



# 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents,

We started our day today with our usual 'Gifts from God' assembly, at the slightly earlier time so we could release some staff to attend our PTA coffee morning. The, in the afternoon, attending Year Four's class Mass marked a lovely end to the week. My thanks for Father Paul for celebrating with us. His work never ends, as he will lead Year Three's 'Forgiveness' Mass this Sunday at 10am too, to which you are all warmly invited. It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway: we appreciate everything you do for the school, and the parish, Father Paul.

On Monday, we'll start our week with a Remembrance Assembly to remember those who have lost their lives in war.

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Arlo Tranter for being an absolute star! Arlo always shows such a positive attitude and great resilience when completing his activities. Arlo has amazed everyone this week with his amazing writing and applying his phonic knowledge. Well done, Arlo!

**Year One:** Georgia has had the best start to this half term giving 100% to every task she is given. She is working hard to improve her handwriting, while she is beginning to use a range of conjunctions in her writing. She does everything with an enormous smile and she is always positive. Georgia is a brilliant role model and a great friend to everyone. Great work, Georgia!

**Year Two:** Albie Sweet has settled well this week coming back to school. He is coming into school with such a positive

attitude. He perseveres in everything he does and isn't afraid to ask for help. He has become more confident in working independently. It has been so lovely to see the proud look on Albie's face when he answers questions successfully. He has also shown a lot of kindness towards his peers this week. A brilliant start to this half term, Albie – well done!

**Year Three:** Caoimhe McAuley for the determination and resilience that she has shown this week. Even when faced with a challenge Caoimhe does not give up and she always tries her best. She has greeted staff with a smile all week and ensured that she is always listening and participating in class discussions. What a star!

**Year Four:** Jonathan Qui for his wonderful newspaper article on the ending of the Great War in Literacy. He considered the different thoughts and feelings of people that were involved and the impact that the peace treaty would have had on their lives. Well done, Jonathan!

**Year Five:** Jude Goddard for being a pleasure to teach. He listens carefully during lessons which results in wonderful pieces of writing which are full of creativity and adventurous vocabulary. Jude's behaviour inside and outside of the classroom is impeccable and he is an excellent role model for those around him. Well done, Jude!

**Year Six:** Selina Lin for always having absolutely perfectly presented work. Her handwriting is beautiful and she always thinks carefully about how she is setting her work out. This week she produced a particularly brilliant double page spread about 'Dia de los Muertos'. Not only was it beautiful, but it contained lots of detail and fabulous facts.

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

### **Before and After School Club**

My thanks to Mrs Corrigan and Mrs Roberts who have worked tirelessly this week, updating School Money with amounts payable for those who have attended our Morning and After School Club. Further communication will follow during this time of transition.

### **PTA**

Our Coffee Morning, which took place this morning, was a huge success. My thanks to all from the PTA who were involved! it was so good to see so many parents (and staff) attend, especially our newer Reception parents. The focus, as I am sure you are aware, was less on fundraising and more on developing a sense of community for our special school.

### **School uniform**

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

This is especially applicable to Reception children. As I am sure you can imagine, getting 30 four and five year olds changed for PE can be a daunting enough task as it is, without then trying to sort out unnamed items of clothing. All Reception PE kits have been returned home this weekend to ensure everything is labelled!

### **KS1 Pick up at 3:25**

Can I please suggest that younger siblings are picked up first? Often, KS1 are dismissed slightly earlier than KS2, and then collecting younger children first prevents them getting anxious while waiting. Parents can then move onto the KS2 playground if they need to collect older siblings.

### **Currently reading**

I joined Year Five for Literacy this week as they started reading Charles Dickens' '*A Christmas Carol*' and was so impressed by the insight they had into the character of Scrooge at the beginning of the text. Year Six are reading '*Pig Heart Boy*' and Year Four are reading '*The Demon Headmaster*' – no comment! Year Three are currently enjoying '*Stig of the Dump*'.

Year Two are reading '*Prince Cinders*' and Year One are reading '*Zog*'. Every time I go into Reception they are reading a different book - sometimes more than one a day, but avid readers make effective writers so long may this continue!

### **Phonics meeting**

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

### **Parent Questionnaire**

This has now been sent out from our Enquiry address. Please answer as honestly as you feel appropriate, knowing that your feedback is essential in our efforts 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 and will be fed back to the Governing Body.

### **School Dinner Money**

Thanks to all those who have kept their account up to date for the first half of Autumn Term. To those who still need to pay, please do so as soon as possible. School dinners are priced at £2-60 per day and involve a hot meal (or baguette), a dessert, a drink and access to the salad bar. The menus are on our website and there is often an additional choice also! Worth every penny.

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

Happy birthday to Ambrose in Year Three who was eight yesterday; Logan in Year Two was seven yesterday also, and Esmee in Year One was six! Today, Nova in Reception is five and we hope she has a very special day!



### **November dates for your diary**

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year One Phonics meeting 5:30pm

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Five at Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov:** RISE theatre visit for all children

**Tues 21<sup>st</sup> Nov:** Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents 2pm

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** Open Morning for prospective Reception parents 9:30am

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** Year Six at Hall Green library 2pm

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Five Assembly 9:00am

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup>:** Year Six children at Parish hall 10am – 12pm

**Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Six Mass 10am

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Nov:** SPARKS Year Four Fire Service visit

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Six at St Chad's

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Rec and KS1 PTA disco

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Two at Hall Green library 2pm

**Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> Nov:** KS2 PTA Disco

### **December dates for your diary**

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** Year Six (Group One) at Dementia cafe

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 Reconciliation Service 2pm

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year Three First Confession 6pm at Church

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Feast of the Immaculate Conception School Mass Year 1-6 at Church

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year Six (Group Two) at Dementia café

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Reception Nativity 2pm

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS1 Nativity for Year One parents 2pm

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS1 Nativity for Year Two parents 2pm

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 'Starchitects' KS1 at Mac

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Choir / keyboard concert 2pm

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Parish Christmas bazaar 2-4pm\*

**\*(Own clothes day in exchange for 'Bring a Bottle' to be announced)**

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 Carol Service 7pm

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 Old Rep for 'Peter Pan'

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec:** Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas dinner

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** Whole School Mass (including Reception) 9:30

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** School closes for Christmas at 2pm

Please join us on Sunday at 10pm as Year Three lead our parish Mass as part of their Sacramental preparation; this Mass will have the added focus of Remembrance for those who have lost their lives during war.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J Clinton'.

Mr Clinton