



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 20th January 2023

Dear Parents,

Year One have just had their assembly and it was thoroughly enjoyable: the assembly was all about the work they've covered in Science (about reptiles and amphibians) and this was linked to RE (Noah's ark and God's promise to us) and how we can use this knowledge to bring about good in the world (such as St Francis, who is the patron saint of animals and asks us to look over the beautiful world we live in). Well done, children, and my thanks to Mrs Hunt and Mrs Fayaz for preparing them so well.

While we are on the theme of St Francis, here is a quote that we will share with the children in the coming weeks in an effort to help them reach their full potential as learners, as Christians, and as future leaders of our world:

"Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

Golden Book

Reception: Amelia Mehmood for being a super star in all of her lessons this week. Amelia has put 100% effort into her phonics, remembering all of our new sounds and blending to read. She has even applied her phonic knowledge to her writing, producing a lovely piece of work about the Gingerbread Man. Keep up the hard work, Amelia!

Year One: Arla Jones this week has shown off her amazing writing skills. She worked hard with her Mum at the writing workshop to include a range of adjectives and conjunctions in her sentences when describing Mr. McGregor's garden from

the book '*Peter Rabbit*'. Her handwriting is improving and she is trying hard to read back her sentences to make sure they make sense. Arla is always happy and is a kind friend to others! Arla, you're a star!

Year Two: Sonny Chow for making such fantastic progress in Year Two so far. He is always enthusiastic and eager to learn. His independence with his writing is growing and he has made such significant progress with his reading so far this year. It's lovely to see how proud he is of his work. Keep up the hard work, Sonny!

Year Three: Elora Tipper for always putting 100% effort into everything that she does. She always asks if she is unsure of what to do and never gives up. Her writing, based on The Iron Man, has been fabulous this week. She has used a variety of punctuation, conjunctions and fronted adverbials. Well done, Elora!

Year Four: Noah Deeley for his positive learning attitude and curious mind. His eloquently performed poem based on '*Please, Mrs Butler!*' had Year Four in stitches. He has shown a commitment to his work this week that has been inspirational to others in the class. Keep up the good work!

Year Five: Isla Byrne has been working hard this week across all subjects. She has been demonstrating her excellent knowledge of line graphs in Maths and her creative writing in Literacy has been superb. She has really impressed Miss Atkins this week with her attitude towards her work! She is always helpful around the classroom and smiles at adults and children around the school. Let's keep this up, Isla! Well done!

Year Six: Annie Stephenson for being a perfect role model for all of our school

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

Values and Virtues, each and every day. She always goes above and beyond to help others, she speaks eloquently and does small things with great love both in the classroom and around school.

Strike action

As you may have seen in the media, teachers who belong to the NASUWT, NAHT and NEU teaching unions were balloted before Christmas. The results were announced earlier this week, with both the NASUWT and NAHT failing to reach the 50% turnout that the law requires for them to achieve in order to strike. However, the NEU achieved this threshold and of those that voted, 90.4% were in favour of strike action.

I am not yet in a position to say how this will affect St Ambrose Barlow. I will follow advice from the DfE and my own teaching union. We have teachers in the NEU and they have a democratic right to strike. What I will say is that no teacher wants to strike – legally, a teacher can only strike over their pay and conditions but, in doing so, they are sending a wider statement about the chronic state of school funding as a whole.

When I can share more information, I will do so. I wish to forewarn you that the possibility of closure on 1st February is a last resort but still very real.

Wednesday Word



This will be emailed out weekly. It forms the backbone of Wednesday's prayer and liturgy in class. Please share the Gospel with your child and talk about how they have responded to the message at school.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 22nd January 2023**



Hearing that John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." As he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there, he saw another pair of brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Free School meals application

Please carefully read the communication sent out with this week's newsletter. Please check to see if you are eligible for free school meals. If you are or have been eligible, even for one day, the school will receive £1,450 every year which makes a huge difference to our budget and how we can better provide for our children. More funding can be used to subsidise school trips and clubs or to employ more members of staff for 1:1 intervention.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/>

It takes literally minutes to apply, and results are totally confidential.

Sporting Success

A huge well done to Oisin, Eoin, Anthony, Charlie M, Charlie B and James M from Year Six who won the South Birmingham indoor football finals last night. We won all three matches in style and, to quote one of the coaches from the other team, 'who scores three headers in a 5-a-side tournament?!' Excellent work, boys. You have done the school proud.



My apologies to Hayden, also in Year Six, for missing his name out of last week's report, even though he was pictured! *Mea culpa*.

Chess Club

This has now resumed and will take place every Wednesday until Easter. This week's taster session was free. If you wish your child to attend in future, please pay via School Money. The school is running the club at a slight loss, though this will be mitigated if more children sign up. For what it is worth, I do think that chess is a fantastic game that teaches children (and adults) to think strategically while having fun.

Term dates

The term dates for 2023/4 have now been approved by the Governing Body and are on the website and at the end of this newsletter.

Homework

Congratulations to Year Four for continuing last week's 100% completion of their homework, and congratulations to Year Five for joining them in enjoying extra break this week. The promise remains: any class next week with an 100% completion rate will be rewarded with extra break time, but every single member of the class must do their bit!

PTA

The PTA have asked children to wear their own clothes on Friday 3rd March and bring in coloured gifts for the Easter hampers on this day. More details to follow on the colour and appropriate types of gifts. The PTA have also organised a quiz night on Saturday 13th May in the parish hall. Get a team together and see how well you do – the teachers themselves have a team too. It promises to be a fantastic night.

Finally, the PTA have also organised a KS1 disco on Tuesday 7th Feb and a KS2 disco on Thurs 9th Feb. Our After-school club will still run, but any payment made on these days will be carried over so you will not be charged twice!

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.

In my absence, I leave the school in the more-than-capable hands of Mrs Bresnen, who will keep an expert eye on everything else.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Nicolas in Year Four who was nine on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Joshua in Year Six who was eleven on Wednesday and happy birthday to Lainey-Mae in Year Six who is eleven today and

shares her birthday with Amelie in Year Two who is seven today. Finally, after a busy week of birthdays, Sonny in Year Four is nine tomorrow!

January dates for your diary

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 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

Fri 3rd March: Own clothes for PTA coloured raffle

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

Thurs 20th July: Year Six Leavers' Assembly 9am

Fri 21st July: Leavers' Mass 2pm in the school hall **** (please note the change of time) ****

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

Have a wonderful weekend and I will see you next week!

God bless,



Mr Clinton

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



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20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Since the introduction of Universal Infant Free School Meals (i.e. every child in Reception and KS1 having a free meal), fewer parents are carrying out the necessary checks to see if they are eligible for further funding.

This means our number for Pupil premium (the extra funding that government gives the school) are low, severely affecting our budget. For every successful application, the school gains an additional £1,450 per year. As a school, we rely heavily on this extra funding to pursue activities for the children, such as:

- Provide targeted additional adult support in every classroom.
- Provide financial support so that children can attend day and residential trips.
- Employ an intervention Support Teaching Assistant to provide support for children who are at risk of not making progress.

Even if you were eligible for free school meals at only one point, your child gets this funding every year. That could be an extra £10,000 over the course of your child's life here at school. If three families were to be eligible, that is the cost of a new teaching assistant.

Please access the online portal via <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham/>.

The process takes a few minutes only and you will receive email confirmation of your application and the decision based on your personal circumstances – the data is completely private and once you have applied regular checks are run by the council in case your circumstances change.

The children will never find out if they are on FSM nor does their class teachers. It would be kept private. You may have applied in the past and not been eligible; however, since the pandemic, many family situations have changed and therefore I urge you again to apply.

If you need any assistance with the application, please contact the school office in complete confidence.

Kind Regards

Mr Clinton

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community.

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect – even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness.

Wednesday 18th January 2023

People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school – together.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMMUNITY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 22nd January 2023



Hearing that John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." As he was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there, he saw another pair of brothers, James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving their boat and their father, they followed him. Jesus went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Adapted from
Matt. 4:12-23 (the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A)

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church – all are warmly invited.**

"Dear brothers and sisters,
be an active presence in
the community." Pope Francis



When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus gathers round him a community which receives his word, follows it, shares in his journey and becomes his family. Jesus came for everyone and with him we, and our children, will never be on our own.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

One day, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew. They were fishing and Jesus called to them, "Follow me. From now on you will be gathering people instead of fish." Straightaway they left their nets and followed Jesus. Then Jesus saw two other brothers, James and John, who were also fishermen. When Jesus called them to follow him, they were in a boat with their father, Zebedee. But they too followed Jesus at once.

What did Jesus say the fishermen would be gathering from now on? Which word stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?



2 Wednesday's Word is ...

COMMUNITY

3

Loving God & Each Other

"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community." *St Baldwin of Canterbury*

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus starts to form a community. Ask your child what the word 'community' means to them. Which communities do they belong to (e.g. family, cubs, brownies, football, etc.)? Another word we could use for our school is 'community'. What does your child enjoy most about their school community? Can they remember who made them feel really welcome when they started school?

"The family is a community of love where each of us learns to relate to others and to the world around us." *Pope Francis*

Each of you name at least one thing that other family members are good at, which could help strengthen the family community. Without our own unique contribution to our community, something valuable will be missing. How can we also use our gifts for the good of the different communities we belong to? Perhaps we can: join a school team; welcome new people into our community; volunteer to use a gift or skill to help out with a project; join with others to organise a family fun night at school; support a fundraising event.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our school and parish communities. Please help me say 'Yes' to you, and enrich the communities to which I belong. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

G A R E E L I L A G L N
E W N T L E A G N A E G
J J E S U S S I L T W T
D E T L U W R P S H F L
E R S S P E O P L E L F
W M E D H R G E L R F O
O J S T L W I T D I T L
L G A L I L E E T N L L
L G R G E R L F W G E O
O T N E M R E H S I F W
F I S H E R M E N D T E
N E L P O E P L P O S D

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- ☒ **GALILEE** ☒
- ☐ **FISHERMEN** ☐
- ☐ **LEFT NETS** ☐
- ☐ **FOLLOWED JESUS** ☐
- ☐ **GATHERING PEOPLE** ☐

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **u n m** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

wuemren camlulend fomlunlow uhinsm

Peter and _____ brother Andrew _____ fishing and Jesus _____ to them, "_____ me".



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him. Today, Jesus calls people, like you and me, to help him - to build his community - a community built on love.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

