



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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

Friday 19th May 2023

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week. We started with our Day of Action which, judging from the reception on our Twitter feed, was a great success. Every class took part in activities around the Church's response to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. I was particularly moved by Year Three's short video. If you have not yet seen it on our Twitter timeline, it is well worth two minutes of your time! We attended Mass as a whole school yesterday for the feast of the Ascension and ended the week with Year Five's assembly on Fratelli Tutti – Pope Francis' encyclical letter on fraternity and social relationships.

Finally, on Monday morning, 41 of our children will be on their way to Paris. We will depart at the eye-wateringly early time of 5am and return on Friday evening. It will be worth it for the experience! The remainder of our children from Year Five and Six will enjoy some outdoor and adventurous activities at Boreatton, before spending Thursday and Friday off-timetable with some art and eco projects.

Golden Book

Reception: Kimberley O'Loughlin has developed such confidence in the classroom, putting her hand up to answer questions and contribute her ideas. She has showed a conscientious attitude towards her reading and writing in phonics and is growing in independence. Well done, Kimberley!

Year One: Millie Kirk has shown that she can use the values and virtues from this half term, showcasing them in her work

from our day of action on Monday. Millie was active in thinking of ideas of how we can help others and loved participating in the class-written rap that was created. Millie gives every task 100% and does it with an enormous smile. Great work, Millie!

Year Two: Ariella Treshani for making a conscious effort to put her all into her work this week. She has tried really hard to include sentence tricks in her writing and has consistently shown beautiful handwriting. Keep working hard! Well done!

Year Three: My apologies! Last week, I inexplicably left off Year Three's candidate for Golden Book, even though he had been announced in our Gifts from God assembly. Totally my fault! See below, for what should have been included:

Jonathan Qui for being such a hard-working member of Year Three. He has produced fantastic work in Maths, thinking carefully about different units of time and working out durations. He has identified many of the features of non-chronological reports, changing informal writing to formal writing and presenting it beautifully. Keep up the hard work, Jonathan.

This week it is Martha Coughlan for showing enthusiasm in all that she does. Martha has shown how to live out the values and virtues especially when participating in our Day of Action. She was curious when we were discussing Lift the Ban and then she was active by fully participating in all that we did. Well done, Martha!

Year Four: Violetta Johnson-Szemla for her recent resilience with her work, particularly her writing in which she has

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been making wonderful progress with her presentation. Her letter to a member of Government showed her compassion for people seeking sanctuary and her chosen words showed her eloquence, using her voice on behalf of those who need it. Well done, Violetta!

Year Five: Bianca Hammondson for her loud, clear and eloquent voice in our class assembly this morning. She promotes our school values and virtues and she lives out our Catholic ethos to the highest of her ability. She is an excellent role model of our Catholic faith – which includes serving at Mass regularly and sensibly. Well done, Bianca.

Year Six: Sami Thafiq for his amazing artwork, especially when creating a portrait for our hall display. He pays attention to detail when drawing and perseveres until he achieves the highest quality finish. He is a wonderful artist!

PTA Quiz

This was a great success! It was a lovely night and ran like clockwork, as I knew it would with the amazing organisational skills of our PTA committee, especially so with Mrs Currington as chair. Mrs Currington, you are a diamond and have taken our parent fundraising body to the next level. Well done to all involved. Well done specially to the extended Griffin family, who won the £200 cash prize.

SAB Summer Fete

On a related PTA matter, after consultation with the committee and with the agreement of members of the Governing Body, we are to move our Summer Fete from Saturday 8th July to **Saturday 15th July**. This will hopefully result in more of our parent body and our pupils being able to attend.

Kids Zone @ SAB

A polite reminder that ALL children attending our Before-School in the morning should be on site at 8:15 at the very latest. This avoids any inconvenience in the kitchen who have started preparing lunch, or any crossover with parents dropping their children off for the start of the school day. The cost of the club, which we currently run at a slight loss, is to increase from Sept to £2.50 per morning per child. This is still cheaper than any other club and still only covers our own costs, but will also allow for an extra necessary member of staff to be employed.

Finally, please continue to make payment in the normal way. When the school joins the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC, our bank details are likely to change and payment will be made via Parent Pay. This is just advanced notice of a change that will happen at some point next academic year, likely to be around the end of Autumn term.

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 24th May 2023



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. They know that I came from you and believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you.'

School dinners

Citi-serve, the company who provide our dinners and employ the kitchen staff, have increased the cost of their meals recently, though this charge was not passed on. The historic rise was instead absorbed by the school for as long as it possibly could be but, in light of tighter budgets, is no longer sustainable. School dinner prices will remain at their current price for this academic year and will rise to £2.60 per day from September. Universal Free School meals (children in Reception, Year One and Two) remain without charge.

Day of Action

Imagine my surprise when I awoke on Wednesday morning to an email from Father Paul to find we had made the news! Please see the article below:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/47173>

If I am totally honest, we may never know the value of what we did as a school and who might hear of it. However, the hope we have spread, the welcome we offer in the face of hostility, and the sign of faith that we have shown is definitely a positive step in the right direction.

My thanks to all the local businesses who spoke to our children and supported their actions. If you happen to be walking past Keith Emery, the butchers on Robin Hood Island, or Concept Schoolwear on the Stratford Road, you will see a pamphlet and window sticker showing their support to Lift the Ban! If any local businesses also wish to show their support by signing the pledge, just scan the QR code below.

It costs you nothing and take less than a minute of your time:



Residentials

As mentioned at the start of this letter, please keep the children of Year Five and Six in your prayers as they spend next week away from their home on two concurrent residentials. My thanks to the staff who have given up their time and chance of sleep to accompany them!

Some more charity....

Well done to Sadie and Eoin Kelly in Year Six who are supporting their mum, Miss McGarry in raising funds to help another parent buy a specifically adapted wheelchair. If you are free and wish to show your support, please do so!



CHARITY
BAKE, BOOK & TOY SALE
FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY 20TH MAY
10:00AM – 1:00PM

(We are raising funds to help a parent to buy a specially adapted pushchair for their child)

@ 30 Jacey Road, Shirley, B90 3LT

eat cake for a good cause!

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Other Faiths Week

This will take place on Monday 19th June and run until Friday 23rd June. My thanks to Mrs Bresnen who has organised so many different activities to take place. Reception will visit St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Church for a 'behind the scenes tour' and Year One will visit Olton Friary. Year Two will explore The Church of the Ascension, a Christian church from another denomination, and Year Three will visit the Hindu Temple. Year Four will visit the Jewish synagogue in town and Year Five will visit the Gurdwara. Year Six have the opportunity to visit Birmingham Central Mosque, which I have always found hugely informative and interesting. Some great opportunities to learn about other faiths!

Sports Day

This will take place on Monday 10th July at Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary College and our children will be supported by their staff and students during activities. Parents are still welcome to attend. More details to follow!

Tag Rugby



Well done to the children who represented the school yesterday at a Tag Rugby tournament. We may not have won but we certainly got the plaudits for being attentive afterwards and helping to clear the site.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Callan in Year Four who was nine on Monday and to Kieran in Year Five who was ten on Tuesday. Tomorrow, James in Year Two is seven and on Sunday, Annie in Year Four is nine. Happy birthday to all! They will both hate the attention but happy birthday to Mrs O'Driscoll and Mrs Fayaz who both celebrated landmark birthday in the past few weeks.

May dates for your diary

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

Thurs 25th May: Year Five/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

Fri 9th July: Keyboard and choir concert 2pm

Sun 11th June: *Corpus Christi* Parish Procession

Thurs 15th June: Year Three at Hall Green Library

Fri 16th June: Reception Class Assembly

Mon 19th – Fri 23rd June: Other Faiths Week

Thurs 22nd June: Year Four at Hall Green Library

Thurs 22nd June: 5pm celebration Mass for Year Six families

Sun 25th June: Year Three Going Forth Mass

Thurs 29th June: Whole School Mass for St Peter and Paul

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

Mon 10th July: Sports Day. Children can return to school or be collected directly from the venue

Sat 15th July: Summer Fete *note change of date*

Thurs 20th July: Year Six Leavers Assembly 9am

Fri 21st July: Leavers Mass 2pm in the school hall

Tues 25th July: Break up at 2pm

Next week, there will be no newsletter as I am on residential with some Year Five and Six children; the next newsletter will be after half-term. Mrs Corrigan will email Father Paul's parish bulletin as normal.

May God bless you,



Mr Clinton