



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

Friday 11th July 2023

Dear Parents,

Tomorrow is the biggest event in our PTA's fundraising calendar: it is the long-awaited Summer Fete. Please come along from midday and visit our wonderful stalls: the bar, the barbecue, Year Six games (50p per go and every turn wins a guaranteed prize), Mary's Meals, samosas, cakes, tea and coffee, a Prosecco stall, sweets, £1 wrapped presents, nearly-new gifts, face painting, bouncy castle, and many more.

It is an important date for numerous reasons but chiefly it is a time to celebrate how closely our parents and families work together and what can be achieved when they do. It will be fun, first and foremost, and in the process of having fun, we will also raise much needed funds. The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed the front playground (the area where Reception play and where children enter the school) has been cleared to be resurfaced and the PTA has supported the school in this effort.

Raffle tickets will still be sold on the day. We have raised over £1500 so far but this may rise depending on how many more are sold on the day. As you know, as a diehard Blues fan, I have my eyes on this season's new shirt; Father Paul has told me that he fancies the Miller and Carter voucher too. Maybe Mrs Bresnen can find a good use for the Gem Box voucher?

In the event of inclement weather, there is a PLAN B, which is to use the Reception and Year One classrooms and the hall also. Hopefully it will not come to this – pray to

St Medardus (patron of the weather), St Jude (impossible causes) or St Rita (patron of the impossible)!

Finally, today we have sent reports out. I would like to thank all children for their hard work this year, and I especially wish to thank the staff who have written so many different and unique personal comments for each and every child in the school. It was a pleasure to read them all.

Golden Book

Reception: Esmae O'Keeffe for being such a super star! Esmae has put her best efforts into all of her work this week and has been a great role model for her peers! She has produced sentences in Writing and Phonics independently and shared some fantastic ideas in RE too! Keep up the hard work, Esmae!

Year One: Phoebe Maxwell-Duffy has really impressed Mrs Hunt and Mrs Fayaz this week with her work ethic. She has worked hard to form sentences with some great ideas in. Phoebe was also a super star when sewing and has produced a brilliant piece of bunting made from felt. In addition to this, we cannot forget to mention what a brilliant team player she was during sports day cheering on all her classmates. Fabulous work, Phoebe!

Year Two: Florence Young for having an incredible work ethic. Her hand is always raised in every lesson ready to contribute her thoughts and ideas. She is always thoughtful and eloquent with her responses in class and uses her knowledge to help others around her. Thank you for always giving 100% effort to everything you do, Florence!

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

Year Three: Jacques Slattery-Pope for being such a wonderful member of Year Three. He is always eager to share his knowledge with others through discussions and in his work. Throughout the year, he has shown resilience and a determination to succeed which shows in the high standard of work that he produces. Thank you for being such a star!

Year Four: Violetta Johnson-Szemla for embodying the virtues and values of our school during our recent trip to the Think Tank. She was curious and explored the exhibits seeking to learn all that she could. She volunteered brilliantly during the show and was a role model of great behaviour throughout the day.

Year Five: Peter Ridgeway has shown remarkable growth in his confidence and presentation skills throughout this year. His outstanding Literacy work on *The 13th Labour of Hercules* is a true testament to his dedication and passion for the subject! It is evident that Peter has not only honed his writing abilities but also used his extensive myth knowledge to create a captivating and remarkable piece of work.

Year Six: Amara Sandhu-Hicks for her unwavering hard work, determination and resilience this year. She has worked so hard to achieve her goals and has never given up, even when things have been tricky. She has so much to be proud of as she has made outstanding progress across the curriculum, but particularly with her Maths.

Birmingham Catholic School Sports

Association: Athletics

We were delighted to attend this event and it was fantastic for the children to run or take part in field events at the same stadium that was used for the Commonwealth Games 11 months previously.

Thanks to the following students who attended: Ailish Kingston and Nicolas

Grange from Year Four, Sophie Fernando and Lucas Cusick from Year Five and James McMahon, Charlie Mills, Sadie Kelly, Annie Stephenson, Carys Henvey, Charlie Burke, Oisin Finnegan, Ava Leigh Newton, Eoin Kelly, Lily Yan Lok Lai and Maeve Cunningham from Year Six.

My many thanks for the parents who supported us (especially those who work for other Catholic Schools but chose to sit with us). Thank you to Miss Ball who organised and Mrs Finnegan for helping with transport and who coached quite loudly from the stands!

A special mention to the following children who stood out in their respective events:

Lucas Cuzick: 3rd place in the Year Five sprint

Sadie Kelly: 3rd place in the High Jump

James McMahon: 1st place in the Long Jump

Charlie Mills: 1st place in the 800m

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 16th July 2023**



Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, "Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on rich soil and produced a great crop. This is like those people who hear my words and understand them; they yield a great harvest and produce now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

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Key Stage Two Outcomes

On Tuesday, the school received notification of our Key Stage outcomes. On the same day, I communicated these to the Diocese and to the Governors. I have copied them for you below and they will soon appear on our website.

KS2 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: 90% at Expected standard (72% National average) and 43% achieving Greater Depth.

KS2 Writing: 83% at Expected standard (71% National average) and 23% Greater Depth

KS2 Maths: 90% at Expected standard (73% National average) and 37% Greater Depth

KS2 Reading: 93% at Expected standard (73% National average) and 73% at Greater Depth

83% of our children received Expected in Reading, Writing and Maths combined (compared to 59% National average)

The average score out of 25 for our Year Four children for the Multiplication check was 22/25, which just shows the importance of Times Table Rock Stars in my opinion!

I am especially proud of the reading results. The percentage for children working at Greater Depth is equivalent of the national average of children working at the Expected standard. This shows, to my mind at least, that our huge focus on reading that the school has had for the past two years has really paid off. Every single pound spent on new texts and every minute spent walking to the local library has paid off, and will hopefully continue to do so.

I am sure you will join me in thanking all our hard-working staff for these wonderful results. They are, after all, the product of many years of hard work, but I especially want to thank Miss Newman and Mrs Drewry for all their efforts these past 12 months.

Sports Day

Aside from a panicked weekend after torrential rain, I hope you agree with me that this was a great success. Perhaps not perfect and definitely room for some modifications, but it remained a real celebration of sporting prowess, of teamwork, and of unconditional support. Parents, thank you for your attendance. The results are below:

4th place: St Teresa of Calcutta with 1840 points

3rd place: St Maximilian Kolbe with 2240 points

2nd place: St Josephine Bakhita with 2320 points

1st place: St Oscar Romero with 2460 points

Congratulations to St Oscar Romero house. **As a reward, children in this winning house can wear their own clothes this Monday.**

Finally, the winning house will be announced in today's assembly and, next week, the children from the winning house will be able to celebrate by also wearing their own clothes **on Wednesday!** More details to follow.

A message from Hall Green Library:

We will be running the Summer Reading challenge at Hall Green library from now until 9th September. It's an excellent, fun way for the children to keep up with their reading during the long summer break and we have medals, certificates and other goodies for the children who complete the challenge.

We also have lots of fun events at the library throughout the holidays – the Summer programme is also now available to pick up from the library and the details are also on the Hall Green library Facebook & Twitter page. Author Tom Palmer will be launching our events and coming to Hall Green library on Saturday July 22nd He will be talking about his writing and books and doing some fun interactive stuff too!! This session will be suitable for 8 – 12 year olds. Booking is required either by telephone or in person.



Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready, Set, Read!

Read and review any 6 library books throughout the Summer Holidays.

Sign up at **Hall Green Library** and get your **FREE** starter pack.

When you have done all 6 reviews return them to Hall Green Library and you will receive a certificate, medal* and other fab goodies*.

Your reviews will go into our **Ready, Set, Read** review folder in the library.

Your name will also go onto our Ready, Set, Read Champions board and you will get the chance to enter our 'Super Sparty Treasure Hunt' and win a prize!

Pick up your programme of Summer Events at Hall Green Library

summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

*subject to availability

Birmingham City Council COMMUNITY LIBRARIES

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Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Sam in Year Four who was nine on Tuesday, and Caoimhe in Year Two who is seven tomorrow and celebrating at the Summer Fete by spending her birthday money on the Soak the Teacher stand. Maybe Henry (Year Four), who is also nine tomorrow, will do likewise. On Sunday, Cody in Year Five is ten! Happy birthday to all, and happy birthday to those who celebrated last week too.

July dates for your diary

- Sat 15th July:** Summer Fete 12pm – 3pm
- Mon 17th July:** Flute concert in the hall 2:45pm
- 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



Mr Clinton



Wednesday 12th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Children love to be listened to and it helps them to grow in self-esteem. If, from a young age, they know that we truly listen to them, they are far more likely to keep listening to us as they mature.

Listening to the right people and the right messages is important for us and for our children. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus inviting us to listen to him and act upon his words.

Like any good teacher, Jesus uses pictures or parables to make his teaching clearer. Jesus is like a sower, scattering his words like seeds. Jesus' words have stood the test of time. They are rooted in love and can be trusted to guide us and our children.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, listening to your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **LISTENING**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 16th July 2023



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Adapted from Matthew 13:1-9

The 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"The family is where we first learn to listen and share."

Pope Francis

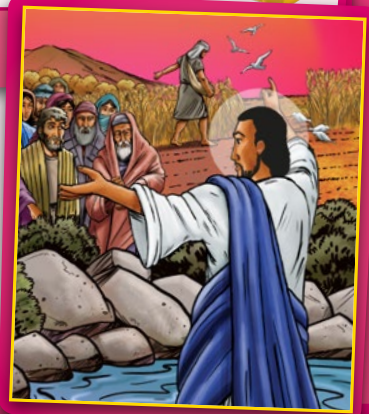


Jesus often used parables (little stories) to teach the crowds who came to listen to him. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us how important it is to take time to listen to God and to be open to receive and act upon what we hear. This helps us to make wise and safe life choices.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)



Jesus was teaching the people by the lakeside and he told them a story. He said, "A farmer went out to sow seed. As he sowed the seeds, some fell on the path, some among weeds and some upon rock where they could not grow properly. But some seeds fell on good soil and they produced a great crop. This is like those people who hear my words and understand them; those people grow strong and produce a great harvest. Now, anyone who has ears – listen to what I am really saying!"

What did Jesus tell the crowd that they should do? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

LISTENING

3 Loving God & Each Other

"Good communication helps us to grow closer. It is so important to listen."

Pope Francis

Ask your child if they know someone who is a really good listener. Who does your child like to listen to? Do they know people who speak with kindness and love, and want good things for them and others? It may help your child if you give them an example of your own. **Listening to Jesus and acting on his words helps us to become the best people we can be.**

"Listen carefully, young people: Jesus never disappoints."

Pope Francis

Jesus does not force us to listen to him, but he knows what's best for us. Regularly listening to Jesus reminds us what's really important in life. As the summer holidays approach, explore ways that can help you to listen to Jesus in these coming weeks. Perhaps you can: remember to have quiet times in prayer when you wake up, at bedtime or some other time – just for listening to God as he speaks to your heart; worship together; regularly read the gospels together. What other ways can you think of?

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **listening** to us. Please help us to **listen** and understand your words and to be good **listeners** to each other too. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

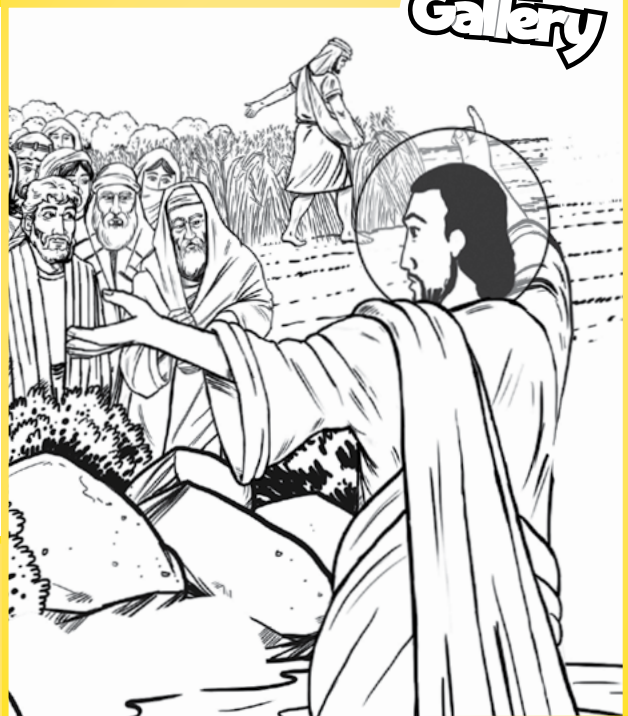
WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- FARMER SEEDS
- JESUS WORDS
- LISTEN GROW
- GREAT HARVEST

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

S D D E E D O T H W A C
 V S M T S J V H A V F S
 M H S U S E J W R E A F
 W F H T D S E E K M R V
 O S A M O U L D S V M G
 R T R R W S L I S T E N
 D S V I M H V H S O R D
 S E E D S E D D I T T S
 W V S M D G R E A T E O
 O R T G R O W S M S S N
 R A D V O T V W O R G S
 B H S H W O R K W O R M



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **b c d** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

becards ancybonde scadybing clibstden

Jesus said, "Now, _____ who has _____
 _____ to what I am really _____!"

Jesus wants us to listen closely to his words. He wants us to take the time to think and really understand what he is saying – to be like good soil in which the seed (his words) can take root. Then God can work through us to produce a great crop of goodness in our world.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

