



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents,

Last Thursday at our Year Three Sacramental meeting, I shared with parents a prayer by written by a pupil in Year Five, giving thanks for creation. Today, I want to share another piece of work by another child in Year Five, Evelyn Smyth, who has encapsulated exactly what it is that we teach children about the world and each other.

*"Thank You for creating me and
every other person in this beautiful,
elegant world.*

*We are all special and all brothers
and sisters.*

*We are all made in the image of You
and filled with dignity."*

At St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, we underpin our offer of the National Curriculum with a firm bedrock of Catholic Social Teaching. I sincerely believe that viewing education through this prism brings about a greater understanding of the world around us, and Evelyn, unprompted, has proved this point.

Golden Book

Reception: Isabella Davies for being such a superstar this week! Bella has been such an excellent role model for her peers in Reception as she is always following our rules and being so polite to lunch time staff. Well done, Bella!

Year One: Kimberley O'Loughlin has been a star this week! She has worked hard to use her phonics in her writing and her pre-cursive handwriting is coming along nicely. She is keen to attempt every task with a

positive attitude and a huge smile. Great work, Kimberley!

Year Two: Henry Doran has been brilliant this week – in fact, not just this week but every single week! Henry contributes enormously to all lessons and always gives 100% in everything he does. He always has a smile on his face and shows excellent perseverance and determination in all that he does. We are so proud of you, Henry! Keep it up!

Year Three: Florence Young for working extremely hard in all subjects. She has started Year Three with a positive attitude, putting one hundred percent effort into everything she does. She contributes to all class discussions and ensures her work is always presented to a high standard. What a star!

Year Four: Layton Parsons for his enthusiasm and creativity in lessons this week. He has provided some adventurous adjectives to improve his own and his peers works and has been very dedicated in producing his fantasy story based on "The Firework-Maker's Daughter". He has made a lot of effort with his presentation of his work, ensuring his writing is joined and laid out neatly. Well done, Layton, keep this up!

Year Five: Evelyn Smyth for consistently displaying creativity and imagination in her writing. She has been thinking carefully about sentence types and adventurous vocabulary during her pieces of work on 'Beowulf' which has made her writing a pleasure to read. In addition to this she wrote a beautiful poem in R.E, independently, praising God for being the creator of all.

Year Six: Caoimhe Kerr for being the perfect prefect! She always listens

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

attentively and puts one hundred percent effort into all that she does. Her work this week has been fantastic: working through all of her maths independently and writing a fantastic opening to her story about a heroic animal. She always has a smile on her face and is a kind friend to everyone.

Mini Vinnies

The following Year Six children have been appointed to the Mini-Vinnies executive for this year.

Vice President: Erin Quinn

Treasurer: Nico Hansa

Secretary: Freya Nixon

Communication Officers: Macy Melland and Amelia Corcoran.

We had a lot of applications for these positions and, to avoid disappointment, we have decided that there will be events every half term or so often with plenty of opportunities for all who want to be involved. Along with the School Council, the Eco-Council and the Prefects, I am delighted by the levels of responsibility shown by our current Year Six.

Maths INSPIRE workshops

Last year, you were all invited in to take part in an “Alan Peat” Literacy writing lesson that focused on sentence types. This year, the focus will be on Maths No Problem, which is a resource that we use in school. Every class will have a session in Spring Term. Consider this advanced notice but, please, don’t panic – the children will do *all* the work!

NumBots and Times Table Rocks Stars

We are having a real push on this in school. My personal view of homework is that it should only focus on what the children already know in an effort to encourage automaticity – basically, the retrieval and quick recall of facts (whether these be times tables number bonds or spelling rules).

Children should be logging in most nights but only for a short amount of time – around five to ten minutes or so – which adds up over the week. Each class has a weekly average that children should be aiming for, which ranges from fifteen minutes for Year One on NumBots, to thirty-five minutes for Year Six on TTRS.

Harvest Mass

You are all warmly invited to our Harvest Celebration Mass next Friday at 2pm in the school hall. All are welcome! Any gifts (see below) will be split between the Church of the Ascension food bank and SIFA Fireside Centre for the homeless.

From Monday, we will be collecting the following:

- Baked beans
- Instant coffee
- Bottles of squash
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned meat and fish
- Cereal
- Sugar
- Chocolate
- Cereal bars
- Crisps
- Biscuits
- Instant meals (Pot Noodles, porridge, soups)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shaving foam
- Shower gel
- Shampoo
- Razors
- Socks
- Sleeping bags
- Rucksacks
-

Please send any offering in with your children for their Harvest class display.

Advent charities

I felt inspired by Andy Quinn, CEO of Father Hudson's Care, as he was giving a talk last Sunday at Mass. Afterwards, we talked about how our school could help out Father Hudson's again and it was agreed that it would be ONE of the charities that we will support this Advent. The other will be the Catholic Partnership's Rwandan charity: our donations will be used to pay for students to attend school, university and seminary.

PTA AGM

Please come along to our PTA AGM on Thursday 19th October at 6pm in the Parish hall. We will run a uniform swap shop, elect our officers, hear a report on the activities run last year and the funds raised, and discuss plans for this year. All are welcome – please come along and support the school and your children!

Columban Missionaries Job Opportunity

The Columban Missionaries are seeking a full-time Fundraising & Office Administrator to join their team. A major part of the role is providing exemplary administration support to the Mission Office of the Missionary Society of Saint Columban in Britain, assisting primarily in the administration of office and fundraising activities of the charity. This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic professional to contribute to the mission work of the Columbans in Britain. For more details about the position and to apply, please email the HR Advisor at hr@columbans.co.uk.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will take place on Monday 9th October and Wednesday 11th October. Booking is now open and appointments are from 15:40 until 18:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to see how well your child has settled into their new class, discuss their progress and targets

with their teacher, and view your child's work thus far.

Uniform Swap Shop

Again, our uniform swap shop will run in the library during Parent Consultations – no charge, just take what you need. If you have any goods to donate, please send them via the school office from next week!

KS1 and KS2 Christmas trips

These are now available to pay via School Money. The cost is £17.10 for KS2's trip to the Old Rep on Wednesday 20th December to see Peter Pan and £20.00 for KS1's trip to the Mac on Friday 15th December to see 'Starchitects'.

Year Six Sacramental Preparation

Parents of children in Year Six making their Confirmation are invited to a parent meeting on Wednesday 4th October at 6pm in the Parish hall, the focus of which is on Vocation and Service. Children will then attend a workshop in the parish hall on Saturday 7th October and we will all celebrate Mass together on Sunday 8th October. Please make every effort to attend.

Year Six Secondary Admissions

Please ensure this is completed online by 31st October. I would urge you to make full use of all six preferences:

<https://eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php>

Currently reading...

The staff are sporting new badges now and children are enjoying asking them what it is that they are reading. Long may this continue. Feel free to quiz staff yourself!

I've heard from Noah Parkes Brown in Year Five that he is reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and could tell me all about Mr Bucket's job screwing toothpaste caps on toothpaste tubes. Aaron Stephen,

also in Year Five, was telling me about “The Storm Keepers’ Battle” by Catherine Doyle.

I also had an interesting conversation with Year Six about what books they were reading, which veered off to what books their parents currently had on the go. I heard about Rory’s mum reading the Richard Osman novels and Isla’s mum reading ‘Watermelon’ by Marian Keyes. And, further to my comment last week about watching ‘A Little Life’ at the theatre, last night I saw two parents there also! They are clearly avid readers of this newsletter!

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Amelia in Year Six who was 11 on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Finley in Year Two who was seven on Wednesday (and celebrated by giving me a bag of Haribo). Happy birthday to Tobias in Year Two who is seven on Sunday, and happy birthday to Danishka in Year Six who will be eleven on Sunday too!

I do like to celebrate birthdays but rarely mention staff unless it is a particular milestone. I do not wish to draw attention to Miss Ball’s thirtieth birthday this weekend but needs must...! Have a wonderful day, weekend and year. For this weekend only, I will excuse you from all schoolwork.

October dates for your diary

Wed 4th October: Year Six Parent Meeting 6pm Parish hall

Thurs 6th Oct: Year Five at Hall Green library 2pm

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

Thurs 12th Oct: Year Six at Hall Green library 2pm

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

Thurs 19th Oct: Year Two at Hall Green library 2pm

Thurs 19th Oct: SAB PTA AGM 6pm in Parish hall

Fri 20th Oct: Year Six Assembly 9am

Thurs 26th Oct: Year Three at Hall Green library 2pm

Fri 27th Oct: Break up for half-term at 3:30

November dates for your diary

Mon 6th Nov: School re-opens

Thurs 9th Nov: Year Four at Hall Green library 2pm

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

Thurs 16th Nov: Year Five at Hall Green library 2pm

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

Thurs 23rd Nov: Year Six at Hall Green library 2pm

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

Thurs 30th Nov: Year Two at Hall Green library 2pm

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 at Church

Fri 8th Dec: Feast of the Immaculate Conception School Mass Year 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 (including
Reception) 9:30
Fri 22nd Dec: School closes for Christmas at
2pm

Have a wonderful weekend. I will see you
all on Monday morning for the start of
October, when we start to send out our
Rosary prayer bags. May God bless you all.



Mr Clinton