



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 14th March 2024

Dear Parents,

I want to start by thanking you for all the hats (and gloves and scarves) that were donated last Friday. They were picked up yesterday and are currently making their way to Calais with a group of young adults, who are putting their faith into action in the most direct way by helping to support those who need it most. Parents, this work literally could not have happened without your support.

Father Paul has joined us today for Year One's Mass this afternoon. I can only apologise for missing it off the diary dates so if you have managed to make it at such short notice, your attendance has been greatly appreciated. This morning, we celebrated our children's gifts and talents with our termly choir and keyboard concert, which is always a joy to witness. Nothing beats dancing like a 'spring chicken' on a drizzly Friday morning!

Finally, thanks again for your donations for St Patrick's Day. These have all been gratefully received and I will share the total for all our Lenten fundraising once the amounts have been counted.

Golden Book

Reception: Ariella Farrell for always putting in 100% effort into all that she does. Ariella always completes tasks with lots of enthusiasm and gives everything a go with a smile on her face. She has produced some fantastic work in all areas

this week with some excellent ideas! Well done, Ariella!

Year One: Freya Bucknall for having a brilliant 'can do' attitude this week. She has written a fabulous letter to the Three Little Pigs from the Big Bad Wolf, working hard to use capital letters and full stops in all her sentences. Freya has been working so hard in her phonics lessons to recognise the sounds in words. Her confidence and independence are growing every day and it is fabulous to see. Super work this week, Freya!

Year Two: Finley Dewell has been working really hard in all his lessons this week. In particular, Finley has stood out because of his work ethic. He is really taking his time and not rushing. This week, we have written a recount of our day at Blakesley Hall and Finley has made sure to check every sentence he has written before continuing. This is a fantastic skill to have. Keep it up, Finley. Well done!

Year Three: Ailbhe Lillington for being enthusiastic and positive in everything that she does. This week she has worked hard and contributed to class discussions. She has listened well and applied all her new knowledge in her work. Ailbhe has been a helpful and considerate member of the class. Well done, Ailbhe!

Year Four: Abel Smith for his attitude to learning this week, he Co-planned a lovely liturgy and has produced some well thought through pieces in RE. I'm really looking forward to reading his non-chronological report that he has started. Well done, Abel!

Year Five: Cian Nevin for always challenging himself during Maths lessons. He pushes himself to complete as many journal activities as he can and is working

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hard to develop his problem solving and reasoning skills. He has also been a great role model for younger pupils when helping them to play tennis at lunch time.

Year Six: Helena Nadolna for always going above and beyond with her work. She works quickly, accurately and logically in maths and is keen to share her knowledge with the class. Her writing is always a pleasure to read - she uses excellent vocabulary and makes her writing exciting for the reader. She is an all-round fantastic role model for her attitude to learning and her behaviour.

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 17th March 2024**



Jesus said, "Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves their life loses it; anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. Whoever serves me, must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour them. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself." By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Parent Consultations

Appointments will take place next week in the hall. Children can be present in the hall but please refrain from allowing them to join the actual appointments. Also, please take the opportunity to view your child's work in their classroom. Mrs Bresnen and myself will be bringing regular refreshments round to staff and will be on hand if you wish to discuss any aspect of school life here.

INSET

This was a great opportunity to address our foundation curriculum. We started with Father Paul celebrating Mass and giving a lesson from the lectern about the origin of the word 'curricula' and how it related to a chariot and the course of a race it may take! We split into two groups: Miss Traynor leading the support staff in effective interventions for our different groups of children, and teachers who were working on our foundation curriculum – specifically, History, Geography, Art and DT.

Year Five and Six Residential: May 2025

Thanks to all those parents who attended. I will pencil in a further meeting late this year once we have confirmed numbers. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please direct them to either Mrs Bresnen or myself.

Other Faiths Week

In addition to our Parent Consultations taking place, next week is also a week devoted to looking at other faiths. Reception will look at our own Catholic faith and enjoy a tour of our own parish Church on Thursday 21st March. Year One will look at another Catholic church and visit Olton Friary on Wednesday 20th March at 10:15; Year Two will look at a different Christian church (the Church of the Ascension) on Fox Hollies Road on Tuesday 19th March at 1:30pm.

Year Three will visit the Hindu Temple on Tuesday 19th March. Year Four will visit Singers Hill Synagogue and learn about the Jewish faith on the afternoon of Tuesday 26th March. Year Five will learn about the Sikh faith at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara on Wednesday 20th March. Year Six will learn about the Muslim faith at the Birmingham Central Mosque on Thursday 21st March.

Holy Week

We remain open for Holy Week, as we organise our school calendar dates around the liturgical year, rather than the secular term dates of the local authority. This has long been a decision of the Governing Body and I hope it continues to be. Every day during Holy Week, we will start with a short child-led reflection and drama. All parents are welcome. It really is a lovely and spiritual way of reflecting on the days before the crucifixion and resurrection.

Easter Bonnet Parade

Parents of Reception, Year One and Year Two are invited to join us to watch their child strut their stuff on Friday 22nd March. I promise you, it is great fun! If any KS2 wish to take part too, they can also parade their home-made hats for all to see. Unfortunately, there will not be room to host the parents of KS2 children in the hall though. I did consider having it outside but this necessitates a bad weather plan, which would mean a reversion to being indoors and limit space. I have about as much faith in the British spring weather as the next person...

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Aadvik in Reception who was five on Monday (and thanks for the delicious chocolate too). Happy birthday to Logan in Year Six who was eleven on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Elliot in Reception who is five tomorrow, and happy birthday also to Oscar in Year Two who is seven on Sunday.



March dates for your diary

Mon 18th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30

Tues 19th March: Year Three at Hindi Mandir 10:30am; Year Two at Church of the Ascension at 1:30pm

Wed 20th March: Year One at Olton Friary 10:15; Year Five at Guru Nanak Gurdwara 10:30am

Wed 20th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30

Thurs 21st March: Reception at St Ambrose Barlow parish church; Year Six at Birmingham Central Mosque 10:30am

Thurs 21st March: Year Four Singers Hill Jewish Synagogue; Year Four @ Hall Green Library 2pm

Fri 22nd March: Year Two Class Assembly 9am; Easter bonnet parade 2pm

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); board game day; break up at 2pm (No After School Club)

April dates for your diary

Mon 15th April: School re-opens for all children

Fri 19th April: Whole School Mass 9:30am; sponsorship walk – parents are welcome to join.

Wed 24th April: Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE workshop 9am

Thurs 25th April: Reception at Ash End Farm

Fri 26th April: Year Three @ Compton Verney

May dates for your diary

Thurs 2nd May: School closed for voting

Sat 4th May: First Holy Communion Masses
@ 10am and 11:30am

Mon 6th May: School closed for May Day

Thurs 9th May: Whole School Mass for
Ascension 9:30

Fri 10th May: May Procession 2pm –
parents invited

Fri 17th May: Year One Assembly 9am

Fri 24th May: Break up at 3:30pm

June dates for your diary

Fri 7th June: Whole School Mass (Sacred
Heart) 9:30am

Sun 9th June: Corpus Christi Procession
after 10am Mass

Wed 12th June: Year Six to Blackwell Court

Fri 14th June: Reception Class Mass 2pm

Sun 16th June: Going Forth Mass and
Communion Breakfast 10am

Thurs 20th June: Year Three and Year Six
parents Sacramental Programme
evaluation 6pm Parish hall

Fri 21st June: Sports Day TBC

Thurs 27th June: Family Mass 5pm

Fri 28th June: Reception Assembly

Sat 29th June: Summer Fete

July dates for your diary

Wed 3rd July: Transition Day

Fri 12th July: Reports given out

Fri 19th July: Leavers' Mass 9:30am

Fri 19th July: Break up at 2pm

Happy St Patrick's Day for Sunday. Enjoy
the parade if you are going! See you on
Monday.

God bless,



Mr Clinton

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