



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents,

What a busy day! We have celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception as a school this morning and also hosted our first Nativity of the year this afternoon! Our Reception children have done us proud with their singing, acting and speaking! Superb! My thanks to Mis Hodgkins and Mrs Thompson for all their hard work.

Next week, we host Year One and Year Two parents for their turn and we really cannot wait! At each performance, our prefects and Mini-Vinnies will be serving hot drinks and selling mince pies to collect for our two Advent charities – Father Hudson's and the Catholic Partnership's Rwandan schools project. Please give generously!

Golden Book

Reception: Ava McColgan for being so wonderful in our Nativity production! Ava has amazed everyone with her stage presence, speaking so eloquently and always ensuring that she puts 100% effort into every rehearsal. Well done, Ava, you are a super star!

Year One: Theo Edwards for being motivated to attempt every task with a smile and for continuously growing in confidence and independence. He is especially working hard in his reading and phonics sessions and is blending longer words with confidence. Theo is working hard on his handwriting and he is keen to showcase this in all his lessons. You're a star, Theo!

Year Two: Elena Earp has been trying so hard in everything she does in the last few weeks. She is becoming more confident within herself and is contributing more during lessons. She has been trying really hard learning her lines for the nativity as well and reading them with such expression! Elena has shown an overall positive attitude! Well done, Elena - keep up the hard work!

Year Three: James Smyth for focusing really well this week. He has listened carefully and applied himself fully in all of his work, especially in Maths when solving multiplication and division word problems. Well done, James!

Year Four: Zach Lloyd for the fabulous work that he has produced across this term. He always tries to push himself to produce excellent work and has made connections between several subjects to create excellent pieces of work. Keep up the good work!

Year Five: Callan Kerr for having a really great week! He has shown excellent progress since the start of Year Five and this is because he has been putting 100% effort into everything he does. He has especially impressed his teachers with his Maths work this week; multiplying 3 digit by 2 digit numbers. Keep up the hard work, Callan.

Year Six: Amelia Corcoran for being determined, focused and resilient in all that she does. Amelia always tries her very best with every piece of work and perseveres to ensure that it is the best that it can be. She has a positive attitude to learning and a bright and happy outlook on life, making her an absolute pleasure to teach.

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

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 10th December 2023**



The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Look! I am sending my messenger ahead - he will prepare your way. A voice cries out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People from the land of Judaea and the city of Jerusalem came to him and, as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. But John said, "There is someone else to come - someone who is more powerful than I am. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Year Five this week looked at this very Gospel as part of their RE lesson, studying John the Baptist's voice in the wilderness, making straight the path.

Reconciliation

Congratulations to the children of Year Three who made their First Confession last night in the parish church with Fr Paul. Thank you also to Father Biju, who helped out. Their singing, behaviour, and reverence and was superb throughout!

They have now joined with the rest of Key Stage Two by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of their Advent preparation.

Why not **NOT** buy an extra present?

You should have now received written communication from your child, asking you to buy them one fewer presents this Christmas. If you have not yet, you will!

If this is something that you think is an admirable request, why not donating some or all of the money to school in a sealed envelope? That way, your donations - put

with those from the staff - can go towards paying for the Christmas meal at Brushstrokes, run by Father Hudson's.

School money

Thank you to those parents who keep their account up to date. The school is currently owed £1444.89 on school dinners, £933.50 on our afternoon sports clubs, and £838.50 for our Christmas trips.

This is a total of £3,216.89, which makes it very hard to buy other equipment needed for our pupils. Please endeavour to have settled your account by the end of next week, ready for the start of the new term.

Parish Christmas Fair

This is all booked in for Saturday 16th December, complete with Santa's grotto, various stalls, cake and hot drinks, and a bottle tombola. It starts at 2pm and lasts until 4pm. We have organised an own clothes day for all children (and staff) for Wednesday 13th December, in exchange for a bottle (preferably alcoholic).

INSET Day

School remains closed on Monday 8th January due to staff INSET - training on positive handling and de-escalation techniques. School will re-open for children on Tuesday 9th January, with our Breakfast Club accepting students from 7:30 and our gates opening at 8:45.

School closed for voting

Birmingham's Election Office intend to use the school on Thursday 2nd May for the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Elections. School will be closed to all children on this day.

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Maths INSPIRE workshops

These have been arranged for the Spring term. The format will be a lesson that takes place at 9am in the hall, to which parents are invited, to learn more about the resources we use in school and the teaching methods that the teachers employ. Please see the dates below for advanced notice of when the workshops are taking place:

Tues 16th Jan:	Year Six
Thurs 18th Jan:	Year Five
Tues 23rd Jan:	Year Four
Thurs 25th Jan:	Year Three
Tues 30th Jan:	Year One
Thurs 1st Feb:	Year Two
Tues 6th Feb:	Reception

Birthdays this week...

Double trouble! Happy birthday to Eugene and Edward in Year Four who both turned nine on Monday (and kicked off our Assembly Advent book calendar as a treat). Happy birthday to Maria in Year Two who turned seven on Tuesday, and happy birthday to Francis in Year Two who is seven tomorrow.



December dates for your diary

Mon 11th Dec: KS1 Nativity for Year One parents 2pm
Tues 12th Dec: KS1 Nativity for Year Two parents 2pm
Wed 13th Dec: Own clothes day in exchange for 'Bring a Bottle'
Fri 15th Dec: 'Starchitects' KS1 at Mac
Fri 15th Dec: Choir / keyboard concert 2pm
Sat 16th Dec: Parish Christmas bazaar 2-4pm*
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

January dates for your diary

Mon 8th Jan: School closed for staff INSET
Tues 9th Jan: School re-opens for children
Thurs 11th Jan: Year Six Parent Meeting 6pm parish hall
Fri 12th Jan: First Mass of New Year 9:30am at church
Sat 13th Jan: Year Six children Confirmation workshop 10am-12pm
Sun 14th Jan: Year Six Mass 10am
Tues 16th Jan: Year Six Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am
Thurs 18th Jan: Year Five Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am
Fri 19th Jan: Year Four class assembly 9am
Fri 19th Jan: Year Six Confirmation sponsor workshop 2pm
Fri 19th Jan: Year Six Confirmation 7pm
Tues 23rd Jan: Year Four Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am
Wed 24th Jan: School choir at Young Voices
Thurs 25th Jan: Year Three Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am
Fri 26th Jan: Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm

Please, also, get well Mrs Thorne, who is recovering from a nasty bout of double pneumonia. She normally proof reads my newsletters and I'm lost without her. Any mistakes this week are my own!

Thank you, parents and children, for another wonderful week of work in the run up to Christmas. The end of term gets busier and busier. The staff tonight will enjoy their Christmas party at the hallowed turf of Villa Park but will surely be recovered by Monday to welcome children back to school for a frantic final two weeks of term.

Mr Clinton