



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 31st March 2023

Dear Parents,

We have reached the start of the most holy of weeks in the Church's liturgical calendar. On Sunday, we celebrate Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. All next week, every morning starts with a whole school assembly with a class from KS2 re-enacting a drama of the last days before Jesus' crucifixion. Please join us but, in doing so, remember these are spiritual reflections rather than uplifting assemblies and the mood will be suitably sombre.

That said, next Thursday afternoon, we will gather in the hall for our traditional Easter assembly where we draw the names of one boy and one girl from each class to win an Easter Egg. We will also draw the raffle for the coloured hampers and inform you of the winners. Children will then be dismissed at 2 o'clock.

Golden Book

Reception: Sebastian Henvey for showing such an enthusiastic attitude when performing the songs for our Easter Bonnet Parade. Sebastian has shown such determination and perseverance when learning the new songs, helping other children to learn the words and actions and showing such confidence. Well done, Sebastian!

Year One: Ezra Roberts has actively participated in class discussions across all subjects. He has continued to demonstrate an eagerness to learn and carefully considers his responses to questions. Ezra has engaged exceptionally well in group work and has proven to be a resilient, kind

and positive individual. He has showcased his signing skills in our Easter Bonnet Parade with enthusiasm.

Year Two: Andreas Kartsios for showing such progress in every subject. He has been working extremely hard and making sure that he works independently, giving everything a good go before asking for help. Keep up the good work, Andreas!

Year Three: Katie Deeley has given insightful contributions to all lessons this week. She is always keen to learn and she shows resilience and determination when faced with a topic she isn't as confident about. Wonderful work, Katie!

Year Four: Nicolas Grange for his dedication to learning this half term. He pushes himself constantly to improve his writing, adjusting his style to benefit the reader and he applies himself to all lessons with a zest for learning which inspires his classmates.

Year Five: Tierney Brady for completing a wonderful 'Road to the Resurrection' in RE. He is completing all work to the best of his ability and is demonstrating determination and resilience when he is struggling with any work. He is consistently polite and is a wonderful member of the Year Five class. Well done Tierney!

Year Six: Carys Henvey for putting one hundred percent effort into all that she does. She has been working extremely hard in all lessons, especially maths, ensuring that she always produces the best work possible. She also gives one hundred percent to the Catholic life of the school and our mission, being an amazing president for the Mini-Vinnies and always being on hand to help others.

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

A special mention to some more Year Six children...

On Wednesday, while showing another Headteacher round, I asked Year Two what lesson they were currently doing: they were preparing a questionnaire for Year Six regarding their experience of the sacraments. Three Year Six children came down to answer all the questions and then Miss Ball informed me later in the day that the session could not have gone any better!

My congratulations and thanks to Amara, Charlie and Naomi for being such great ambassadors of the Catholic faith.



More thanks...

On Monday afternoon, we celebrated the gift of Reconciliation – saying sorry to God for our transgressions and promising to try to better in future. As you are no doubt aware, the Catholic Church asks us all to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, before we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. The children were extremely reverent and prayerful throughout which made for a lovely service. The service was led by our Year Six prayer leaders – Oisín Finnegan, Naomi Cunnane, Sadie Kelly and James Foster. I want to thank especially the priests who attended and were so complimentary about the children and our school: Father John and Father Sean (St

Mary's in Harborne); Father Enrico and Father Austin (Olton Friary), and our very own Father Paul, who always supports the school so well.

PTA notices

Quiz night!!! St Ambrose Barlow PTA are pleased to share the exciting news of our first ever family quiz night with £200 cash prize for the winning team! Places are limited so please contact Laura Fitzpatrick on 07949601011 or Sarah Currington on 07835118181 to book your table.

Sherwood Dental practice have kindly sponsored this event so please give them a follow

on <https://www.facebook.com/sherwooddentalpracticeuk> and show yet another one of our fantastic generous local businesses your support.

St Ambrose Barlow PTA
Family Quiz Night
Saturday the 13th May at
6.30pm

Fully stocked
tuck shop

Sherwood
DENTAL PRACTICE

B.Y.O.B

£200 cash
prize for the
winning team
£20 per table for
max 6 people

PIC-COLLAGE

Maundy Thursday (6th April)

We close at 2pm on this day for all children. Kidzone @ SAB – our Before and After School club – will close at 4pm.

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Reception Reading Area

We have a new reading area in our Reception classroom and my thanks to Robin Hood Carpets on the Stratford Road for their kind donation of artificial grass.

I also give my thanks to Shannon Rice from Adventure Grove, who works with us every Friday in delivering role play activities for the children.

Easter Bonnet Parade

Wow! This was a great success and I hope the children and parents who attended enjoyed it. It was a full house – standing room only! Thanks to the judges (Mrs Drewry, Mr Hawkins and Father Paul) and congratulations to the winners: Freya from reception, Logan in Year One and Ambrose in Year Two. I really want to thank everybody who took part though: I could only be present for the very end but it was a fantastic atmosphere and was responsible for spreading no small amount of joy through the school. The PTA have driven this event forward and made it what it was! They have also supplied a special something for all children next week!



As for KS2, keep your decorated wooden eggs rolling in. Rumour has it that there are some delicious prizes up for grabs!

Whole School Photograph

This was planned for today but, due to poor weather, was postponed. Inside, class photographs were taken instead. The

whole school photo has been rearranged for Monday 3rd April. Pray for good weather and tell the children to bring their best smiles!

Strike day

The NEU have announced two more strike days, in light of the government's offer of pay. These will take place on **Thursday 27th April** and **Tuesday 2nd May**, with more likely to follow. To be very clear, the government is only proposing to fund 0.5% of the overall pay award for 2023/24, leaving schools to find the remaining amount from existing budgets. I am firm in my belief that any pay award must be funded (i.e. the school budget increased to cater for any such payment), otherwise resources for the children are inevitably put at risk. My own union is likely to ballot its members over whether they are willing to take strike action. Until it is the case that any additional payments are fully funded, I will be voting for strike action myself. In doing so, I promise you the children's education is and always will come first.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Bianca in Year Five who was ten on Monday. Happy birthday to George in Year Two who was seven on Tuesday and happy birthday to Lila in Year Four who was nine yesterday!

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

Mon 3rd April: Whole School photograph

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

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Mon 24th April: School closed for INSET
Tues 25th April: School reopens for all children

Thurs 27th April: Year Two at Hall Green Library

Thurs 27th April: Possible closure due to Strike Action

May dates for your diary

Mon 1st May: May Day Bank Holiday

Tues 2nd May: Possible closure due to Strike Action

Thurs 4th May: Year Three at Hall Green Library

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

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. Children can return to school or be collected directly from the venue

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

All children (and adults) are welcome at Mass this Sunday. Any children from school will help lead the Palm Sunday procession. The Mass has also been given over to the intentions of all children and staff at the school. May God bless you in this coming week,



Mr Clinton