



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of another successful week and have five days before a well-deserved half term break.

Today, we joined with Year Six and their class assembly, focusing on the work they have done in class. We were treated to some beautiful singing that focused on their Confirmation preparation and how the Holy Spirit is a presence in their lives. My thanks to Miss Newman and Mrs Drewry for all their hard work, and Mrs Vinti for her piano playing too. A brilliant way to end our week. The first line of the final hymn – *we were born for greater things* – rings especially true when considering the idea of vocation. As Pope Benedict XVI said: the world offers you comfort but you were not made for comfort – you were made for greatness.

Golden Book

Reception: Maya Hassan for always showing such a positive attitude towards everything that she does. She has worked very hard this week in Maths, extending and creating AB patterns and forming her numbers with great independence. Maya is so kind and polite around the classroom, she really is an excellent role model!

Year One: Mila Caruana has worked very hard this week. She is always happy and motivated to please and is making lots of progress in all her lessons. She has worked especially hard in Literacy, to ensure that her sentences make sense and her letters are formed correctly making her presentation is lovely! Mila is always polite

and greets every adult with a hello and a big smile. Keep it up, Mila!

Year Two: Phoebe Maxwell-Duffy has been working so incredibly hard the last couple of weeks and she has really stood out to all the teachers! Phoebe is showing great independence in class and has produced some fantastic writing. She is such a hard-working girl who is determined and has excellent perseverance. Well done!

Year Three: Oliver Grange has shown a positive approach to learning in Year Three. He has applied great effort in all his work, most recently in R.E. where he produced a lovely piece of written work explaining why he is one of Jesus's disciples. Oliver always has a positive attitude to his learning and is always willing to help others. A great example to others. Well done, Oliver!

Year Four: Chloe Partridge has worked non-stop this term to ensure that her work is beautifully presented, well thought through and is something that she is proud of producing. She completed some excellent work this week around the Transfiguration and is a great role model of behaviour in the classroom. Keep up the great work!

Year Five: Nicolas Grange for really impressing his teachers over the past two weeks with his work on persuasive writing. He also wrote a great piece on the role of the gladiator from the gladiator's point of view and from the point of view from the crowd. Nicolas has been trying hard to use adventurous vocabulary to up-level his writing in all subjects. Keep up the good work, Nicolas.

Year Six: Danielle Velasquez for constantly striving to be the best that she can be. She listens attentively in lessons and always

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

goes above and beyond in her work. Her written work is always beautifully presented, in depth and extremely thoughtful. Her vocabulary choices are amazing and she always has her reader gripped – we can't wait to read her next piece of writing!

National Poetry Day: 'Refuge'

Last Wednesday, we celebrated National Poetry Day as a school. This Wednesday, we share some of the poems about 'Refuge' with the whole school. Below are some amazing examples that I was proud to read out!

A refuge is coming home to my mother's wide-open arms;

*Eating well done sausages in the morning;
And the love I feel at home.*

A refuge is my mind blossoming in English lessons;

Calculating questions in Maths

Diving back into the past in History,

I find refuge in my caring friends.

A refuge is emerald, green grass;

Wet cucumber, ham and cheddar cheese in a sandwich;

Delicious, crunchy crisps with my lunch.

I have found my refuge.

It's a place where I belong.

My thanks to Oliver Grange, Year Three, and Noah Young, Year Six, for working together to produce this.

Before and After School Club

Please see separate communication sent out to all parents about this. As you are aware, the club is staffed totally by our own school staff but payment was previously facilitated by a third party. Moving forwards, all payments will be taken via School Money to cover staffing costs. If any additional profit is made, this will be used to benefit all children (in much the same way as the PTA operates).

There will be short period of transition for those that pay via HMRC or childcare vouchers but for all others, please use School Money from after half-term. The cost remains the same: £2-50 for a drop off from 7:30, which includes toast; £5 for a pick up between 3:30 and 4:30; £10 for a pick up before 5:30.

PTA AGM

Thanks to all who attended last night's AGM at the parish hall. Congratulations to those who stood for office and were elected.

Chair: Sarah Currington, mother of Alex in Year Three.

Vice-chair: Emily Aston, mother of Ariella in Year Three and Lorenzo in Reception.

Treasurer: Laura Fitzpatrick, mother of Sonny in Year Five, Francis in Year Four, and Tommy in Year Two.

Secretary: Celine Robinson, mother of Amelie in Year Three.

All who were present heard a report of how we raised money (discos, film nights, a quiz night, our raffles and our summer fete) and how it was spent (Christmas pantomime, Christmas gifts, coronation coins keepsake, Easter eggs, First Holy Communion refreshments, ice lollies, parking bollards, playground resurfacing donation, end of year parties, French dictionaries and a donation to the Year Six Leavers' party).

After this expenditure, the closing balance for the year is £4866, which will be supplemented by this year's activities, such as the KS1 / KS2 Disco this term.

PTA Coffee Morning and Reception Parent welcome

Reception parents, look at out for invitations from your child, inviting you to a coffee morning held here at school on Friday 10th November from 9am. All you need to do is turn up and eat cake!

Consider it a way of getting to know our PTA, talking about the upcoming fundraising ideas, and taking a full and active part in the life of our school. All other parents are welcome too, and it is a great way for Reception parents to find like-minded individuals in our parent community.

Building the Kingdom @ St Ambrose Barlow

Last year, in a concerted effort to underpin our curriculum with the essential tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, Mrs Bresnen, Miss Ball and I all received training on how to do this effectively. You will hopefully have seen the effect of this in the past 12 months. Now, every single class-based teaching member of staff is receiving the same training.

One element that the staff have chosen to do is get children to research a more modern saint (or one on the road to sainthood), so each class can adopt a new patron – much in the same vein as we rebranded our house saints. Over half term, each child is to look at the life of one of the following individuals – just so they know the name and the essential elements of their story. Catholics know that November is devoted to remembering the Dead, and they way we can do this at St Ambrose Barlow is to look at someone who has died who is now enjoying eternal life in heaven.

- Reception: John Paul II
- Year 1: Anna Maria Rubbato
- Year 2: Blessed Carlos Acutis
- Year 3: Vincent Romano
- Year 4: Justin Russolillo
- Year 5: Mary MacKillop
- Year 6: Elisabeth Hesselblad

Phonics meetings

There is a Reception Phonics meeting on Wed 25th October at 5:30pm. This will be led by Miss Hodgkins.

There will also be a Phonics and Reading meeting for the parents of children in Year One that will take place at 5:30pm on Wednesday 15th November. This will be led by Mrs Hunt.

Spring Term School trips

These have now been booked but will not appear on School Money until after Christmas. The dates are below for your advanced notice.

Year band	Date	Location	Curriculum link
Rec	Thurs 25 th April	Ash End Farm	Animals
One	27 th or Feb	Back to Back Houses	Victorians
Two	Wed 6 th March	Blakesley Hall	Great Fire of London
Three	Fri 26 th April	Compton Verney	Stone Age
Four	Thurs 25 th Jan	Tamworth Castle	Anglo-Saxons
Five	Thurs 29 th Feb	Black Country Museum	Industrial Revolution
Six	Tues 28 th Nov	St Chad's	Confirmation
	Wed 12 th June	Blackwell Court	Team building

Year Six Secondary Admissions

The deadline is fast approaching. 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>

Please remember that if you are applying to Catholic secondary schools, you will also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (found on each respective school's website) and provide

your child's baptismal certificate, if applicable.

Archbishop Ilsley Opening Mornings

Following a very successful and popular open evening, the school is holding two opening mornings on this coming Tuesday and Wednesday. There is no need to book: simply arrive at the school between 9:15 and 9:30 on either morning. It is a great opportunity to see the school and pupils in actions. The address is 39 Victoria Road, B27 7XY.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Henry in Year Four who was nine on Monday. Happy birthday to Maeve in Year Four who was nine on Wednesday. Happy birthday to Darron, also in Year Four, who is nine today. It sounds like a busy week celebrating in that classroom!



October dates for your diary

Wed 25th October: Reception Phonics meeting 5:30pm

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: PTA Coffee morning 9am

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

Wed 15th Nov: Year One Phonics meeting 5:30pm

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

Tues 28th Nov: Rec and KS1 PTA disco

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

Thurs 30th Nov: KS2 PTA Disco

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 at Church

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 well-deserved weekend break. Nice weather for ducks. God bless,

Mr Clinton