



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

[www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

[enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk)

@SAB\_B28

St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It has only been three days but, already, the summer holidays are a distant memory! It has been fantastic to see all our children return – rested and energised – from their summer break. We have welcomed five new starters to our special school family – Isabel in Year Six; Kadey-Mae, Ellie-Mae, and Morgan in Year Five; and Callie-Anne in Year Two. They have fitted in so well already and I am sure they will be very happy joining our extended family. We have also welcomed our new Reception starters for their first settling in sessions this Thursday and Friday and they will start their extended sessions from Monday.

### **Golden Book**

As you are no doubt aware, our working week here in school is bookended by two assemblies: our Gospel assembly on Monday morning, which frames our approach for the week, and our Gifts from God assembly, where we celebrate all our gifts and talents that give glory to God. Below are the children who have made it into the Golden Book for outstanding effort during the first few days of the new academic year.

**Year One:** Harry Watters for settling into Year One so well. He has tried his best in everything that he has done and presented his work beautifully in his Maths book. Harry has listened carefully

to all of the instructions and put his hand up to answer lots of questions! Well done, Harry!

**Year Two:** Callie-Anne Hudson has made a great start to the year! I am so pleased she has joined our school and class. She has settled in amazingly and already made some lovely friendships. She is confident in class and is contributing and applying herself well to all lessons. We are so pleased to see her come in every morning with a smile on her face ready to learn and get going. Well done, Callie-Anne!

**Year Three:** Francis Corcoran for having an excellent first few days back at school. He has shown some super listening skills and followed instructions brilliantly. He also really impressed his teachers by counting in hundreds and completing his flashback 4 in maths independently.

**Year Four:** Vinnie Shaw for starting this year as he means to go on. He has produced some excellent work about our Patron Saint in RE this week; he is making lots of effort with his presentation and we are so looking forward to seeing the marvellous work he will produce this year.

**Year Five:** Kadey-Mae, Ellie-Mae, and Morgan for settling in so well to Year Five. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome you this week!

**Year Six:** Isabel has made a terrific start in Year Six. She has made friends quickly and settled down to working hard alongside her peers on her table

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and in class. She loves Science and is looking forward to her first lesson next week. Well done, Isabel!

### **Reception**

We have welcomed our new Reception children this week for their two settling in sessions. On Monday, the first group will attend a slightly shorter school day for two days. Then, on Wednesday and Thursday, the second group will have a similar experience. All Reception will attend together on Friday and then, from the following Monday, all children will attend from 8:45 until 3:30 – please make every effort possible to welcome our new children and parents.

Parent, please ensure all new uniform (shoes, coats, bags, etc.) are labelled clearly!

### **Prefects and Head Boy / Girl**

Miss Newman has spoken to Year Six about the different ways the children can serve the school this year, whether that be leading the Eco-council, leading or being part of the Liturgy team, standing as the President of the Mini-Vinnies, being a prefect, or being Head Boy or Girl. Appointments will be announced in the next newsletter.

Children in KS1 and KS2 can also stand for election to the School Council, and children in KS2 can be chosen to be part of the Liturgy Leaders team.

### **Wednesday Word**

While Jesus was travelling towards the Sea of Galilee, they brought him a deaf man who could hardly talk; and they asked Jesus to lay his hand on him. Jesus took the man away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then, looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, "Be opened." At once the man could hear and he could speak clearly too. And Jesus ordered the people to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they told everyone about it. "He has done all things well," they said. "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."



This is completed each week in class during school time, where children discuss the Gospel message and complete the respective activities. From next week, same as last year, the Wednesday Word will also be emailed out each Friday with the school newsletter and Father Paul's parish newsletter.

### **Parent Consultations**

Autumn term's parent consultations will take place in the school hall from 3:40 until 6:30 on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Children are welcome to be present at school but we ask that children do not join the conversation with the parents and the teacher but remain quietly seated in the communal seating area.

### **Christmas Trips**

These have been booked! Children in Reception and Key Stage One will visit the Mac in Cannon Hill Park to see *Finding Santa* on the morning of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Children in Key Stage Two will see *Beauty and the Beast* at the Crescent Theatre on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Payment can be made via our online payment system.

### **Harvest Mass**

A slight change to proceedings. This will now take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 9am in the school hall. Our Mini-Vinnies will once again be organising donations of food and other desperately needed items, to be shared with those in need, whether this be at St Chad's Sanctuary, SIFA Fireside, or at our own local foodbank. As ever, your generosity will be hugely appreciated.

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### **Altar Servers**

We are recruiting! If you have made your First Communion and wish to help both the school and the parish by serving at Mass, then do so! Embrace that calling. Speak to Mr Clinton or Father Paul if interested, and your training and service can begin.

### **Parish Irish Night**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September (i.e. tonight) at 7pm, the parish are hosting an Irish Night. Tickets are £10, and all proceeds go towards getting Joshua to America. Children attend free! Go and enjoy a Guinness or a 0.0%!

### **Swimming**

This starts on Tuesday for Year Four. On this day, children will attend school in the school uniform as normal but will require their swimming costume, swimming hat, goggles and towel. Children will attend straight after Tuesday's whole school Mass.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

For those children in Year Three and Year Six, the dates for sacramental preparation have been sent out with this newsletter. Please make every effort to attend each session: parent meetings are usually held on a Thursday, children attend workshops on a Saturday morning from 10am until 12pm, and then we join together as a parish and a school on the Sunday for Mass at 10am.

### **Class Masses and Assemblies**

Please see the table opposite for when these are taking place.

Class Masses (classroom 2:30)	
Friday 4th October	Year Two
Friday 8th November	Year Four
Friday 17th January	Year Five
Friday 14th February	Year Six
Friday 21st March	Year One
Friday 20th June	Reception
Sunday 15th June	Year Three Going Forth

Class Assemblies (hall 9:00)	
Friday 18th October	Year Six
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Year Five
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity (2pm)
Monday 9th December	Year One Nativity (2pm)
Tuesday 10th December	Year Two Nativity (2pm)
Friday 24th January	Year Four
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year Three
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year Two
Mon 14th April	Year Three Palm Sunday
Tuesday 15th April	Year Four Last Supper
Wednesday 16th April	Year Five Gethsemane
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Year Six 'Via Dolorosa'
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year One
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception

## School Dinners

The daily price for school dinner is now £2.70 per day or £13.50 per week for each child. For this, children get a drink, a choice of mains and sides, access to bread and the salad bar, and a choice of desserts. It is well worth the money (and the total cost is still subsidised by school). In addition to this, toast is sold every break time at a cost of 30p per slice. Next Thursday, both bacon and sausage sandwiches will be on sale at break time for £1 for KS2. From the following week, we will sell sausage sandwiches every Tuesday and bacon sandwiches every Thursday. Andrew, our current chef by Mrs Hardiman recovers, will also continue to do a separate menu on the third Thursday of every month: his all-day breakfasts, amongst other specialities, are delicious!

## PE days

Kit should remain in school until half-term, unless otherwise directed by staff. Pumps will be needed for indoor activities. Gymnastics will be done in barefoot. Trainers (and tracksuit top and joggers as the weather gets colder) will be required for outdoor PE. All items need to be labelled.

**Reception:** Monday

**Year One:** Tuesday (AVFC outside) and Thursday (indoors)

**Year Two:** Tuesday (indoors) and Friday (tennis outside)

**Year Three:** Monday (indoors) and Thursday (outside)

**Year Four:** Tuesday (swimming) and Wednesday (indoors)

**Year Five:** Monday (indoors) and Friday (Tennis outside)

**Year Six:** Tuesday (AVFC outside) and Thursday (indoors)

## A message from our PTA



*Parentkind – which is a charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda to help supplement school budgets! Asda are making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. All you have to do to help school access this money is:*

- i) *Download and opt in through the Asda Rewards app*
- ii) *choose our primary school*
- iii) *shop and scan in store or shop online at <http://Asda.com>, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024*

*Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. **Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot.** It doesn't stop there either – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started! Even if you do not shop at Asda, please sign up to rewards and opt in for the cashpot - we still get £1 just for that! Encourage friends and family to do the same, every £1 helps. Thank you!*



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

Happy birthday to Phoebe in year Three who narrowly escaped being at school for her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday when she celebrated it on Monday. Happy birthday to Richard in Year Six who celebrated his eleventh birthday yesterday. Happy birthday to Noah D in Year Six who turns eleven on Sunday, and happy birthday to Alexander in Reception who turns five on Sunday also. Children can wear their own clothes on the day of or nearest their birthday. I saw Noah in his Blues kit today. I could have sworn he was a Villa fan in Year Three when I started....

### **September dates for your diary**

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Whole School Mass for St Ambrose Barlow's feast day 9:30am

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Three parent meeting 'Belonging' 6pm parish hall

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Sept:** Year Three children Sacramental workshop 10am parish hall

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept:** Year Three Enrolment Mass 10am

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Six parent meeting 6pm parish hall

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Six children Confirmation workshop 10am parish hall

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Six and Reception children Enrolment Mass 10am

### **October dates for your diary**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Two Class Mass 2:30pm

**Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Five visit Safeside Centre

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30pm

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Harvest Mass 2pm;  
Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30pm

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Six Class Assembly 9am

**Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Break up for half-term

### **November dates for your diary**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov:** School opens for all children

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three parent meeting 'Forgiveness 6pm parish hall

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Four Class Mass 2:30pm

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three children Sacramental workshop 10am parish hall

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three Mass 10am

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three Confessions 6pm

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov:** Year Five Class Assembly

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** Year Six children Confirmation workshop 10am parish hall

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Six lead Mass 10am

### **December dates for your diary**

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Reception Nativity 2pm

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year One Nativity 2pm

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year Two Nativity 2pm

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Keyboard and choir concert 2pm

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Rec and KS1 @ 'Finding Santa'

**Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 Carol service 7pm

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 @ see *Beauty and the Beast*

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Whole School Mass 9:30; children break up at 2pm (no Kidzone club)

Have a relaxing weekend, ready to return for the first full week of school next week.

God bless,



Mr Clinton