



# 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents,

Happy new year! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. It was a delight to welcome the children back on Tuesday, looking so smart in their uniforms.

We have started the new calendar with a Mass for the staff on Wednesday afternoon and then a whole school Mass for the staff and children this morning. Thanks to Father Paul for celebrating both with us. As usual, the reading and singing were superb and lifted the soul! As St Augustine says, he who sings prays twice, and singing really is a strength of the school!

### Golden Book

**Reception:** Nova Milford-Mardenborough for working so independently all week! She has worked tremendously hard in all of her work, showing resilience and always trying her very best. This week, Nova has produced a wonderful piece of work, retelling the Christmas story in great detail. Nova, you are a super star!

**Year One:** Iyzah Hussain for coming back to school with a brilliant 'can do' attitude and attempting every task with an enormous smile. She has worked hard to use her phonics in her writing and her handwriting is coming on nicely. Iyzah also illustrated a lovely Christmas Nativity scene, including key people and symbols. Great first week back, Iyzah - well done!

**Year Two:** Alec Burns has made a really pleasing start this year, he is already starting to show a lot more independence and isn't afraid to ask for help. Alec has

been contributing to lessons a lot more and always has a smile on his face. He is already demonstrating our values and virtues for this half term by being a great friend to all! I am so impressed with the start he has made already. Well done, Alec - keep it up!

**Year Three:** Rico Augustus for having a fantastic first week back at school. He has listened well and shown enthusiasm in all subjects. Rico has worked especially hard during maths lessons, showing resilience and independence when faced with new methods during our division lessons. Keep it up, Rico!

**Year Four:** Martha Coughlan for her fantastic attitude to learning and her commitment to the values and virtues of this school. She has produced some wonderful pieces of work around the Christmas story really getting into the thoughts and feelings of the characters involved.

**Year Five:** Charlie McNally for a great first week back. He has impressed his teachers with some excellent vocabulary in his writing based on 'Refuge' by Anne Booth and his handwriting this week has been wonderful. Charlie always has his hand up ready to contribute to all lessons. Keep up the great work, Charlie!

**Year Six:** Nico Hansa for his endless enthusiasm and love of learning. Nico always displays the most positive attitude towards his work and loves a challenge. He is always eager to share his knowledge with others during class discussions and is generous with his time, helping his classmates if they are stuck.

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

### A note from the PTA

If you have any 'unwanted gifts' from Christmas, in new/unused condition, the PTA are asking for donations next Friday (19th), where they will be collecting on the gate. There are also exciting plans afoot for coffee mornings (watch this space), Easter hamper raffles, Easter bonnet parades, a 'bounce' day' for our leap year and, most excitingly (with the help of the parish), perhaps even a minibus!

### INSPIRE Workshops

These begin next week. Parents, on your allocated day, please come straight to the hall after drop off for a warm drink. The format of the session will be an ordinary lesson, so you can see how we teach Maths and be familiar with the methods we use and the type of questions we ask. Do not panic – children do all the hard work!

### Year Six Confirmation

This will take place next Friday evening and all are welcome to join us for this joint parish and school celebration. Today, Year Six have enjoyed their workshop and next Friday, they will be joined by their sponsors and Bishop David in school for their final workshop.

### Measles

Measles is spreading rapidly through our communities in Birmingham. You may have seen reports about this in the news last night in the [Birmingham Mail](#) and on the [BBC](#).

Measles is a dangerous disease that can be life-threatening but is preventable. If your child is not already vaccinated, please address this!

1. Measles is a highly infectious illness that can result in serious complications and death in unvaccinated people.
2. People are contagious from 4 days before they get the rash, to 4 days after the appearance of the rash. One

person who has measles will infect 9 out of 10 of their close unvaccinated contacts, including unvaccinated babies.

3. Measles is a preventable disease, and having two doses of the MMR vaccination (measles, mumps and rubella) gives 99% life-long protection.
4. MMR is part of the NHS Routine Childhood Immunisation Programme, with children receiving vaccinations at **1 year and 3 years 4 months**.
5. The MMR vaccine is safe and available as a halal, gelatin-free injection from your GP.
6. Unvaccinated babies, pregnant women, children with cancer and low immunity due to other serious health conditions are most at risk and need to be protected.
7. Many children in our community have missed their vaccinations since the start of COVID, but they are still able to get free vaccinations through their GP.
8. Families who think their child may have measles need to isolate, contact their GP by phone for advice and not attend healthcare settings, unless unavoidable. If attending your GP or A&E, please call ahead and explain the situation so they isolate you can keep everyone safe.

### Think **Measles**



Measles is **highly infectious** and can lead to complications, especially in **vulnerable, immunocompromised or pregnant people**.

Being in the same room as someone with measles for **more than 15 minutes** is a significant exposure.

Measles symptoms can include:

- High fever
- Sore, red, watery eyes
- Coughing and/or runny nose
- Small red spots with bluish-white centres inside the mouth
- A red-brown blotchy rash, which appears after several days.



### Think **Measles**



- 1 If measles symptoms are suspected, patients should **isolate and not attend any setting in person**, including A&E and GPs.
- 2 Patients should **call their GP practice** who will screen and triage over the phone, or make arrangements for treatment.
- 3 Any spaces where someone with suspected measles was should be **thoroughly cleaned** before being used.
- 4 If anyone is **unsure of their immunity status**, they should speak to their GP practice.
- 5 **Anyone of any age can get a catch up MMR vaccine** for free via their GP practice.



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

Happy birthday to Danielle, Year Six, who was eleven on Monday, to Mikey (also in Year Six) who was eleven on Thursday, and Tierney, also in Year Six, who is eleven on Sunday. A busy week in that classroom!



### **January dates for your diary**

**Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six children Confirmation workshop 10am-12pm

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six Mass 10am

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Five Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Four class assembly 9am

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six Confirmation sponsor workshop 2pm

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six Confirmation 7pm

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** Year Four Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Jan:** School choir at Young Voices

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Three Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm

### **February dates for your diary**

**Thurs 1st Feb:** Year Two Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Reception Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Three Class assembly 9am

**Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Break up for half-term at 3:30pm

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** Year Six Class Mass 2:30pm

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Five @ Black Country Museum

### **March dates for your diary**

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Year Three at Parish hall 10am-12pm

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Year Three to lead Sunday Mass 10am

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Two trip @ Blakesley Hall

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Parent Consultations

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March:** Year Two Class Assembly

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three to lead Palm Sunday Procession

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three Holy Week Assembly (Palm Sunday)

**Tues 26<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Four Holy Week Assembly (The Last Supper)

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Five Holy Week assembly (Gethsemane)

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Six Holy Week Assembly (Stations of the Cross)

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March:** Break up at 2pm (No After School Club)

Year Six are leading our Mass on Sunday in preparation for their Confirmation next Friday so please join them and keep them in your prayers this coming week.

Mr Clinton