



# 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 23rd June 2023

Dear Parents,

Yesterday evening, we gathered in our prayer garden for a beautiful outdoor Mass (outdoor Masses in my opinion always seem extra special, perhaps because they are such infrequent occurrences) that celebrated not the children of Year Six but, instead, the families where this year marks the last year of their involvement with the school. As Miss Ball said in last night's introduction, this might be mere months or it might be the end of many years and many children – I think I heard seventeen years mentioned last night!

This Mass also marked the start of another poignant tradition that will happen annually - along with our Marian and Corpus Christi processions – and will join our Holy Week assemblies and class Masses as joyful occasions where the family and school come together to celebrate and mark their faith.

Talking of faith, the children have had a wonderful week celebrating other faiths in our local community: Reception learnt more about their own Catholic faith in the church they are familiar with. I joined Year One, who explored their faith at a church they are perhaps unfamiliar with - Olton Friary on St Bernard's Road. If you haven't visited the church, I encourage you to do so. It is ornate! Year Two will visit the Church of the Ascension on Monday, rearranged due to poor weather. They are learning about other churches in our Christian tradition, not necessarily Catholic. You will have already hopefully heard about Year Three going to our local

Hindu Temple, Year Four visiting the Jewish synagogue, Year Five going to the Sikh Gurdwara and Year Six at Birmingham, Central Mosque. This will be another permanent feature in our calendar.

Finally, Year Three celebrate the end of their Communion programme this Sunday with their Going Forth Mass and Communion breakfast. Please come along and join the school and the parish in this special celebration.

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Theo Richardson for showing such an amazing attitude towards everything he has done this week. Theo has tried especially hard with his phonics, decoding and blending words independently in reading practice sessions and writing words, phrases and sentences all by himself! Keep up the hard work, Theo!

**Year One:** Ethan Uchenna was a star during Year One's visit to Olton Friary on Wednesday. He shared lots of his knowledge and learned a lot while he was there. When he came back to school, he recounted his visit and he remembered key facts about the building and its features. Well done, Ethan!

**Year Two:** Helena Ridgeway for really impressing her teachers with her reasoning skills in maths. She was able to eloquently explain her thinking to the rest of the class when looking at turns. She could confidently explain what a quarter, half and full turn was as well as clockwise and anti-clockwise. Keep up the super work, Helena!

**Year Three:** Zach Lloyd for having a fantastic week. He has listened well,

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focused in his lessons and he asked lots of questions on our visit to the Hindu Mandir. Thank you for always putting 100% effort into all of your work!

**Year Four:** Ava-Mary Hodgkins has kept up her dedication to her studies this half term producing great pieces of work that she is really proud of, she helped organise her team in readiness for their formal debate today. Keep this determination up!

**Year Five:** Danishka Sangha for consistently having a go. She is always eager to volunteer answers in lessons and uses any wrong answers to support her learning and see where she can grow and develop her learning for next time. Keep it up, Dani.

**Year Six:** Lily Yan Lok Lai for putting one hundred percent effort and determination into all of her work. She always tries her best and never gives up and this has led to her making super progress, especially with her writing. She is growing in confidence in all areas of the curriculum and to top it all off, her behaviour is always impeccable.

### Wednesday Word

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023



Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: "Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; think more about God who has power over both body and soul. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven.

Fittingly for our Going Forth Mass, this week's Gospel revolves around a public declaration of faith, safe in the knowledge that God loves us and cares for us. We know that as our children grow up they face many temptations – not least the temptation to hide their faith away as if it is something to be ashamed of – and I have always taught that proudly displaying who we are and what we believe is the best way to combat this. We make no apology for being a Catholic school and we should make no apology for proudly following in the footsteps of Christ: standing up for the deprived, alienated and excluded and showing love and compassion for, and solidarity with, our brothers and sisters around the world.

### 'Other Faiths' week

This was a great success and a celebration of the other cultures, creeds and religions that exist around the world and are also vibrant in our own local community! The pictures on Twitter look amazing and I know that the children really enjoyed learning about other faiths but, also (and perhaps more importantly) were sensitive and respectful when doing so too.



Year Five at the Gurdwara



Year Three at the Hindu mandir

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Year Six at the Mosque

### **Transition Day and NEU Strike action**

This will take place for *Birmingham* schools on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**, so any Year Six children attending Archbishop Ilsley or any other Birmingham secondary will now visit on the new date. I have yet to receive any communication from Solihull Local Authority so am anticipating that their transition days remain the same, meaning that our Year Six children will still visit St Peter's on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July**, unaffected by strike action. If this changes, I will of course inform you.

In school, we will still welcome our new reception starters on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July** 2023. This too remains unaffected by strike action. This will be an opportunity for the children to meet Miss Hodgkins and Mrs Thompson. Every other child in school will now have their transition day on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**. As before, due to the sheer number of staff who are members of the NEU, I envisage closure on both days.

### **PTA parking bollards**

You will have hopefully seen our new parking bollards outside school this morning. They look great! Please respect the message by parking considerately and thoughtfully and, as ever, my thanks to the PTA who funded them

### **Raffle**

Keep the tickets rolling in. Thanks to all those who have returned their tickets and cash thus far.

TO BE DRAWN 15TH JULY '23

ST AMBROSE BARLOW PTA

**SUMMER RAFFLE**

**£1 PER TICKET**

•£200 CASH	VOUCHERS:
•£100 CASH	•£100 MILLER & CARTER
•BCFC SIGNED SHIRT	•£50 OFF A COMMUNION DRESS
•BCFC X 4 HOME TIX	•£50 GEMBOX
•BCFC 8 FLAG BEARERS	•£25 KEITH EMERY
•HALF TERM OF TENNIS	•CUT & BLOWDRY
•12 WEEK SWIM COURSE	•SHELLAC MANICURE
•TUDOR GRANGE BIRTHDAY PARTY	•£20 POM POM PARTY
•SPIRIT OF BIRMINGHAM TASTING SET	•£20 TOBY CARVERY
	•6 CUPCAKES (BKAB'S)

**DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY!**

FOR EXTRA TICKETS CONTACT YOUR YEAR REP OR SARAH 07835118181

### **Holidays in term time**

We are currently getting a lot of requests for authorised leave during term time. A reminder that **no** holidays in term-time will be authorised and it is essential that children are in school every day (unless illness prevents this). We work closely with the local authority and employ our own Education Welfare Officer to address any concerns we may have around attendance.

### **Birthdays this week...**

Happy birthday to Eliza in Reception who was five on Tuesday! Happy birthday to Aaron in year Four who us nine tomorrow and happy birthday also to Orlaith in Year Three who is celebrating her birthday with her special Going Forth Communion breakfast....and some cake, of course!

### **June dates for your diary**

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Three Going Forth Mass

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Refugee Week

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> June:** 'Other Faith Week' sharing afternoon 2pm

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> June:** Canon John Gunn's funeral

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Whole School Mass for Ss Peter and Paul 9:30

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Five at Hall Green Library

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

### **July dates for your diary**

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six at Hall Green Library

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> July:** School closed due to NEU strike action

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Keyboard and choir concert 2pm

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July:** School closed due to NEU strike action

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six children who are due to attend St Peter's will continue to do so.

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

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Reports out to parents

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer Fete 12pm – 3pm

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers' Assembly 9am

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Leavers Mass 2pm in the school hall

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July:** Break up at 2:00pm

Have a wonderful and restful weekend! Those for those Going Forth Mass on Sunday, sing loud and proud and celebrate this final step of the sacramental preparation!



Mr Clinton