



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 27th October 2023

Dear Parents,

It was a pleasure to have welcomed Reception children to our Gifts from God assembly for the first time this year. They will now join us for every Gospel assembly on Monday and every Gifts from God assembly on Friday.

We have finally reached our half-term break. It seems such a long time since September, and I hope that all children and staff enjoy a well-deserved rest. We return in November with our focus on the faithful departed, before our carol services and nativity practices start in earnest before Advent!

Golden Book

Reception: Caiden Lee for working so hard this week! He has completed all of his work with such a great attitude, contributing in group discussions and trying his very best in everything. Keep up the hard work, Caiden!

Year One: Sebastian Henvey has been a star in recent weeks, consistently impressing everyone with his lovely handwriting and presentation. He is working hard to ensure his sentences are punctuated correctly and the independent writing that he wrote this week was brilliant! Sebastian is becoming more independent in Maths and is growing in confidence every day. Keep it up, Sebastian!

Year Two: Bella Mills is an absolute delight to teach; she is enthusiastic and contributes well to all lessons. She is a brilliant role model to the rest of her peers in class. Bella always has a smile on her

face and she is becoming so confident, especially in Maths. We are so proud of Bella and all of her hard work, keep it up!

Year Three: Abhi Joy Mattapudi for making a real effort to improve his writing. He has shown lots of interest this week in producing longer pieces of writing, concentrating on his presentation making sure he is forming his letters correctly and resting his letters on the line. Keep up the hard work, Joy!

Year Four: Darcie Bucknall for her fantastic work this week. She has shown resilience and determination in Maths, worked really well in her team during Science learning about digestion and she wrote a fantastic information booklet about the Day of the Dead in Literacy. She is always attentive in lessons and shares her wonderful ideas with her classmates.

Year Five: Aaron Arul Stephen for consistently being the best person he can be and demonstrating everything we want from a St Ambrose Barlow pupil. He puts so much thought and effort into his work, both in writing where he tries to think of the best vocabulary and sentence types and in Maths where he can explain articulately how he arrived at an answer. You are a superstar, Aaron!

Year Six: Rory Goddard for being incredibly selfless and kind. Rory is always on hand to help teachers in the classroom, around school and on the playground and gives up lots of his time to support the younger children. Nothing is too much trouble for him - he does small things with great love each and every day, whilst always having a smile on his face. We would be lost without him!

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

*over all of humanity,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Before and After School Club

The school will take payment for Before and After School club via both School Money and via HMRC childcare vouchers. This has now been set up and will start the first day back after half-term.

PTA AGM

Please find attached the minutes from last Thursday's meeting. I want to make clear that every parent and staff member is automatically a member of the PTA. Members can stand for positions of office, which have been filled for this year, but anybody can volunteer to help out at events. I am speaking totally honestly when I say that it is not very onerous at all – many hands make light work!

PTA Coffee Morning and Reception Parent welcome

All are welcome to our PTA coffee morning on Friday 10th November at 9am in the Newman Room. Reception parents are especially welcome – to get to know each other, the PTA, and the school. I am happy to show any parent round after the coffee morning to see the school (and children) in action.

The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Yesterday, Year Five and Year Six had a visit from Jane Crouch, who is a UK member of the Apostolate of The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She gave a wonderful assembly on the Flame of Love, and gifted the children two prayer cards. We said a special version of the Hail Mary, which we will say every day in November for the salvation of souls:

*Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee,
Blessed art Thou amongst women,
and Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
spread the effect of Grace of Thy Flame of Love*

The prayer will be added to our website, as well as the Unity prayer, copied below:

*My Adorable Jesus,
May our feet journey together.
May our hands gather in unity.
May our hearts beat in unison.
May our souls be in harmony.
May our thoughts be as one.
May our ears listen to the silence together.
May our glances profoundly penetrate
each other.
May our lips pray together
to gain mercy from the Eternal Father.
Amen*

Jane had the following to say about our school:

"I thought the children were fantastic and asked lots of questions and I pray they embrace their mission to spread The Flame of Love with others with enthusiasm. I felt great peace at the school and it was an honour to be with you. Thank you for taking the time to take me around the school...I also wanted to mention that I have very recently returned from Sydney, Australia and visited the Museum and Chapel of Saint Mary MacKillop. I see Year 5 will be researching this beautiful saint. This is a great opportunity for children to learn about these saints that will inspire them."

School uniform

Now the clocks are going back this weekend, and we enter into the second part of Autumn term, all children should now be in their winter uniform. This means shirt and tie for **ALL** children. Children should also bring a waterproof coat each day. Polo shirts, summer dresses, and light blue blouses will return after Easter.

Can parents *please* ensure that EVERY SINGLE item of clothing is labelled with a child's name. Thank you.

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Building the Kingdom @ St Ambrose Barlow

Staff have set homework tasks for half-term. November is dedicated to the dead and to the salvation of souls. See below for the focus of each class:

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

To continue our work on Building the Kingdom and to celebrate the Day of the Dead, we would like you to help your child create memory boxes in honour of loved ones that have passed, using a box no bigger than a shoe box. This box represents a space to display all of the wonderful things that remind them of their loved one. They can include photos, candles, flowers, sweets, their favourite foods, any special interests that they may have had or other things that their loved one enjoyed.

If you do not wish to make a box, you could make a poster instead. Your child will be sharing their box/poster with their classmates and they will be displayed on our class prayer areas. Please bring these in during the first two weeks of next half term, up to and including Friday 17th November.

These tasks are, of course, optional and staff understand some losses may still be recent. If school can offer support in any way, please let us know.

Phonics meetings

There is 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.

Parent Questionnaire

This is ready to be sent out after half term. Please answer as honestly as you feel appropriate in an effort to further improve our school provision. Most answers are multiple choice and there is a box to add free text at the end. Answers are totally anonymous!

School Dinner Money

Please ensure that **all** payments are up to date for the half term just passed.

Hall Green Library

- Spooky Crafts Sessions for 5-11 year olds Tuesday 31st October 2 - 4pm
- Halloween Crafts on Thursday 2nd November 2:15 -3:15
- 'Fun with Phonics' workshop for ages 4-5 at Hall Green library on Friday 3rd November 3pm – 4pm

All events are free and I hope that our pupils and parents feel able to take full advantage of all of these events and everything else that Hall Green library has to offer.

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.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Noah PB in Year Five who is ten on Sunday and is suitably celebrating with a week off school.



And over half term....

Happy birthday to all those celebrating over half term, including Florence in Year Three, who will be eight; Corey in Year Six who will be eleven, and Gracie in Year Two who will be seven! Enjoy not being at school!

November dates for your diary

Wed 1st Nov: All Saints Day – Holy Day of Obligation (Mass at 9:30am and 7pm)

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

Mon 27th Nov: SPARKS Year Four Fire Service visit

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

Tues 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

May God bless you over the half-term break.

Mr Clinton