



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents,

You will have noticed that we are having a bit of work done around school. This is being funded by the local authority to make us more accessible for any pupils we may have with additional needs, which involves work around our toilet block and the installation of a new shower and changing table. The demolition and construction work should not have an impact on our children too much but, if you do see men in high-viz jackets around, be sure to make them welcome. They have been very accommodating and friendly so far and they are lucky that I find the noise of constant drilling and hammering right outside my office quite relaxing.

Also, some great news about our successful fundraising. Please read on to find more...

Golden Book

Reception: Isla Caughey for showing so much confidence when completing her activities this week! Isla has impressed us with her growing independence and can do attitude. She has produced some wonderful pieces of work that she should be very proud of!

Year One: Theresa Joseph for her brilliant attitude towards learning, she attempts every task she is given with confidence and a positive attitude. She is the perfect example of this half terms Virtues and Values: compassionate and loving as she is such a kind friend to everyone in the class. Her handwriting is beautiful demonstrating brilliant letter sizes and her

sentence content is fantastic. Super work, Theresa!

Year Two: Aibhlinn Brady is an 'always' child. She is constantly doing the right thing, she listens carefully to every instruction given and she is always on task. She is beginning to show more stamina within her writing and has written a fantastic explorer story this week. Aibhlinn also takes such care with her work to make she sure is correct. She is such a role model to everyone in the class and is kind and caring to all her friends. We are so proud of Aibhlinn and everything she is achieving at the moment. Well done!

Year Three: Oliver Grange for always listening attentively, contributing to class discussions and putting in 100% effort. As soon as he comes into class in the morning, he settles down to his Maths work, focusing on the task while ensuring that his presentation is of a high standard. Well done, Oliver!

Year Four: Cynthia Cunnachie for her amazing dedication during Maths lessons; she is always keen to share her mathematical reasoning with the class and her confidence has developed so much since September. Keep up this inspiring effort, Cynthia!

Year Five: Maxim Griffiths for always being so reliable. Max listens very well 100% of the time and always produces work to the best of his ability. His writing based around the genre of Sci-fi has been particularly enjoyable to read with lots of futuristic language and sentence types.

Year Six: Seamus Griffin for his excellent writing this week. Seamus wrote a fantastic biography all about Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, full of fascinating facts

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which he had researched himself. His vocabulary choices in his writing are always excellent and he has been working very hard to improve the accuracy of his spelling and punctuation. He has also edited his work independently. The result: a piece of writing which was an absolute pleasure to read!

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 4th February 2024**



On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many evil spirits, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there.

There is no doubt that illness, grief and difficulties are a fact of life but, as St Thomas More says, "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal."

God's eternal knowledge and care for me

I love sharing work from any of our children – my office cupboards are full of examples of work that stand out, and children are often sent to me to share their latest offerings.

Below is a fantastic prayer written from by Noel, based on psalm 139:

*Lord, you know me from the inside out.
You know my thoughts and my actions.
You know me more than I do myself.
You know my future and my future
choices.*

*You are beyond my understanding.
You have a sense of where I am at all
times.*

You can see me in any place.

Even in the darkest of times,

You can see like its day.

You are there to lead me.

You have carefully crafted me, day by day.

You know what I am thinking.

You are always with me.

Everything you do is wonderful;

You love me every day

And I eternally love you.

BCFC vs Sunderland

Thanks to all who applied for our tickets. We had plenty of families who asked and have managed to secure almost 150 tickets. The tickets will be collected from the ground before the game takes place but I will share more details next week, once finalised.

World Book Day – a message from Mrs Healy

On Thursday 7th March 2024, it is one of our most favourite days of the year: World Book Day! It takes place every year and it is a real celebration of the joy of reading which is such a priority here at school. Every year on World Book Day, we are overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our school community.

Just like in previous years, we are encouraging children to dress up as their favourite book character. We want children to share their favourite books and, as always says, homemade are more fun and more effective than shop bought – please don't feel like you have to spend any money! If you are having any difficulty thinking of a costume, why not dress up as a Dalmatian from 101 Dalmatians? This is what the staff will be doing, though it is currently undecided who will play Cruella! It would be fantastic to have as many Dalmatians as possible.

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As in previous years we will have lots of fun activities planned throughout the day including:

- reading buddies from each year group to read with their partners.
- special guests to read to them throughout the day. Please let us know if you would like to join us and read to a class.
- Fun whole school interactive quiz
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We are very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers - thank you.

School Council

On Wednesday the 24th, Mrs Fayaz held a school council meeting. During that meeting, the children discussed how we can raise money for our school charities by recycling, and how this will help our environment by sending less to landfill. Councillors also requested that we go litter picking in our local streets to keep our area clean and tidy and work with our community. All involved were very enthusiastic and really want closer links with our neighbours, celebrating our wider community. Brilliant to see such leadership in action.

A very special Mass

Shannon Rice, who runs Adventure Grove for us and supports us in school with role play and language acquisition, is getting married! She doesn't like a fuss but, unfortunately for her, we do! Next Friday at 2pm we will be having a whole school Mass to celebrate her upcoming nuptials (taking place on 15th February in Galway, Ireland). Shannon has invited her parents and staff from other schools she is involved in. If parents wish to attend also, you are more than welcome!

Good things come to those who wait...

Some time ago, I shared a future wish with the PTA that we have our own minibus here in school – it would help with our attendance at sports events and also enable us to undertake more local visits and trips. It could be used for swimming lesson transport, and also be utilised by other community groups. For a long while, it remained just that: wishful thinking.

The PTA pledged to help support this plan and to fundraise, with proceeds for future Summer Fetes contributing to the amount needed. It was to be a long-term plan involving three or four years of careful budgeting. Incredibly, over Christmas, word reached me that another school were looking to upgrade their minibus fleet and therefore were selling a spare.

It seemed too good to be true, but the stars aligned perfectly and Mrs Bresnen and I went to visit the school and see the minibus. It was in excellent condition and very reasonably priced. The PTA agreed to pledge an amount towards the total cost and Father Paul has also made a very generous offering from parish funds, with school making up the remaining amount.

The plan is this: the school will use the bus for sports and, in the future, swimming; meanwhile, the parish will use it for SVP activities and transport for parishioners. We honestly could not have done it without these two separate bodies – the parent body and the parish community – coming together to support our school and our children. This really is evidence of the Holy Spirit in action.

Punctuality

Can parents please ensure that every child is on site by 8:55, when the gate closes? This is the start of the school day. There are activities in the classroom from 8:45 until 8:55 and, if your child is not present

for these, they are missing out on valuable learning. If your child arrives after 8:55, there are marked late on our system. This affects attendance and can lead to a referral to the local authority and our Education Welfare Officer.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Conall in Year Three who was eight on Wednesday. Happy birthday to Daniel in Year One who is six today and happy birthday to Harry in Reception who turns five. On Sunday, Ella in Year One turns six. Happy birthday to all who have celebrated this week, including the author of this newsletter who was serenaded in assembly on Monday.



February dates for your diary

Tues 6th Feb: Reception Maths INSPIRE workshop 9am
Tues 6th Feb: PTA KS1 Disco
Thurs 8th Feb: Year Four @ Hall Green Library 2pm
Thurs 8th Feb: PTA KS2 Disco
Fri 9th Feb: Year Three Class assembly 9am
Fri 9th Feb: Whole Mass at 2pm for Shannon Rice
Fri 9th Feb: Break up for half-term at 3:30pm
Mon 19th Feb: Return to school
Thurs 22nd Feb: Year Three @ Hall Green Library 2pm
Fri 23rd Feb: Year Six Class Mass 2:30pm
Tues 27th Feb: Year One @ 'Back to Back Houses'
Thurs 29th Feb: Year Five @ Black Country Museum
Thurs 29th Feb: Year Two @ Hall Green Library 2pm

March dates for your diary

Sat 2nd March: Year Three at Parish hall 10am-12pm
Sun 3rd March: Year Three to lead Sunday Mass 10am
Wed 6th March: Year Two trip @ Blakesley Hall
Thurs 7th March: World Book Day
Thurs 7th March: Year Six @ Hall Green Library 2pm
Thurs 14th March: Year Five @ Hall Green Library 2pm
Mon 18th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30
Wed 20th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30
Thurs 21st March: Year Four @ Hall Green Library 2pm
Fri 22nd March: Year Two Class Assembly
Sun 24th March: Year Three to lead Palm Sunday Procession
Mon 25th March: Year Three Holy Week Assembly (Palm Sunday)
Tues 26th March: Year Four Holy Week Assembly (The Last Supper)
Wed 27th March: Year Five Holy Week assembly (Gethsemane)
Thurs 28th March: Year Six Holy Week Assembly (Stations of the Cross)
Thurs 28th March: Break up at 2pm (No After School Club)

Another busy and rewarding week done. Have a good weekend, all. God bless.

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

Mr Clinton