



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents,



During Monday's assembly, we looked at how the virtues of being faith-filled and hopeful can bring about a better world. We examined the example of St Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and how they were motivated to help the poor.

This Lent, we are actively supporting St Chad's Sanctuary – a safe place for those new to the country – by donating tinned goods. Please, give what you can spare. Our collection is slowly building up. Our Year Six led the way, with Liam and Dani and Erin setting the example by covering the class prayer table with their goods on Tuesday. We are also supporting CAFOD, like the parish, and Father Hudson's.

On the note of Year Six, Father Paul has celebrated their class Mass this afternoon. Thanks to him, and to all the parents who attended!

Golden Book

Reception: Lylah-Rose Holsey for consistently working hard this week. She has shown great listening skills by following instructions and our rules around the classroom. Lylah-Rose has been fantastic at making good choices and encouraging her peers to do the same. Keep up the hard work, Lylah-Rose!

Year One: Ella Mynett for writing a fantastic recount of the Three Little Pigs. She included a great range of adjectives, conjunctions and explored the use of an exclamation mark. Ella's attitude to learning is brilliant and she attempts every task head on and with a great big smile. Ella is a kind friend and is a brilliant role model. Keep it up, Ella!

Year Two: Edward Newton has made a brilliant start after coming back from half term. His sentence structure is really improving and he is thinking carefully about what he is writing, taking his time to convey his ideas! His work is becoming neat and tidy and he is taking so much pride in his work. Miss Hookes is really impressed - keep it up, Edward!

Year Three: Enda McGillicuddy for being focused in everything that he has done this week, showing a determination to succeed. He has listened well and joined in with class discussions. He has been kind and considerate towards his friends, showing love and respect to them. Keep up the superb work, Enda!

Year Four: Nevaeh Osbourne for the concentration and pride that she has taken with her work and presentation this week. She has made every effort to respond to feedback given and has produced several pieces of work that she is proud of and has wanted to share with her peers. Keep this up, Nevaeh!

Year Five: Lauren Hughes for impressing her teachers greatly during Maths this week. Lauren has been able to independently convert fractions to the same denominator in order to add them together and then change the improper

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fraction into a mixed fraction! Well done, Lauren. Keep up the hard word!

Year Six: Macy Melland for working to the best of her ability each and every day. Macy's Maths work is always excellent - she works quickly and logically and can explain her reasoning. She has made super progress with her writing recently and this week has written a wonderful autobiography which was both informative and entertaining. To top it all off, she is a fantastic artist and her work is always beautifully presented.

PTA treat 'Bounce Day'

To mark the leap year, the PTA have organised a bounce day: two inflatables in the hall – a bouncy castle and assault course. This will take place on Wednesday 28th March. In exchange, we are asking for coloured gifts for our raffle. Please see below for communication from Mrs Currington, our chair:

To celebrate the leap year, the PTA will be hosting an inflatable fun day at school on the 28th Feb! It will also be own clothes day so the children can have fun in comfy clothes! In exchange, we are asking for a donation of a coloured item for our 'Easter Hamper' raffle. We are looking for items in your allocated colour such as chocolate, stationary, candles, games, drinks, books etc. We will then make up beautiful hampers ready for the raffle.

Your class colours are as follows:

Reception - Red

Year 1 - Blue

Year 2 - Yellow

Year 3 - Orange

Year 4 - Pink

Year 5 - Purple

Year 6 – Green

Any questions please ask your class rep!

Thanks in advance for your continued support and generosity.

Date for your diary: Saturday 29th June 2024 has been provisionally set for our Summer Fete! Keep it free!

World Book Day

A reminder that this will take place on Thursday 7th March and children can be in fancy dress as any book character or, for ease, just as a dalmatian! That said, being a dalmatian isn't easy – maybe just a white face with painted black spots and a white t-shirt?

BCFC vs Sunderland

Wonderful that our children and parents saw the Boys in Royal Blue overcome conceding an early goal to emerge as the eventual victors. It was a real pleasure to watch and spend time with our families and past pupils too. I believe that is two wins in two now, but normal service will surely resume soon.

INSET

This is taking place on Monday 11th March and school will be closed to all pupils. The date has been on the website for some time. This is the fourth of the staff's training days this year and the focus this time is on our Special Educational Needs provision, and our wider foundation curriculum.

Year Five and Six Residential: May 2025

There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday 12th March (the day after our INSET) at 5:30pm to share plans for the residential that has been provisionally booked for May 2025. **It is for ALL and ANY parents from children currently in Year Five and Year Four.** As before, there are two options: a five-day trip to Paris and a three-day UK residential. At the meeting, any questions regarding cost and staffing can be raised. We ran both trips in May 2023 to huge success.

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Swimming

Year Two continue their swimming lessons for this term, and Year Six start after Easter. Please ensure that swimming kits – including swimming hats and goggles – are in school every Tuesday and, like any other lesson, all children should be participating.

Absence

Our policy is that parents have to **call in** on each and every morning of the absence. This is so staff can update the registers accordingly. It is perfectly fine to leave a message on the answer phone. **Please do not send emails in.**

School Council

Our School Council really enjoyed looking at the options for other food providers. They learnt about sustainability (fitting in with our approach to 'Live Simply') and enjoyed such meals as Thai green curry, broccoli and pasta bake, beef in gravy, pork meatballs, and sticky toffee pudding and chocolate brownies for dessert.

Mini Vinnies

Thanks to the executive committee who have planned our fundraising focus for each week – plans involve a sponsored

walk, an Easter bonnet parade (whole school), celebrating St Patrick's Day, a Games afternoon, and a day without electricity, and an odd socks/shoes/crazy hair day. Great work, team. Throughout Lent, as mentioned, we are always collecting tinned goods to pass to St Chad's Sanctuary.



Punctuality

A huge improvement! Thanks to all who are arriving before the gate shuts at 8:55 – valuable learning time is taking place and it really aids the start to the school day. Much appreciated!

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Archie in Year One who was six on Monday and happy birthday to Evelyn in Year Five who turned ten on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Edward in Year Two celebrated his seventh birthday. Today, Ailbhe in Year Three turns eight and tomorrow, Bronagh in Year Five will turn ten. Happy birthday to all!



February dates for your diary

Tues 27th Feb: Year One @ 'Back to Back Houses'

Wed 28th Feb: PTA 'Bounce' day for coloured raffle items

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

Tues 5th March: Year Six @ Hall Green Library 2pm

Wed 6th March: Year Two trip @ Blakesley Hall

Thurs 7th March: World Book Day

Mon 11th March: INSET – school closed to all pupils.

Tues 12th March: Meeting for parents of children in Year Four and Five re: 2025 residential

Thurs 14th March: Year Five @ Hall Green Library 2pm

Fri 15th March: £1 own clothes for St Patrick's Day
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)

If Mrs Deneny is reading this (and she surely will be), I really hope Nottingham Forest fail to leave the fortress that is Villa Park with anything at all. I shall be watching closely.

Have a wonderful weekend, all, and we shall see you on Monday morning.

J Clinton

Mr Clinton