



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 17th March 2023

Dear Parents,

This has been a bit of an odd two weeks, with the inclement weather at the end of last week which led to our closure on Friday and then the two final NEU strike days that took place this Wednesday and Thursday. Any school closure is regrettable but, for different reasons, both of these were unavoidable. There are some changes to our diary dates as a result, and these have been highlighted at the end of this newsletter, specifically the keyboard concert and our library visits. Reading remains a priority but it is proving harder and harder to fit in a visit for every class before we break up for Easter!

Thank you for your attendance and continued support at Parent Consultations last week. We are all aware that a close relationship between the parish, school and home makes for the most beneficial environment for a school, I am always impressed and take pride in how invested and supportive our parent body is. Related to this, please take a look at this week's Parish Newsletter which has been emailed out. This will happen (hopefully) each Friday. Also attached is Archbishop Bernard's Pastoral letter and the Wednesday Word, containing this week's Gospel. I should also say that Fr Paul has invested heavily in some tokens, each worth ten house points, which he will give out as and when he feels inspired to do so by the Holy Spirit. I know he has already rewarded the children of Year Three for their attendance at Mass a few weeks back and I believe he has also similarly rewarded the altar servers for their devoted service.

Finally, happy St Patrick's Day to you all. Our children have celebrated today by wearing green for a donation towards our three Lenten charities: Fr Hudson's, the Earthquake relief fund and Cities of Sanctuary. Also, a select group of our Irish dancers spent some time at the parish Dementia Café today, dancing and chatting and hopefully eating some cake too!

Golden Book

Reception: Esmae O'Keeffe for showing such determination in all that she does. Esmae is an excellent role model to her peers, always putting her hand up to answer questions and contribute her ideas. She has developed such confidence to have a go at tasks that may appear more challenging and has grown in independence. Keep up the hard work, Esmae!

Year One: Edward Newton has been a star this half term. He approaches everything with a big smile and lots of enthusiasm, ready to attempt any task. Edward is always keen to showcase his learning and contribute to class discussions. He is a great role model for the other children with his excellent manners. Super work, Edward!

Year Two: Mila Caine for consistently setting a fantastic example for her peers. She always displays excellent behaviour, incorporating our values and virtues in everything she does. She gives 100% in every lesson, always trying her best and producing work of an excellent standard. Keep up the good work, Mila!

Year Three: Eugene Newman for being a fabulous member of Year Three. Eugene consistently works to the best of his ability,

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shares his ideas with his peers and is always willing to help. Eugene is a superb role model to everyone. Keep up the excellent work, Eugene!

Year Four: Sam Tighe for his thoughtful recipe for a successful Lent. He is always thoughtful, kind and considerate in the classroom and is a wonderful example to his classmates.

Year Five: Erin Quinn for always having a smile on her face, always being happy in our classroom and the school. She consistently demonstrates a wide number of the Jesuit values and virtues such as eloquence and compassion. As well as this, she always tries her hardest with her work and shows dedication and determination to everything she does. She is an absolute asset to our class. Well done, Erin.

Year Six: Lily Tighe for being a resilient and determined learner. Lily always tries her very best and never gives up when she is faced with challenges. She always has a smile on her face and approaches things in a positive manner. This fantastic attitude has led to her making super progress, particularly with her Maths.

I always like it when there is a common theme in the Golden Book – siblings appearing together, or someone in the Golden Book being similarly rewarded for another good deed during our weekly Gifts from God assembly that takes place on a Friday afternoon.

Caught Being KiVA

I spoke to Amara, our Head Girl, last week about what makes a good friend and how others can and will follow her good example in standing up for what is right. I was really impressed by her insight and her maturity. She proved that she was definitely the right choice for her position. Also, Aileen Leech impressed both Mrs



Bresnen and I with her thoughtfulness and consideration about friendships. Well done both for showing real leadership!

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 19th March 2023**



As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. Jesus spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam" (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "Yes, it is the same one." Others said, "No, he only looks like him." The man himself said, "I am the man." Some of the Pharisees did not believe that Jesus had healed him and they drove him away. Jesus heard about this and when he found the man he said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Sir," the man replied, "tell me who he is so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You are looking at him; he is speaking to you." The man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped Jesus.

Adapted from John 9:1-38

We had a visit from one of the Diocesan advisors last week to discuss our strengths as a school and could inform him that the informal feedback from both children and staff is that they love the focus during lesson time on the Wednesday Word. Children are given opportunity to explore the Gospel, comment on the themes, act out a drama and, perhaps most enjoyable of all, complete the word search. The subject of RE and the Catholic Life is what marks us out as a Catholic School. We were graded as Outstanding in the school's last inspection in 2018 and, although the new framework is more challenging in some areas, I do genuinely feel that our Catholic Life is our strength.

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Mini-Vinnies



On Tuesday, we finally hosted our cake sale, which was expertly organised by the Mini-Vinnies. Thank you to all who took part, and the generous donations of home-baked and shop bought cakes.



Pictured above with Carys, Ellie and Maeve (the president and vice-presidents of the Mini-Vinnies) is Stacey, the community champion from Tesco, Hall Green. She (and Shabs on the till) supported our cake sale & generously gifted some items. All proceeds go to our Lenten charities: City of Sanctuary, Father Hudson's and the Syrian earthquake appeal. Rory (Treasurer from Year Five) calculated and confirmed the total of £290.65 for the cake sale and £170 for wearing green today. A fantastic start to this year's alms giving.

Next week, we are collecting silver coins to create a design - hopefully in the front playground for all to admire (and add to, should parents wish). Last year, it rained so we had to take shelter by the hall but still managed to re-create our new school badge. Let's pray for good weather (and no snow) next Friday!

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).

Keyboard concert

You must surely know by now that Madam Grange's keyboard and choir concerts are one of the highlights of the term. This term, due to Holy Week Assemblies and a few other dates that have had to shift, this will now take place on **Thursday 23rd March**. This is now a day earlier than hitherto arranged. Please, if you can, come along and enjoy it!

Birthdays this week (and last)...

Happy birthday to Oscar in Year One who is six today, and happy birthday to Noah in Year Five who is ten on Sunday.

My apologies to anyone I missed last week due to the lack of newsletter!

March dates for your diary

Thurs 23rd March: Keyboard and Choir concert 2pm ****rearranged****

Fri 24th March: Year Four Class Assembly

Fri 24th March: Silver Coin collection

Mon 27th March: KS2 Reconciliation 2pm

Tues 28th March: Year Six at Hall Green library

Wed 29th March: Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE workshop 9am

Thurs 30th March: Year Three and Year Four at Hall Green library

Thurs 30th March: Rec and KS1 Easter Bonnet parade 2pm

April dates for your diary

Sun 2nd April: Palm Sunday Mass 10am
Year Three children to lead procession

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

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 and restful weekend. Happy Mothers' Day to all the mothers in our parish and school community: I hope you have a relaxing Sunday consisting of a relaxing lie-in, breakfast in bed, zero washing up and saintly behaviour from both children and partners.

God bless,



Mr Clinton