



# 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 27th January 2023

Dear Parents,

We started this morning with our 'Gifts from God' assembly and ended the day with Year Four's class Mass. Both occasions are testament to the different ways in school that we give glory to God: either by using our gifts and talents to full, or by praising him for the love that he continues to give us. On Sunday, we hear Jesus' Sermon on the Mount – The Beatitudes – which promise true and lasting happiness as well as a guide for how, as Christians, we are called to act. For the last two weeks, we have welcomed some visitors into school for our Monday assemblies and they have all - quite independently of one another – commented on the eloquence and confidence of the children. High praise indeed!

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Iva Brose for being such a star this term! Iva has made excellent progress in reading and is becoming more and more confident in the classroom, contributing to lessons with her knowledge and skills and developing independence in her writing. Keep up the good work, Iva!

**Year One:** Rex Lo for settling in to Year 1 so well. He now is trying to join in with lessons and he is becoming more confident in speaking to others. Rex is working hard on his letter formation and is able to use his sound mat to identify sounds. His personality is starting to shine through the class and it's lovely to see.

**Year Two:** Enda McGillicuddy for showing such independence and confidence with his writing. He is always so keen to show teachers his good work, thinking carefully

about his vocabulary and sentence tricks. He always has a smile on his face and is a pleasure to teach!

**Year Three:** Niall Earp for being focused all week in all he has done. He has worked especially hard in Maths when measuring in centimetres and millimetres. He is becoming an expert when using Clicker, producing longer pieces of writing and he is thinking carefully about his spelling. What a star!

**Year Four:** Bronagh Brady who has given insightful contributions to all lessons this week. She is always keen to learn and she shows resilience and determination when faced with a topic she isn't as confident about. She also eloquently co-led Year 4's liturgy this week. Wonderful work Bronagh!

**Year Five:** Lucas has not only impressed Miss Atkins with his mature approach to all his work, but he has also impressed Mrs Bresnen. Lucas consistently demonstrates our Catholic values and virtues. His attitude to work is excellent and Miss Atkins has loved seeing Lucas grow and flourish so far in Year 5.

**Year Six:** Anthony Mano for encompassing all of our school values and virtues. He talks eloquently when sharing his knowledge with others, particularly in our RE lessons. He is always keen to use what he knows to help and support others and he can always be relied upon to do what is right.

### Strike action

On Wednesday, I sent out communication regarding the school's decision to close for all children and open only for the children of frontline critical key workers.

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

The staff who are members of the NEU are entitled to take action and it is not against the school or our families that they are acting, but the government and the Department of Education. I know it is inconvenient to close the school due to the industrial action taking place but I also know you will agree with me that our staff always go above and beyond in their offer for the children and, while nobody wishes to take such action, they are making a case that schools must be funded properly if schools are to do their job effectively.

### **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 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**



Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: "How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people mistreat you and persecute you and speak all kinds of slander against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

### **Free School meals application**

Please check to see if you are eligible for free school meals, even if you are currently in receipt of Universal Free School Meals (i.e. have children in Reception, Year One and Year Two). 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.

### **Year Five/Six Residentials**

Please endeavour to pay any outstanding amounts for either Paris or Boreatton Park. Both trips are happening on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Harrison in Year Four who is nine on Saturday. A quiet week for birthdays after the long list last week. Last year, I made a comment that Harrison shares his birthday weekend with only one other person, but this year that person shall remain nameless. Happy birthday, Harrison.

### **February dates for your diary**

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Feb:** School closed to pupils due to NEU Strike Action

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** Year Five at Hall Green library

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb:** Parent Confirmation meeting 6pm Parish hall

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** Year Two Class Assembly 9am

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six Confirmation workshop 10am-12pm

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Confirmation preparation Mass 10am

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Feb:** KS1 School Disco (held at school) 3:45 – 4:45

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Four at Hall Green library

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Feb:** KS2 School Disco (held at school) 3:45 – 4:45

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six Confirmation Sponsor workshop 2pm

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Confirmation 7pm

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Three at Hall Green library

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Five Class Mass 2:30

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Break up at 3:30

#### **March dates for your diary**

**Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Year Two at Hall Green library

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Own clothes for PTA coloured raffle

**Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three children in Parish Hall 10am – 12pm

**Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three 'Friendship' Mass

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Six at Hall Green library

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Five at Hall Green library

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Year Four at Hall Green library

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Keyboard and Choir concert 2pm

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> March:** KS2 Reconciliation 2pm

**Wed 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE workshop

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Rec and KS1 Easter Bonnet parade 2pm

#### **April dates for your diary**

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> April:** Year Three 'Palm Sunday' assembly 9am

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Four 'Last Supper' assembly 9am

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Five 'Gethsemane' assembly 9am

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April:** Year Six 'Stations of the Cross' 9am

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April:** Break up at 2pm

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April:** School closed for INSET "Welcoming the stranger: Stories of Hope and Home"

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> April:** School reopens for all children

#### **May dates for your diary**

**Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for local elections

**Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May:** First Holy Communion Masses 10am and 11:30am

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May:** May Procession in school

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May:** PTA Quiz at Parish hall

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Whole School Ascension Mass 9:30am

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> May:** Year Five Class Assembly

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

#### **June dates for your diary**

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> June:** *Corpus Christi* Parish Procession

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Assembly

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Three Going Forth Mass

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

#### **July dates for your diary**

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer Fete

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Sports Day

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers' Assembly 9am

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Leavers' Mass 2pm in the school hall

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July:** Break up at 2:00pm

Have a wonderful weekend and I will see you on Monday morning!

God bless,  
Mr Clinton

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