



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

Friday 3rd March 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all children after our February half-term break. We are now in the second half of our Spring term and our RE and prayer focus is the liturgical season of Lent. I am delighted that so many of our children were at Ash Wednesday Mass during half-term, witnessed by our staff who were present also!

On Sunday, 10am Mass will be led by the children of Year Three, who are preparing for their First Communion in May. We will hear in the Gospel about Jesus's transfiguration, a sacred moment when the disciples received a glimpse of the divinity of Jesus and the heavenly glory which is promised to us too. Mrs Vinti, our Music teacher, will also be joining us and providing the organ accompaniment for the hymns. As ever, Sunday's Gospel will inform Monday's assembly where we will explore the themes in greater detail.

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



Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. "Lord," he said, "it is wonderful for us to be here!" He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him." When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. "Stand up," he said, "do not be afraid." And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. Then Jesus said, "Tell no one what you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Theresa Joseph for starting this term with so much confidence. Theresa has shown such a fantastic attitude around the school and has joined in with our classroom discussions, contributing her ideas and listening to others. Well done, Theresa!

**Year One:** Phoebe Maxwell-Duffy has demonstrated a positive 'can do' attitude towards all her lessons this week. She persevered through tasks that were challenging and maintained focus throughout. Even dressed as a dinosaur, Phoebe gave all the activities on World Book Day 100% effort. Well done, Phoebe, for all your hard work!

**Year Two:** Ethan Burke for always setting such a good example for his peers. His independence with writing is growing and he is trying really hard to include a range of sentence tricks in his work. Wonderful to hear!

**Year Three:** Annabelle Spencer for being focused in everything that she has done this week. She has listened well and her hand has been up to answer questions in all subjects, contributing well to discussions. During this week, she has been constantly smiling and willing to help others. Keep up the superb work, Annabelle!

**Year Four:** Oliver Healy has been actively trying to live by the virtue focus for this half term by dedicating his attention and focus to his learning this week. He has given thoughtful responses during class discussion and has been an example to the rest of his class.

**Year Five:** Cody Davies always tries his hardest with his work and is showing real

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determination – especially with multiplying fractions. He consistently demonstrates our school's values and virtues and aims to include everyone in games and discussions in the classroom as well as on the playground. He is regularly caught being KiVa and his attitude to school, learning, his peers and the rest of the school community is excellent. Well done, Cody!

**Year Six:** Daniel Caine for being really focused and determined when completing assessments this week. He applied his knowledge and checked his work systematically to ensure it was accurate. This has resulted in him making super progress.

### **Caught Being KiVa**

Annie Stephenson, in Year Six, for such a detailed answer in assembly about how we can make someone who is feeling lonely feel welcome! A simple thing like a smile can go a long way.



### **Lenten Charities and Mini-Vinnies**

On Friday, we will host a cake sale, which will be organised by the Mini-Vinnies. They will meet early next week and communicate via email their plans!



The hampers today look fantastic. I wish to give my thanks to the PTA helpers and also acknowledge the generosity of our parents and children!

### **Message from SAB PTA**

#### **Easter Fun for Reception & KS1:**

Our Easter Bonnet Parade will take place on 30th March at 2pm and all parents are welcome. Please, decorate any hat in any way you like, to enter your child's class competition. Children will then parade their creations for the judges (judges TBC) to win a special prize (prize awarded per year group).

For KS2, we are running an Easter Decoration competition to be judged in class on 30th March. A wooden Easter Egg decoration will be provided for each KS2 child to take home to decorate whichever way they wish; paint, glitter, felt tips, crayons, craft materials etc. These will then be judged in class by a specially chosen panel to win a special prize (prize awarded per year group).

### **NEU Strike Action**

Thank you for your understanding following Monday's email announcing the school closure. As before, as soon as I am in a position to tell you arrangements for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, I will do so.

### **World Book Day**



This was a resounding success and the variety of outfits was fantastic to see. The effort the children went to certainly added to the enjoyment of their day. My special

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thanks to Mrs Bresnen for her idea for the staff theme and to Mrs Drewry who added her artistic flourish to my half-baked idea for a costume.

The children enjoyed a lot of workshops throughout the day, looking at Paddington (who was a climate refugee), as well as the story of migration in “*The Journey*” – there was a lot of role play about how to greet children who may have had to flee their own home country, which was uplifting to be witness to. All the pictures from the day are on our Twitter feed and look fabulous!

### **Schools of Sanctuary**

On World Book Day, we were also visited by Barbara Forbes from Birmingham Schools of Sanctuary who shared the story of Hamze, who has fled Iraq with his father and is making his way to Germany. The children’s responses during this assembly, and the Fr Hudson’s Good Shepherd Assembly on Monday, made me a very proud headteacher indeed.

### **Parking**

Before half-term, our School Council stood outside the school gates at the end of the day to investigate the parking themselves. What they are asking is quite simple: please, do NOT park on the yellow zig zags outside of school. Doing so makes crossing the road unsafe for every child in our school. Please, get to school earlier and **park further away.**

It gives me no pleasure to post the following photograph but it shows the dangers and reduced visibility that parking there causes.



Once again, for the safety of our children, we are asking all parents NOT to park on the yellow zig zags outside of school. Please do not do so again.

### **Birthdays this week...**

Aurora in Year Two celebrated her seventh birthday on Monday and Francis in Year Three celebrated his eighth birthday yesterday. Today, Ethan in Year Six celebrates his eleventh birthday and, on Sunday, Henry in Year One will be six and Oisín in Year Six will be eleven! Happy birthday to all celebrating this week!

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

**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 Three at Hall Green library

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Mini-Vinnies cake sale

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Two at Hall Green library (TBC)

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> March:** Wear Green for St Patrick’s Day. £1 donation to our Lenten charities.

**Thurs 23rd March:** Year Six at Hall Green library

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

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Silver Coin collection

**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:** Year Five at Hall Green library

**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

**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 week and I will see you next week for Parent Consultations on Monday and Wednesday. If you wish to speak to me at any point, please feel free to approach me or ask at the school office.

God bless,



Mr Clinton