



# 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 21st July 2023

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of another year and I wish to thank you all – staff, children, parents, extended family, and friends of the school – for all your help and support this academic year. I sincerely believe that the school is going from strength to strength: in the curriculum offer that all children receive; in the wider personal development that we offer; in the depth and breadth of spiritual formation that is available; in the stronger parish links that have been forged; in the academic outcomes that children attain when they leave us; in the skills and knowledge and experience that the children gain.

Every assembly, class Mass, whole school Mass, and prayer service has been both special and unique. Every trip has been a success and I want you to know that our children are always complimented on their conduct by members of the public when we are out. Our dual residentials - to Boreatton and to Paris – were both hugely rewarding and totally exhausting but totally worth it!

When staff at other schools speak to me about our Ofsted experience, I tell them the truth: that I genuinely enjoyed it and was proud to show the school off along with the positive changes that we have brought about. In our initial phone call with Ofsted, I said the children will speak for themselves; I had full confidence in them that they would speak honestly and eloquently about their experience at and of St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School and I wasn't wrong. Father Paul

takes great pride in telling the children they are truly outstanding and I whole heartedly agree. We have incredibly high standards and the children rightly feel so proud to have reached them!

Finally, we say goodbye to our departing Year Six. They will always be pupils of ours and they leave us with a mission: go forth, stay true to yourself and, most importantly, be who God intended you to be and set the world on fire by your example and by your love. I wish you all the very best. You will genuinely be missed.

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Tobin Slattery-Pope for being a star all year round. Tobin has got such a conscientious attitude and completes all of his work to the best of his ability every time. He is very caring towards his peers and always keeps our classroom looking tidy! Well done, Tobin, and best of luck in your new school!

**Year One:** Bella Mills has been a star all year! She has such an amazing work ethic and this has never faltered. Bella approaches everything with a smile and is such a great friend to all the others in the class. She really is a fabulous role model to others. Well done, Bella!

**Year Two:** Vinnie Shaw for some excellent work on 3D shape, completing Maths work independently and being eager to answer questions and show off his knowledge to the class. He has also shown an excellent attitude to writing this week, thinking carefully about his spelling and handwriting. Well done, Vinnie.

**Year Three:** Abel Smith for being such a caring and thoughtful member of Year

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

Three who always makes other children and staff smile. Over the year, the amount of work he produces in lessons has increased and he has made great progress because he always tries his best. You should be proud of what you have achieved, Abel. What a star!

**Year Four:** Jude Goddard for his commitment to his learning throughout this half term and particularly this week. He has challenged himself to write a new folk tale about Brer Rabbit, explored the role of great women in nursing and shown excellent focus describing position in Maths.

**Year Five:** Throughout Year Five, we have watched Noah Young's confidence flourish across the curriculum. He has shown determination consistently and has never given up, even when facing a real tricky problem in Maths. He has a writer's voice in Literacy and frequently amazes me with the use of sentence tricks and the range of vocabulary he uses. His dedication to our faith is excellent: he always thinks about how Jesus would act, and therefore how he should best act. Keep this up in Year Six, Noah. Well done!

**Year Six:** Annie Stephenson for going above and beyond in all that she does, each and every day. Her work is always completed to the highest standard and her behaviour is always exemplary. Most importantly though, she is an excellent role model for doing small things with great love: she treats everyone she speaks to with kindness and respect and always goes out of her way to make sure that others are happy. The world needs more people like Annie!

### **Summer Fete**

This was an amazing event. Thanks to all who helped out (before, during or after) and to all who attended. The grand total (after the matched funding for the bottle tombola) is £4502, which is an incredible amount. It allows the PTA continue to

provide extra treats for children throughout the year – including snacks, presents from Father Christmas, Easter egg hunts, etc – as well as contributing towards much need projects like the parking bollards, the playground resurfacing or, whisper it quietly, possibly the future purchase of a minibus.

The whole committee of the PTA deserve our thanks and praise but I especially want to single out Mrs Currington, as chair, and Mrs Fitzpatrick, as treasurer, for all their hard work, their vision and their unwavering commitment to support our school.

### **PTA treats**

As a thank you for the amazing amount raised last Saturday, the PTA are donating £20 for each class to put towards their parties on Monday afternoon, and they are also paying for the bouncy castle and related inflatables. All children can wear own clothes on this day!

### **Breaking up for Summer**

We close for the summer on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July. **There will be no SAB Kidzone on Tuesday afternoon.** All children leave at 2pm and the school site closes afterwards. School re-opens for children in Year One to Year Six on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8:45 (with SAB Kidzone opening at 7:30 as normal)

### **Safeguarding over Summer**

CASS (the Children's Advice and Support Service) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child. If you are concerned about a child, please contact CASS who will listen, assess your concerns and can act if a child is at risk.

Monday to Friday:  
8.45am to 5.15pm

Telephone:  
0121 303 1888  
Emergency Out-of-Hours Telephone:  
0121 675 4806

If you have a serious concern about a child's welfare and think they are at immediate risk of significant harm, please call 999.

### **Staffing changes**

We bid a fond farewell to Miss Alex Atkins, who is moving to Our Lady of the Wayside in September. She has been with us for two years and moves on, ready for a new challenge.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Rizwana Mahmood. Mrs Mahmood started volunteering with us last year as part of her teaching assistant qualification but was employed from September to work three days a week on a one-to-one basis with a child in Year Two. She has brought so much to the school and we wish her all the best as she leaves to complete an MA in child studies.

Mrs Mary Deneny, who retired in 2020, came out of retirement to return to our teaching staff this year. She has undertaken day-to-day supply if classes need covering when staff are out on courses, and she is now happily returning to her retirement. She is wonderful member of staff, part of the fabric of the building itself, and a fantastic individual to boot. Our joint highlight this year was that Nottingham Forest managed to stay in the Premier League for one more season: this was her highlight because she is an avid fan, and mine because I like to see all Midland teams to do well, especially former European Cup winners! I hope she continues to work the occasional day with us, and I look forward to Villa getting six points next season too.

### **English Martyrs**

English Martyrs Church are celebrating their centenary with a Mass on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. I have been asked to share this information with the wider school community, as I know many of our parents and grandparents have been involved with the parish and the school of English Martyrs historically. The celebration will begin with the Centenary Mass at 6.00pm followed by drinks and light refreshments in the Gilsenan Parish Hall. Car parking will be available behind the presbytery and in the school playground. His grace, Archbishop Kevin McDonald, from Southwark Archdiocese, will be the principal celebrant accompanied by Bishop David Evans along with previous parish priests and assistant priests. I will attend myself, representing our school and staff and children and I hope to see many of you there.

### **Hall Green library**

Tomorrow at 2pm, children's author Tom Palmer will be talking about his books in a fun and interactive session. Booking is required but there are still places available and this is a great event that the library is putting on to launch their summer reading challenge! Please also pay attention to the flyer emailed with this newsletter for other events the library is hosting this summer.

### **Christmas trips for KS1 and KS2**

I cannot believe I have mentioned the C-word already. However, consider this advanced notice for our Christmas trips. KS2 will visit the Old Rep to watch *Peter Pan* on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December and Reception and KS1 will visit the Mac in Cannon Hill Park on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December to watch *Starchitects Save Santa*.

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

Happy birthday to Dylan, Year Four, who was nine on Monday. Katie, Year Three, was eight on Wednesday and Cynthia is eight tomorrow. She shares her birthday with Maeve in Year Six who is eleven tomorrow, and Sophia, Year Two, who is seven tomorrow also. Hope and Martha, in Year Three, are eight on Sunday. Happy birthday to Isla in Year Five who is ten on Tuesday. Happy birthday to all those who celebrate over summer:

Oliver Healy,  
Maxim Griffiths,  
Ethan Hughes,  
Noah Sheedy,  
Enda McGillicuddy,  
Theo Richardson,  
Emily Lin,  
Lola Hardiman,  
Daisy-May Edginton,  
Lily Tighe,  
Arlo Williams,  
Oliver Ellard,  
Daniel Caine,  
Caelum Clifton,  
Ariella Treshani,  
Ismaeel Saghir,  
Ethan Velasquez,  
Kimberley O'Loughlin,  
Chloe Partridge,  
Jude Goddard,  
Freya and Darcie Bucknall,  
Zach Lloyd,  
Ayaz Unal,  
Charlie Copestick,  
Rex Lo,  
Phoebe Maxwell-Duffy,  
Richard Qiu,  
Hayden Perry,  
Ava-Leigh Newton, and  
Ellie Gresty-Helliwell.

Happy birthday one and all! From next year, wear own clothes on the day of your birthday (or closest day, after weekends and holidays).

### **Dates for the next academic year**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept:** INSET

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Sept:** INSET

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Sept:** School opens for Year 1-6

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Oct:** School closed for half-term  
More dates will follow in the first letter of the new academic year. Our term dates can be found on the website: <https://www.sab.bham.sch.uk/term-dates/>

School is open as normal next Monday and Tuesday. However, there will be no newsletter. Therefore, I want to wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer break. Thank you in anticipation for any gifts you might buy for the staff but, really, there is no need to do so and certainly no obligation: the opportunity to catch up on some much-needed sleep will be sufficient! I will see you in September!

Good luck to you, Year Six.

May God bless you all and keep you safe.



Mr Clinton