



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 8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! It is wonderful to see the children back safe and well after their summer break. My thanks to Fr Jim Fleming for celebrating our first whole school Mass today, to honour the nativity of Our Lady. It was a beautiful celebration.

Golden Book

This will return next week after our first Gifts from God assembly on Friday. All children have made a fantastic start to their new year and I am very proud of them.

Parent Consultations

The dates for Parent Consultations have been set for Monday 9th October and Wednesday 11th October. You will be notified once booking is open. This is a wonderful opportunity to see how well your child has settled in to their new class, discuss their progress and targets with the teacher, and view your child's work thus far.

School Fund

We are asking for £13 a term per pupil. This is to be used in addition to our (already stretched) school budget to modernise and rejuvenate certain learning areas, pay for new books for the school library, buy and replace playground equipment, pay for transport for trips and sports events, and subsidise school trips. The charge works out at around a pound per week per child and, I sincerely promise you, we do so much with it!

School Dinners

There are two important messages from the office regarding school dinners. The first is the price per day is now £2.60 (which works out at £13 a week). Secondly, please be aware that the amount that is shown on School Money is for the term, but there is no need to pay this in full. All debts to be cleared by the end of term, please.

Tuck, which is available for KS2 children only, remains CASH only.

Kids Zone @ SAB

Please be aware that if you child attends our breakfast club, they MUST be on site from 8:15. This is when the gates close and breakfast is served. There will be no admission after this time. The charge for the morning is £2.50 which covers the cost of staff and snack. The club is run by school staff but payment is facilitated by a third party. If you have any questions around payment or fees, please contact Mrs Roberts who will be able to help.

The club in the afternoon runs from 3:30 until 4:30 for the first chargeable slot, and then until 5:30 for the second hour. All children must be collected, at the door, by 5:30.

To add, change, or remove days, please text the PARENT LINE on 07526 376 930.

Musical instrument tuition - woodwind

As in previous years, once children reach Year Four they begin to undertake whole class tuition. Year Five and Year Six can then elect to continue their tuition. This year, we are passing on a small charge of

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

£30 to parents of children in Year Four. It is not something that we have felt necessary to do in previous years and it is not the policy of school to charge for the National Curriculum. However, instrumental tuition is actually above and beyond what is required by the National Curriculum and its benefits are numerous. The charge actually works out at less than £1 per session and is only a small percentage of the overall cost incurred by the school.

However, I do understand that a) this charge was given with no notice, and b) some parents may feel their household budgets are already stretched. Therefore, if you feel unable to pay, please come and discuss the matter with me.

Term dates

These are on the website for this and next academic year for your reference. This year's dates are copied below:

Autumn Term 2023

INSET: Monday 4th September 2023

INSET: Tuesday 5th September 2023

Term Starts: Wednesday 6th September

Half Term: Monday 30th October 2023 to Friday 3rd November 2023

Term Ends: Friday 22nd December 2023

Spring Term 2024

INSET: Monday 8th January 2024

Term Starts: Tuesday 9th January 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 to Friday 16th February 2024

Term Ends: Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 15th April 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024

Term Ends: Friday 19th July 2024

Holidays in 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. Please also be aware that, in light of the school's statutory safeguarding obligations, we often carry out 'safe and well' visits to children who are not present in school.

Open Days

A message from Archbishop Ilsley Secondary School:

"Archbishop Ilsley's open evening will take place on **Thursday 28th September** from 5.30pm-7.30pm. There will be a talk from headteacher, Mr Clinton, and Mr Foley, who has been appointed as new deputy headteacher. Mr Foley is a past pupil of St Ambrose Barlow. There will be displays of the rich curriculum on offer in each subject area and a chance for your children to get hands on as they tour the school. It is an exciting time to visit the nearest Catholic secondary school to St Ambrose Barlow as Mr Clinton leads the school forwards. You will be able to see the huge investment that has been put into the school in terms of growing the 6th form provision so your child can continue a full seven years further on their journey through Catholic education. You will also see the significant investment in technology within the classroom to enhance the quality of experience for each child. Finally you will see the investment in toilet facilities funded through the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC to ensure students have the very best."

See below for information from St Peter's



This takes place on Thursday 21st September at 5:30pm – 8pm. Mr Shelton looks forward to greeting you all!

Parental choice is paramount in choosing the right secondary school for your child. I encourage you to visit both wonderful choices.

School photographs

Tempest are in school on Thursday 21st September for individual photographs of all children, and photographs of siblings too. If you have a pre-school child who you wish to be photographed also, please feel free to attend from 8:30am in the school hall.

Sacramental Preparation

The dates for this – Year Three's First Confession and First Holy Communion, and Year Six's Confirmation – have been set and will follow in a separate attachment. If you know of anyone who wishes to join the school and parish joint preparation, please ask them to contact school or Fr Paul directly.

English Martyrs

English Martyrs Church are celebrating their centenary with a Mass tonight 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.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Richard in Year Five who was ten on Tuesday and happy birthday to Noah D, also in Year Five, who is ten today. The eagle-eyed amongst you may have seen them in their own clothes. From now on, on the day closest to your birthday, children can wear their own clothes and enjoy all the attention that brings!

September dates for your diary

Mon 11th Sept: Reception children with surnames A-K start (9:30 – 3pm)

Wed 13th Sept: Reception children with surnames L-Z start (9:30 – 3pm)

Fri 15th Sept: All Reception children attend from 9:30

Thurs 21st Sept: Individual photos (including pre-school siblings from 8:30am)

Thurs 21st Sept: Year Three parents in parish hall at 6pm

Thurs 21st Sept: St Peter's Open Evening for Year Five and Six children

Sat 23rd Sept: Year Three children at Parish hall 10am – 12pm

Sun 24th Sept: Year Three Belonging Mass 10am

Thurs 28th Sept: Archbishop Ilse Open Evening 5:30 – 7:30pm

October dates for your diary

Fri 6th Oct: Harvest Festival Mass 2pm in school hall

Sat 7th Oct: Year Six children in Parish hall 10am – 12pm

Sun 8th Oct: Year Six Enrolment Mass 10am

Mon 9th Oct: Parent Consultations 3:40pm – 6:30

Wed 11th Oct: Parent Consultations 3:40pm – 6:30

Fri 13th Oct: Year Two Class Mass 2:30pm

Fri 20th Oct: Year Six Assembly 9am

Fri 27th Oct: Break up for half-term

November dates for your diary

Mon 6th Nov: School re-opens

Fri 10th Nov: Year Four Class Mass 2:30pm

Fri 17th Nov: RISE theatre visit for all children

Tues 21st Nov: Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents 2pm

Thurs 23rd Nov: Open Morning for prospective Reception parents 9:30am

Fri 24th Nov: Year Five Assembly 9:00am

Sat 25th: Year Six children at Parish hall 10am – 12pm

Sun 26th Nov: Year Six Mass 10am

Tues 28th Nov: Year Six at St Chad's

December dates for your diary

Fri 1st Dec: Year Six Group One at Dementia cafe

Mon 4th Dec: KS2 Reconciliation Service 2pm

Thurs 7th Dec: Year Three First Confession 6pm

Fri 8th Dec: Feast of the Immaculate Conception School Mass Yr 1-6

Fri 8th Dec: Year Six Group Two at Dementia café

Fri 8th Dec: Reception Nativity 2pm

Mon 11th Dec: KS1 Nativity for Year One parents 2pm

Tues 12th Dec: KS1 Nativity for Year Two parents 2pm

Fri 15th Dec: 'Starchitects' KS1 at Mac

Fri 15th Dec: Choir / keyboard concert 2pm

Thurs 19th Dec: KS2 Carol Service 7pm

Wed 20th Dec: KS2 Old Rep for 'Peter Pan'

Thurs 21st Dec: Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas dinner

Fri 22nd Dec: Whole School Mass (inc Rec) 9:30

Fri 22nd Dec: School closes for Christmas at 2pm

Thank you for all your gifts and cards at the end of last year. Thank you also for your ongoing support and your kind words as we work together to help your children reach their full potential.

May God bless you all and keep you safe.



Mr Clinton