



# St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

[www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

[enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk)

@SAB\_B28

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

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents,

I am writing this after Year Two's wonderful assembly about vocation. It was such a delight to share in their hard work and wise words. The assembly had four distinct parts:

- A focus on their History topic, about the Great Fire of London (and how Samuel Pepys buried his cheese)
- A section on how firefighters, nurses, teachers and the police use their skills and talents to help others
- How Jesus taught us to put others first, as He did when He washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper
- How, as Florence Young so eloquently told us, "what we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God".

I have said before how much I love the children's assemblies, as their personalities and humour really shine through. I will have their closing song in my head for the rest of the day.

We also had a meeting for the parents of children in year Six last night, all about the signs and symbols of Confirmation and we ended the session by celebrating the research they have undertaken about chosen saint. Such hard work must have gone into each project, and every child completed the task: if you want to know about St Juliana of Liege, ask Annie Stephenson; if you wish to know more about St Madeleine Sophie Barat, then

Daisy-May Edginton is the person to speak to; Lily Tighe can tell you all about St Edith Stein; Anthony Mano can tell you about St Anthony of Padua; finally, Charlie Burke, Lainey-Mae Neal and Oisin Finnegan have a wealth of knowledge about St Michael the Archangel, patron saint of the police, which is a fitting link to Year Two's assembly to end this introduction on.

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Eliza O'Neill for her fantastic attitude towards her learning. Eliza has produced some beautiful art in RE this week and has shared her ideas of how to be like Jesus with her classmates. She has become very independent when completing tasks and is always so helpful around the classroom. Keep up the hard work, Eliza!

**Year One:** Marysia Nadolna has worked hard on creating fantastic pieces of writing recently in Literacy. Her handwriting is beautiful and her letters are all the correct size. She is developing her critical thinking by working on reasoning questions in Maths and she is able to use key vocabulary to help with her explanations and justifications. Marysia approaches every task with a positive attitude and she is a great role model for others. Well done, Marysia!

**Year Two:** James Smyth for having a really great week. He has been really independent this week in all subject and made sure he persevered if things were difficult. He also did a fantastic job at playing Jesus in our class assembly, speaking eloquently and showing everybody how Jesus served others and put them first.

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

**Year Three:** Nevaeh Osborne for always being happy and enthusiastic. All week, she has had a smile for everyone, making sure others are happy. She works hard at all times, never giving up if she finds something difficult! Keep it up, Nevaeh!

**Year Four:** Evelyn Smyth joins her brother in the Golden Book this week, for her exemplary behaviour and her dedication to doing small things with great love, whether this is the care she takes over producing her best work or continuously considering other members of the classroom. Well done, Evelyn!

**Year Five:** Noah Young has worked extremely hard in Year Five and his perseverance, especially with Maths is definitely evident. He is becoming more confident and is helping his peers with their learning and is keen to demonstrate his knowledge! His writing is excellent and always shows his creative flair – his sci-fi stories have been wonderful and I'm looking forward to reading his information booklet about Space!

**Year Six:** Lauren Dewell for always producing work of the highest standard. Her handwriting and presentation is excellent and she always pays attention to detail, making sure all of her work is completed to the very best of her ability. Her writing is a pleasure to read and her artwork is beautiful.

### **Strike action**

The next day of action is scheduled for on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This time, the action is regional and confined to schools in the Midlands. As before, I am not yet in a position to say how this may affect the school but when I do know, I will communicate it with you. I can only echo what I have said before: our teachers go above and beyond in what they offer to children and this strike is not about what they are paid, but the perilous state of school budgets. I sincerely believe that in taking action, they are rightly putting

children's education at the centre of the debate – it is not about a day of missed education but years of ever-shrinking services and shrinking budgets. Although my own union is not on strike, I can say that the staff at the school have my **full** support and I hope they have yours too.

### **PTA**

They are running the two school discos this week: Tuesday for KS1 and Thursday for KS2. After-school will run as normal for the children not involved, as with other sports clubs (just in a different location). **ALL CHILDREN** can wear own clothes on the day of the disco, regardless of whether they attend or not. Any child who has paid for After-School Club and isn't attending will have their payment rolled over to another session. See an update from Mrs Currington below:

Wow wow wow!! The school disco uptake has been a huge success and we are close to the vast majority of children attending!! Thank you, parents, so much for your huge generosity. It is hugely appreciated! Due to the kind donations from local business and individuals we are able to cover all costs: sweets, crisps and glow sticks for every child, so this event runs as pure profit for school which is amazing! We will be able to give the total raised next Friday.

We are also able to cover all costs for our upcoming Easter events and an Easter treat for all children! We are now over half way to reaching our £10k goal to **make improvements to the school playground which will benefit all children**. If you have any suggestions or feedback please email [sab.pta@outlook.com](mailto:sab.pta@outlook.com) or speak to the committee.

Please also remember to give our Facebook page a follow. We will update you via the newsletter after every fund-raising event and possibly a visual fund-

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raising thermometer for school so you can see where we are!



St Ambrose Barlow PTA

Posted by Sarah Currington

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We would like to give a MASSIVE shoutout to the following people/businesses for their very kind donations towards our PTA events:

Rosaria Kartsios

[The Olton Pharmacy](#)

[Kbs Equestrian Ltd](#)

[Perfect Balance Accounting](#)

[Lee Allbright Carpentry](#)

Due to the huge generosity, not only have we been able to cover all costs for our upcoming discos, we can now cover costs for all our exciting Easter celebrations for the children, which we will keep you posted on.

As a thank you, we will be highlighting each business every Saturday on our Facebook page, so please share them on your personal pages if possible as every little bit of advertising helps these businesses out 🙏

### Wednesday Word

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023



Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all people, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven."

The Wednesday Word is being emailed out weekly. It forms the backbone of weekly prayer and liturgy in class as well as Monday's Gospel Assembly.

### Free School meals application

Please, *please*, use the link 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 a makes a huge difference to our budget and how we can better provide for our children. It takes literally minutes to apply, and results are totally confidential.

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

### KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade

This is a bit of fun! Children will strut their stuff on the cat-walk; staff will teach their class a dance. All parents have to do is support their child in making the bonnet and deliver it safely to school. Think of it as a bit of crafty homework....

### Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Conall in Year Two who was seven on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Daniel in Reception who was five yesterday. Happy birthday to Ella in Reception who is five on Saturday and happy birthday to Zane in Year Three who is eight on Sunday.

### February dates for your diary

**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

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**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

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May:** May Day Bank Holiday  
**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 at Mass on Sunday at 10am, which will be celebrated by Father Paul and led by our Year Six children.

God bless,



Mr Clinton