green library

Fri 27th Jan: Year Four Class Mass

February dates for your diary

Thurs 2nd Feb: Year Five at Hall Green library

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

Tues 7th Feb: KS1 School Disco (held at school)

Thurs 9th Feb: Year Four at Hall Green library

Thurs 9th Feb: KS2 School Disco (held at school)

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

Fri 10th Feb: Confirmation 7pm

Thurs 16th Feb: Year Three at Hall Green library

Fri 17th Feb: Year Five Class Mass

Fri 17th Feb: Break up at 3:30

March dates for your diary

Thurs 2nd March: Year Two at Hall Green library

Sat 4th March: Year Three children in Parish Hall 10am – 12pm

Sun 5th March: Year Three 'Friendship' Mass

Mon 6th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30

Wed 8th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30

Thurs 9th March: Year Six at Hall Green library

Thurs 16th March: Year Five at Hall Green library

Thurs 23rd March: Year Four at Hall Green library

Mon 27th March: KS2 Reconciliation 2pm

Wed 29th March: Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE workshop

Thurs 30th March: Rec and KS1 Easter Bonnet parade 2pm

April dates for your diary

Mon 3rd April: Year Three 'Palm Sunday' assembly 9am

Tues 4th April: Year Four 'Last Supper' assembly 9am

Wed 5th April: Year Five 'Gethsemane' assembly 9am

Thurs 6th April: Year Six 'Stations of the Cross' 9am

Mon 24th April: School closed for INSET "Welcoming the stranger: Stories of Hope and Home"

Tues 25th April: School reopens for all children

May dates for your diary

Thurs 4th May: School closed for local elections

Sat 6th May: First Holy Communion Masses (times TBC)

Mon 8th May: School closed for King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday

Fri 12th May: May Procession in school

Thurs 18th May: Whole School Ascension Mass

Fri 19th May: Year Five Class Assembly

Mon 22nd May: Year Five/Six children departure for Paris or Boreatton Park

Have a wonderful weekend and I pray the school and our families have a very successful 2023!

God bless,



Mr Clinton