



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 13th January 2023

Dear Parents,

We have finished the first full week of 2023! The children have enjoyed being back (as have the staff) and Tuesday's pantomime was a real treat for all!

School is always a busy place to be and, as you can see, there are a lot of dates at the end of this email so you have plenty of notice of everything coming up before July. I will always add more so check regularly for any new additions.

Golden Book

Reception: Remy Augustus for showing such a focus in lessons this week. Remy has started the new year with such a positive attitude towards his learning, contributing to lessons with fantastic ideas and listening to others. Keep up the hard work, Remy!

Year One: Gracie Goddard is a true example of this half term's virtues and values. She works hard in class to eloquently share her ideas with others and she is always truthful. She is a great role model for her peers. Gracie has started this term with a big smile and positive 'can do' attitude, which is fantastic! She is developing lovely handwriting and is working hard to ensure the letters are the correct size. Well done, Gracie!

Year Two: Oliver Grange has really impressed everybody this week. During the Year Two workshop, Oliver produced an excellent piece of writing that was joined beautifully and included a number of different sentence tricks with excellent vocabulary. This piece of work made its way up to Year Six who were

incredibly impressed with Oliver's writing. Keep up the hard work, Oliver.

Year Three: Darcie Bucknall for starting back the new term with great enthusiasm and curiosity to learn. She has been working extremely hard and shown independence during lessons. Keep up the hard work, Darcie!

Year Four: Dylan Edginton for applying himself to all subjects since the start of term, he has shown a positive learning attitude and during handwriting practice applied himself with the care and attention.

Year Five: Selina Lin, for writing a 'gravity defying' science fiction setting description in Literacy. Selina used a variety of sentence tricks to make her writing interesting and imaginative, as well as a plethora of adventurous vocabulary. Her presentation is always impeccable and she tries her hardest to always complete work to the best standard. Well done, Selina.

Year Six: Lily Yan Lok Lai for consistently demonstrating exemplary behaviour around school. She listens attentively in lessons, always tries her best and is a kind and considerate friend. She follows our values and virtues daily and is always the best she can be.

Hall Green Library

Year Three visited Hall Green library yesterday; next week, Year Two will walk up. If you have not yet got a card, please visit Hall Green library with proof of address and get one for your child in advance. It only takes a few minutes and the card (and habit) lasts forever! It always amazes me that libraries are free: they are a valuable resource and if we do not use them, I fear we may lose them!

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Chess Club

This was launched very successfully last year but numbers were slightly lower in September and I did not think it would be viable to run again in January. It was with a heavy heart that we cancelled Wednesday's session. However, three parents have spoken to me about how much their child both values and enjoys the club so we are willing to run it again.

We will run it this term, even for a small number of children, but please be aware that doing so will eventually become unsustainable. Use the club, learn a skill, enjoy the game, build your brain! Just ask George Parkes in Year Two, who has become so good that he is now regularly beating his Dad! I will confirm the day and arrangements once these have been finalised.

Currently Reading...

Reception are studying journeys and are reading *"We're Going On A Bear Hunt"*. Year One's new class reader is *"Wigglesbottom Primary: Super Dog"* and in Literacy they are reading *"Peter Rabbit"* for their topic. Year Two are looking at stories from the same author in Literacy, which is Simon Bartram. For class reader, they are still making their way through *"The BFG"*.

Year Three are studying *"The Iron Man"* by Ted Hughes and are still trying to finish *"A Boy Called Christmas"* by Matt Haig for their Class Reader. Miss Traynor has just finished reading *"The Girl in the Striped Dress"* by Ellie Midwood and is currently reading *"Cat Lady"* by Dawn O'Porter.

In Literacy, Year Four have been studying a selection of poems from *"Please Mrs Butler"* by Allan Ahlberg. Their current class reader is Marcus Rashford's *"Breakfast Club"*, which they are reading for pleasure and using for Guided Reading

sessions too. Miss Reynolds has been reading chapters of *"The Little Prince"* to her son, Samuel!

Year Five are currently reading *"Slick"* by M.M. Vaughan for Guided Reading and Class Reader sessions, and studying *"Space Pirates and Other Short Stories"* in Literacy. Miss Atkins is reading *"Where The Crawdads Sing"* by Delia Owens. Year Six are just finishing off *"The Story of Anne Frank"* and are starting *"I Am Malala"* next week, ahead of their Literacy topic on biographies.

I was reading Richard Osman's *"Thursday Murder Club"* which, after chatting to Year Six, Naomi informed me that Mrs Cunnane was also reading. I hope she enjoyed it as much as I did. Father Christmas brought me the second and third in the series too! Over the holiday, I also read the latest Strike novel *"The Ink Black Heart"* – borrowed (totally free) from the library! *"Bournville"* by Jonathan Coe is next on my list.

Mrs Deneny – a wonderful teacher and former member of staff who helps out occasionally if we need a class covering – is reading *"Our Lady of the Nile"* by Scholastique Mukasonga. She says it is dark but recommends it nonetheless. Mrs Corrigan is reading *"Tara Road"* by Maeve Binchy. I know nothing about it, other than it was once recommended by Oprah Winfrey! Mrs Drewry is reading *"The Cosy Christmas Tea Shop"* by Caroline Roberts - 'huge fun and pure escapism', according to its reviews, the perfect feel-good romance.

Term dates

The term dates for 2023/4 have now been approved by the Governing Body and are on the website. They are also below:

Autumn Term 2023

INSET: Mon 4th September 2023

INSET: Tues 5th September 2023

Term Starts: Wed 6th September 2023

*Half Term: Mon 30th October 2023 to Fri
3rd November 2023*

Term Ends: Fri 22nd December 2023

Spring Term 2024

INSET: Monday 8th Jan 2024

Term Starts: Tues 9th January 2024

*Half Term: Mon 12th February 2024 to Fri
16th February 2024*

INSET: Mon 11th March

Term Ends: Thurs 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Mon 15th April 2024

*Half Term: Mon 27th May 2024 to Fri 31st
May 2024*

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2024

INSET: Monday 22nd July 2024

Homework

Congratulations to Year Four for being the only class last week where every single member of the class completed their TTRS homework. A fantastic start to the new year and long may it continue. They were rewarded with extra break time and the same will apply to any class next week with an 100% completion rate!

PTA

My thanks to the PTA – of whom all parents and staff are automatically members – for funding the pantomime performance of Sleeping Beauty on Tuesday. It was a treat for the children and a thank you to them

and to you for all your hard work making last year's Summer Fete such a success. Every single child benefited and enjoyed the performance and it was boisterous fun!

The PTA are currently collecting unwanted gifts that you may have received at Christmas – hand creams, shower gel sets, candles, etc – so they can store and then sell at this year's Summer Fete. They had a very successful coffee morning this morning where plenty of gifts were donated!



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. Please see Mr Clinton if there are any concerns, issues or questions.

The staff accompanying each group are as follows:

Paris: Miss Newman, Mrs Drewry, Miss Traynor, Madam Grange, and Mr Clinton.

Boreatton: Miss Atkins, Mr Turner and Miss Ball.

Everyone else will remain in school in the more-than-capable hands of Mrs Bresnen, who will keep an expert eye on everything else.

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Sporting Success

On Wednesday afternoon, Eoin Kelly, James McM, Charlie B, Charlie M, Oisin F, (from Year Six) and Logan W, Mikey T and Tierney B (from Year Five) all travelled to Castle Vale Stadium to take part in the West Midlands Small Schools County Finals. Despite the miserable weather conditions, our boys played fantastically, coming second in their league and making it through to the semi-finals. The semi-final was a great game: we went behind 1-0 in the early stages but equalised from a corner not long after. Unfortunately, in the last minute the opposition scored from a free kick knocking us out of the competition.

Miss Ball and Mrs O'Driscoll were extremely proud of all the boys who represented our school - a special mention to Charlie M who was Miss Ball's player of the tournament.



Mini- Vinnies

The Mini-Vinnies were presented with their prayer cards and badges during this afternoon's 'Gifts from God' assembly.

Carys, our President, and I met yesterday. The grand total is in – our sleepover raised an amazing **£3086.00! That is superb!** This month, we are focusing on supporting the asylum seekers at St Chad's Sanctuary, as well as working towards the School of Sanctuary award. You may have seen the badge on the website!

Children's Liturgy at St Ambrose Barlow Parish

As you may be aware, every Sunday at 10am, the parish runs a Children's Liturgy during Mass. It runs every Sunday at 10am during term time, except for when it is a school sacramental preparation Mass. All children are welcome! Also, if any adults are interested in helping, please speak to Fr Paul Mr Clinton or Mrs Stephenson, mother of Annie in Year Six.

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:

St Oscar Romero:	Red
St Josephine Bakhita:	Green
St Maximilian Kolbe:	Blue
St Teresa of Calcutta:	Yellow

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Annie in Year Six who was eleven on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Mikey in Year Five who was ten on Wednesday and happy birthday to Tierney, also in Year Five, who will be ten tomorrow.

January dates for your diary

- 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

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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 10am-12pm

Sun 5th Feb: Confirmation preparation Mass 10am

Tues 7th Feb: KS1 School Disco (held at school) 3:45 – 4:45

Thurs 9th Feb: Year Four at Hall Green library

Thurs 9th Feb: KS2 School Disco (held at school) 3:45 – 4:45

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

Thurs 6th April: Break up at 2pm

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 10am and 11:30am

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

Fri 12th May: May Procession in school

Sat 13th May: PTA Quiz at Parish hall

Thurs 18th May: Whole School Ascension Mass 9:30am

Fri 19th May: Year Five Class Assembly

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

June dates for your diary

Sun 11th June: *Corpus Christi* Parish Procession

Fri 16th June: Reception Class Assembly

Sun 25th June: Year Three Going Forth Mass

Fri 30th June: Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

July dates for your diary

Sat 8th July: Summer Fete

Mon 10th July: Sports Day

Fri 21st July: Leavers' Mass

Tues 25th July: Break up at 2:00pm

Have a wonderful weekend and I will see you all on Monday morning! God bless, Mr Clinton

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