



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 10th February 2023

Dear Parents,

Today is a big celebration for our Year Six: it is the day of their long-awaited Confirmation. Thank you to all the children for their conduct and behaviour during their preparation, to Bishop David who will celebrate with us tonight, to Fr Paul and the parish for the prayers and support, to the catechist volunteers for their time and effort and to you, parents, for your encouragement too. After tonight, the Church will view our Year Six children as young adults in the church and I pray that the Holy Spirit is an ever-present feature in their lives for many years to come.

We have held a lovely workshop here in school this afternoon with the Year Six children and their sponsors, looking at the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, learning about our chosen saints, and doing some artwork around the symbols of the Holy Spirit. It just made me think about much we can achieve when the parish, the school and the home all work together for the good of our children.

Please keep them in your prayers:

*Come Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
And they shall be created
And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

Amen

Golden Book

Reception: Bertie Wardle for working very hard in his writing over the last few weeks. He has written some fantastic sentences, applying his phonics and making sure he forms his letters correctly. Bertie has also produced some wonderful work in RE, contributing some brilliant ideas to the class discussion about the Our Father prayer.

Year One: Elena Earp has grown in confidence and independence over the last few weeks which is fantastic to see. She is now becoming keen to decode words to help her spell and read them on her own. Elena is also working hard on her handwriting too. Well done, Elena!

Year Two: Abhi Roy Mattapudi for a fantastic piece of independent writing about our book "Farmer Duck" this week. He has also shown excellent progress at our swimming lessons especially when swimming on his back. Well done, Roy!

Year Three: Rian Kelly for working hard all week, especially in Maths. He has listened well and contributed to class discussions in all other subjects too. He is also working hard to improve his handwriting! Keep it up, Rian!

Year Four: Elijah Roberts for his focus this week in Literacy: he has produced a very persuasive sales pitch, using all the tricks and techniques we have been studying over the last couple of weeks. He has been focusing on his handwriting as well trying to apply this to all of his subjects. Keep up this focus, Elijah!

Year Five: Hammer Yip for creating a wonderful information booklet demonstrating all his knowledge about his favourite topic – space! Hammer has consistently demonstrated his knowledge

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and skills across the curriculum and has been a wonderful part of our Year Five class. Well done, Hammer.

Year Six: Amara Sandhu-Hicks for working so hard in preparation for her Confirmation. Her project about St Catherine of Siena was exceptional and she has made detailed and thoughtful contributions to our RE lessons this week. She uses her gifts of the Holy Spirit wisely, making her an excellent role model for others

World Book Day

The day is almost upon us. Mrs Healy and Mrs Bresnen have been hard at work planning activities for this year's World Book Day that will take place on Thursday 2nd March. Children can come into school in fancy dress or dressed as their favourite character. This can be anyone – the only condition is the child must have the book and bring a copy into school on that day.

If you are short of ideas, there are loads online: Burglar Bill, the Cat in the Hat, Fantastic Mr Fox, the Gruffalo, Mr Stink, Harry Potter, the Hungry Caterpillar, the Day the Crayons Quit, Paddington Bear, Mr Twit, Mr Bump, Angelina Ballerina, Stick Man! Home-made is always best – I shall be working hard on my cardboard costume all half term!

You might be aware that last year, every class had an activity based around "Giraffes Can't Dance". This year, we will have an activity inspired by "The Journey" by Francesca Sanna. This is a picture book that introduces a powerful and moving perspective on migration. Told through the eyes of a young girl, the story explores the unimaginable decisions made as a mother and her two children are forced to flee their home and everyone they know to escape the turmoil of war. It links beautifully to the work we do around Catholic Social Teaching and standing up

for those who, for one reason or another, do not have a voice in our society.

PTA

Our two discos were very well attended and behaviour was generally excellent with some fantastic dancing throughout. My thanks to the parent volunteers who gave up their time to support the school. Together, we raised almost £600! You will know from previous communication that our aim is to improve the playground facilities for all children. The first stage of this will be the Reception playground, removing the old markings and putting down new ones. The cost is around £10,000 but I will continue to research other options.

Wednesday Word

Wednesday
8th February

Good News for Families

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not imagine that I have come to destroy what the Law or the Prophets taught. No, I have come to make them complete - to show you what they meant. I tell you truly, until heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke of a pen, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 12th February 2023. Matt. 5:17-37 (the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **TEACHER**.

Jesus said, "Whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19

To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.

Please follow the link to see this week's Wednesday Word which, due to the regional dates of half term, contains Gospels for the next three weeks.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/half-term-holiday-card?pid=MTA101634&p=3&v=84.7>

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Parking

Loathe as I am to moan, can we please take care with parking outside school.

- Please do not park on the yellow zig zags.
- Please not mount the grass verges.
- Please do not block the entrance.

For those who are attending Before and After-School Club, please also park responsibly on the road. It is not safe to use the drive or school car park if we still have children on site so please do not ask to (unless you have been given prior permission).

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Dermot in Year Two who was seven on Monday and happy birthday to Mila in Reception who is five on Sunday. As I was looking at the list of birthdays, I realised that we are roughly halfway through the school year. Time is flying by!

February dates for your diary

Thurs 16th Feb: Year Four at Hall Green library

Fri 17th Feb: Year Five Class Mass 2:30

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

Fri 24th March: Keyboard and Choir concert 2pm

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

Mon 1st May: May Day Bank Holiday

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

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

Have a wonderful weekend. Children, one more week until half term and a week off. Keep on going!

God bless,



Mr Clinton