



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

www.sab.bham.sch.uk

enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

@SAB_B28

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

Thursday 6th April 2023

Dear Parents,

Our newsletter is a day early due to breaking up today on Maundy Thursday, the start of the Easter Triduum – the three sacred days that trace the final days of Jesus' life, His death, and His resurrection. Holy Week is the holiest of all weeks in the Church's liturgical calendar and it is also a very special time to be in school. The prayerfulness, the assemblies, the religious reflections and the sense of anticipation for Easter all add to the beautiful atmosphere. I know, in a pragmatic sense, that this might be an inconvenience for those with siblings (or indeed jobs) at other schools but, in a perfect world, all Catholic schools would be in for this week and I hope one day that this is the case. It is our faith that marks us out as different.

I am writing this just after watching Year Six's very moving Stations of the Cross. It was absolutely incredible. I am so pleased and proud of everyone in Year Six and of Miss Newman and Mrs Drewry too. Children, you are a credit to our school. On a slightly related note, I thought I was being very clever as I welcomed back two former pupils (Niall Kelly and Aidan Cunningham), but I should have actually welcomed back five former pupils, because Grace McMahon, Sean Stephenson and Livia Mano were also present. Mea culpa.

The children return on Tuesday 25th of April for summer term with a very tangible sense of the academic year flying by! Our Year Six undertake their SATS; we enjoy our residential break for our Upper Key Stage Two children; teachers start thinking

about their end of year assessments and report writing season starts. Children may return in April in their summer uniform: shorts, polo shirts, summer dresses or blouses.

Golden Book

Reception: Samuel Hajas for always having such a positive attitude around the classroom. Samuel has enjoyed learning about the events of Holy week, asking excellent questions and contributing fantastic ideas to our discussions about Jesus' journey. Well done, Samuel!

Year One: Henry Doran has worked extremely hard this week to include key events, people and feelings in all of his extended writing tasks this Holy Week. It has been great to see how his knowledge in R.E. has grown and how curious is he to find out more about the events of Holy Week. Super work this week, Henry!

Year Two: George Parkes for working incredibly hard this week. He has produced some excellent artwork based on the Last Supper and the events at the Garden of Gethsemane and thought deeply about the thoughts and feelings of those involved.

Year Three: Alesha Perry for working really hard all week. She has produced some excellent pieces of extended writing in RE. Alesha has listened well and fully participated in all class discussions this week. Keep up the hard work, Alesha!

Year Four: Lauren Hughes for her insightful questions and responses during Holy week, she has furthered her class' understanding and prompted some wonderful class discussions. Lauren shows dedication and commitment in her work and always tries to produce work that she

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is proud of. Well done, Lauren - keep this up next term!

Year Five: Peter Ridgeway for an absolutely astounding and very believable performance as the Chief Priest in our class assembly for Holy Week. He really got into character and the performance was excellent. As well as this, Peter has produced some wonderful pieces of writing and art work in our RE lessons, which have been reflective and shown his true knowledge and understanding of Holy Week. Keep up the hard work, Peter – there is an Olivier Award with your name on in the future

Year Six: Ethan Drumm for producing lots of excellent, high quality writing about Holy Week this week. He retold the events of Holy Week in lots of detail and gave thoughtful contributions to class discussions about art work based on Palm Sunday.

Phonics workshop

Mrs Hunt has organised a Phonics workshop for parents of children in Year One, to help them prepare for the Year One Phonics screening check. Please come along and support your child and see how we teach children to read. This will take place on **Tuesday 25th April at 5:30pm** for all parents.

Lenten charities

All through Lent, we have been raising money. Children have led on cake sales, silver coin trails, Easter bonnet Parades, St Patrick's non-uniform collections. Merged with half of the proceeds from the PTA Eater Raffle (£356.00), we have reached the grand total of £998.02 - this will be split three ways and each of our Lenten charities will be gifted the same amount: Fr Hudson's, Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal, Birmingham City of Sanctuary.

Any additional Fr Hudson's boxes can still be sent in and these will go directly to Fr Hudson's.

Easter Raffle

This was drawn yesterday afternoon and the winners of each colour hamper are as follows:

Year band	Colour	Winner
Rec	Green	Georgia Wood
Year One	Red	Ella Kirby
Year Two	Blue	Amelie Robinson
Year Three	Yellow	Rian Kelly
Year Four	Orange	Nicolas Grange
Year Five	Pink	Noah Young
Year Six	Purple	Eoin Kelly



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/sherwooddentaldentalpracticeuk>

and show yet another one of our fantastic generous local businesses your support.



The raffle raised an incredible £712! The proceeds from the above were split two ways: half to the PTA funds to further provide for the children of our school and half to our Lenten charities (see below).

My message to the PTA...

Thank you for all your hard work so far this term with petitioning businesses for Easter egg donations, organising the raffles, competitions for our children and sourcing prizes for the Easter Bonnet parade.

Every child in school today was gifted an Easter Egg and this could not have happened without the hard work of the PTA. Thank you to every parent who has given up their time with the PTA, thank you to those who have a role on the committee, and thank you to our chair, Sarah Currington, and our Treasurer, Laura Fitzpatrick.

Strike day

The NEU have announced two more strike days, in light of the government's unfunded offer of pay. These will take place on **Thursday 27th April** and **Tuesday 2nd May**, with more likely to follow.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Emily in Year Two who was seven on Tuesday and to Caoimhe from Year Five who is ten today! James S in Year Two is seven tomorrow and happy birthday to all who celebrate over our Easter break: Anthony Mano, Abel Smith, Mia Nelson, Oliver Grange, and Adam Malik.

April dates for your diary

Mon 24th April: School closed for INSET

Tues 25th April: School reopens for all children

Tues 25th April: Phonics workshop 5:30pm for parents of children in Year One

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

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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

Fri 26th May: Children break up for half term

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

Have a wonderful Easter and a well-deserved break from school. We look forward to welcoming our children back on Tuesday 25th April.



Mr Clinton