



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 24th March 2023

Dear Parents,

Please find attached with this newsletter the Wednesday Word, which every class has spent time exploring in class. Also attached is Father Paul's parish bulletin, which is sent with an open invitation to all to come to any Mass this weekend. Finally, we have an additional item of correspondence this week: a letter from Father Paul, written in his role as our Chair of Governors, regarding the strategic direction of the school in line with the Diocesan vision for all schools to work more closely together in an academy chain. My opinion is that anything that strengthens the school's ability to offer a more robust and ambitious 'Quality of Education' is a good thing and working closely with other schools allows us to share our good practice too. As ever, everything we do here at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School is ultimately for the good of our children, whether this be organising residential and school trips; offering a high level of 'Personal Development'; focusing on Catholic Social Teaching in addition to our offer of National Curriculum or generally being proud of our children and all they do. I hope that you trust that I, as Headteacher, and the members of the Governing Body, always act in the best interests of the school and the children.

Talking of our wonderful children, thank you to the children of Year Four for their wonderful shared prayers and liturgy in their assembly this morning. Practices are also ramping up for our Holy Week assemblies in our final week of term,

where you'll be aware the children act out and reflect on the final days before Jesus's death. Holy Week is always a powerful time to be in school and the work the children produce in their RE books is always poignant and of an extremely high quality.

Golden Book

Reception: Mila Caruana for growing in confidence with her writing this half term. Mila has shown such a fantastic attitude towards her learning and has shown such independence when completing activities. She has produced a wonderful piece of work in Literacy, using her phonics to write a letter to the farm. Keep up the hard work, Mila!

Year One: Francis Corcoran has demonstrated resilience and positivity towards independent tasks. He has maintained high levels of determination and has persisted when challenges are presented. Francis has actively contributed to class discussion whilst maintaining a positive attitude towards his learning. He has been working hard with Mrs Fayaz to practice his phonics skills and continues to apply those skills to his work.

Year Two: Lola Hardiman for having shown fantastic progress throughout the last term in her reading and writing. She has become a wonderfully fluent reader with a good understanding of the words she reads. Her handwriting has really improved and she has been making sure she joins her letters carefully.

Year Three: Nevaeh Osbourne for always following instructions and getting on with her work straight away! She is such a good friend to everyone in Year Three and a fantastic role model to her peers. Nevaeh

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demonstrates the values and virtues of our school every day.

Year Four: Callan Kerr has worked incredibly hard during this half term, particularly with his writing. He has shown determination and resilience in all lessons in order to produce multiple pieces of work that he is very proud of. He also introduced Year Four's assembly this morning with a loud, confident and eloquent voice! Well done, Callan; keep up this effort!

Year Five: Kieran Hayes has been trying really hard across all areas of the curriculum. He has worked well in Maths, using manipulatives when looking at decimals which has aided his understanding of a difficult concept. His writing is a fabulous read and his teachers look forward to reading this work each time! Keep up the hard work, Kieran.

Year Six: Following on from being 'Caught being KiVA' last week, Aileen Leech is in the Golden Book this week for showing resilience, determination and perseverance with her Maths work over the last few weeks. She has been putting one hundred percent effort into each and every lesson and has been contributing lots of ideas to class discussions. Her determination is paying off as she is making super progress.

Wednesday Word

Our new timetable focuses on dedicated class time to read stories from scripture, to explore the Sunday Gospel, and to pray collectively as a class. Each Wednesday, the children explore the Wednesday Word and their answers and contributions each subsequent Monday are a joy to witness.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 26th March 2023



There was a friend of Jesus named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was very ill. The sisters sent a message to Jesus. But, by the time Jesus had arrived at their home, Lazarus had died.

As soon as Lazarus' sister, Mary, saw Jesus she threw herself at his feet, crying. At the sight of her tears, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, "Where have you put him?" So they took Jesus to Lazarus' tomb. Jesus wept. "Roll the stone away," he said. Then he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Then Lazarus, who had been dead, came out with his feet, hands and face wrapped in strips of burial cloth. Jesus said, "Unbind him: let him go free." Many of the people there saw what Jesus had done and believed in him.

Local Elections

We have been informed by Birmingham City Council that there are no scheduled elections in Birmingham on 4th May 2023 so we thankfully will be open as normal. For your information, the next planned elections are not due to be held until 2nd May 2024.

Mini-Vinnies

As you came into school today, hopefully you have admired the design made by the silver coins that were generously donated. The Mini-Vinnies cannot wait to count each and every 5p and 10p piece before bagging them and taking them to the bank...

Easter Bonnet parade

This is happening next Thursday for Reception and Key Stage One. Please, send your child to school with a decorated Easter Bonnet from Monday but ensure that all bonnets are in school by Wednesday. That way, we can admire them in class before parading them on the Thursday.

If you need any help, a quick Google search (on Etsy or Pinterest) will show up lots of ideas. See below for some inspiration:



I suppose I should start enlisting the help of the staff to help me with my design (pictured above). Don't worry, parents, teachers aren't escaping the fun either. They have assured me they will be wearing bonnets also.

Keyboard concert

My thanks to Madam Grange for leading our exquisite choir and keyboard players for leading their concert yesterday afternoon. As I regularly say, all good things come from God and the gifts and talents on display yesterday are testament to this.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Aibhlinn in Year One who was six on Monday and wore a beautiful big badge to mark the day. Happy birthday to Naomi in Year Six who was 11 on Thursday, upon whom was bestowed a gift of an hour-long Maths lesson taught by Mr Clinton as a present. Happy birthday to Theo in Reception who was five yesterday and happy birthday to Georgia, also in Reception, who is five tomorrow!

March dates for your diary

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

Thurs 27th April: Year Two at Hall Green Library

May dates for your diary

Mon 1st May: May Day Bank Holiday

Thurs 4th May: Year Three at Hall Green Library

Sat 6th May: First Holy Communion Masses 10am and 11:30am

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Mon 8th May: School closed for King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday

Thurs 11th May: Year Four at Hall Green Library

Fri 12th May: May Procession in school

Sat 13th May: PTA Quiz at Parish hall

Thurs 18th May: Whole School Ascension Mass 9:30am

Thurs 18th May: Year Five and Six (children attending Paris) at Hall Green Library

Fri 19th May: Year Five Class Assembly

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

Thurs 25th May: Year Five and Six (children who attended Boreatton) at Hall Green Library

June dates for your diary

Mon 5th June: School re-opens for children

Thurs 8th June: Year Two at Hall Green Library

Sun 11th June: *Corpus Christi* Parish Procession

Thurs 15th June: Year Three at Hall Green Library

Fri 16th June: Reception Class Assembly

Thurs 22nd June: Year Four at Hall Green Library

Sun 25th June: Year Three Going Forth Mass

Thurs 29th June: Year Five at Hall Green Library

Fri 30th June: Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

July dates for your diary

Tues 4th July: Year Six at Hall Green Library

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

Finally, I wish to my final thought and message this week to Cynthia and Lily Cunnachie, who are being welcoming into God's family this weekend as they receive the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday. I hope you will join me in congratulating them both. Whispers of shared cake and celebratory chocolates next week may or may not be true...

God bless,



Mr Clinton