



# 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 20th September 2024

Dear Parents,

This week, our Sacramental programme for the children making their First Confession and First Holy Communion begins. On Thursday, the parents met together to discuss what we all want from Catholic education; tomorrow, the children from Year Three will enjoy a workshop in the parish hall with our parish catechists; on Sunday, we join together as a school and a parish at Sunday Mass at 10am. All are welcome!

Next week, Year Six will start *their* Sacramental preparation with a similar approach: a parent meeting on Thursday, a workshop on Saturday, a Mass on Sunday. Next week's Mass has a special difference though: as part of showing their willingness as young adults to take a full role in the life of the church, year Six will also welcome our youngest Reception children to Mass.

### **Golden Book**

*Reception will join the Golden Book once they start to attend Gifts from God assemblies after half-term*

**Year One:** Nancy Hall for becoming an independent learner in Year One. She has been writing sentences and answering maths questions on her own. In hymn practice, she joined in with all the new hymns singing beautifully. What a star!

**Year Two:** Bertie Wardle works so hard in everything that he does. Everyone needs a Bertie in their class! He puts 100% effort in all the time! He has really impressed staff this week with his writing as he is always trying to better himself! He is contributing well in class and is just an all-rounder. What a brilliant week, Bertie! Well done!

**Year Three:** Ezra Roberts for being a fantastic role model. He listens so well to every lesson and always has his hand up to contribute. Ezra's work is always of a high standard and it he takes his role as book monitor very seriously! He is extremely helpful and a pleasure to have in the class. Well done, Ezra.

**Year Four:** Rico Augustus for starting Year Four with a bang! He has shown maturity, resilience and confidence in lessons. We are looking forward to the fabulous work he will produce this year!

**Year Five:** Emily O'Keeffe is so conscientious and is always unfailingly polite. She works to the best of her ability in every lesson. This has not gone unnoticed and all teachers comment on how dedicated she is in class, how careful she listens and how thoughtful she is towards others in the class.

**Year Six:** Lily Cunnachie has had a wonderful week. She is such a lovely child who quietly gets on with her learning in a responsible manner without any fuss or bother. Lily asks if she needs help and is always polite and friendly - an excellent role model for her peers. She is an embodiment of our

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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.**

Catholic Social Virtues and a treasure to have at our school. She was particularly attentive in singing practice this week where she carefully followed instruction and sang beautifully. Keep it up, Lily!

### **A welcome to Ava-Mary Hodgkins and Noah Parkes-Brown**

*"Hello, my name is Ava-Mary Hodgkins. I feel very privileged to be chosen as Head Girl and I want to thank all the teachers who had faith in me and my ability to do the role. I promise to be a role model for all pupils throughout the school and to set an example for the children to follow. I will encourage everyone to follow the values and virtues of our school and inspire children to be generous and kind to all. Thank you to all the staff for everything that have done for me over the years; you have helped me grow in confidence and believe in myself. As Head Girl, I want to be able to share the message that kindness is the greatest gift that and every one of us can give."*

*Hello, my name is Noah and I am very thankful to be chosen to be Head Boy. I will ensure I am as hard-working as I can be. I will ensure I am a role model for the students of St Ambrose Barlow Catholic primary School. I want to thank all the teacher who have put their faith in me to take on the role as Head Boy. I am honoured to be given this role and I will rise to the challenge."*

### **Governing Body**

It is likely that we may need at least two new candidates to fill positions on our Governing Body in the coming months. Ideally, we would like someone with a background in HR, architecture and building, and/or business. We ask that you make yourself available to attend three full meetings (one per term), and sit on a committee that also meet termly. If you are interested, please speak to either Father Paul or myself.

### **Wednesday Word**

## **THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH** **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**



After leaving the mountain, Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was teaching his disciples about what was going to happen to him; he said, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again." But the disciples did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. Later, Jesus said to them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing because they had been arguing about which one of them was the greatest. So Jesus sat down, called the twelve disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all."

### **Altar Servers**

Thank you for the overwhelming response so far. Altar Server training will begin next Saturday, at 12pm, straight after the Confirmation workshop. If you would like to become an altar server then please come along at midday in the church for more information and to complete an application form. We need both the person who would like to serve and an appropriate adult who can stay with them.

### **Reception Open Morning/Afternoon for prospective parents**

Please share with anyone who has a child who will be primary school age by September 2025. We are hosting two open sessions here at school on the following dates:

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October      2:00pm**  
**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October    10:30am**

The format will be a talk on our curriculum and Catholic faith, a talk delivered by Miss Hodgkins on life in Reception, a tour led by our prefects and then time for any questions or queries afterwards.

### **Homework**

We have a very light touch approach to homework here at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School. Tasks are home focus solely on the recall of what has been taught in school, whereby children are asked to practise spelling rules and/or number bonds and times tables. With regards to Numbots or Times Table Rock Stars, by Monday each week, children are expected to have logged in for a certain amount of time across the week:

**Year One:** 15 minutes set using Activity Goal

**Year Two:** 20 minutes set using Activity Goal

**Year Three and Four:** 28 minutes which is an average time of 4 minutes per day

**Year Five and Six:** 35 minutes which is an average time of 5 minutes per day.

### **Library visits**

Please see below for the dates that each group will visit Hall Green library – an essential part of our curriculum offer.

26th Sept – Year 4  
3rd Oct – Year 2  
10th Oct – Year 3  
17th Oct – Year 6  
24th Oct – Year 5

The children will need their library cards and their books on that day. We leave around half one, arrive at 2pm, and return to school at 3pm. If any parents wish to accompany us, you are more than welcome.

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

Happy birthday to Conor in Reception who was five on Thursday! Lauren in Year Six was eleven on the same day! On Sunday, Violetta turns eleven and Aubrey in Reception turns five. Happy birthday to all!

### **Message from the PTA**

*We have lots of exciting plans for this term and are looking for ideas for 2025 fundraising, so please come along to our Coffee morning on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October (after morning drop off, in the Newman room) to find out what we have planned and to share your ideas with us. Our AGM will be held on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October** at 2pm in the School Hall. This is a chance to recap the last year of fundraising, discuss finances, discuss where we could improve, and elect our committee members for the year. **ALL** current committee members step down from their roles and may choose to stand for re-election. **ALL***

*positions are voted in, so if you are interested in becoming involved in the PTA please let a current committee member know - either face to face or you can drop an email to [sab.pta@outlook.com](mailto:sab.pta@outlook.com) - the positions required for a full PTA committee are: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.*

*Also, please see below for some more details about our PTA Christmas Disco! These will be held on Monday 18th November (Reception & KS1) and Monday 25th November (KS2). Forms will be out in book bags/backpacks the first week back after half term and the absolute legend that is DJ Dave will be back for both discos.*

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

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Year Four to Hall Green library; Year Six parent meeting 6pm parish hall

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Sept:** Feast of St Vincent de Paul. All Mini-Vinnies to attend Mass

**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**

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct:** Poetry Day

**Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct:** Year Two to Hall Green library

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Oct:** PTA coffee morning at 9am; Year Two Class Mass 2:30pm

**Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Three to Hall Green library; Year Five visit Safeside Centre

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Book fair all week; Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30pm

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

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Six to Hall Green library

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Six Class Assembly 9am; PTA AGM 2pm School Hall

**Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct:** Reception Open Afternoon 2pm

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Reception Open Morning 10:30am; Year Five to Hall Green library

**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 lead Mass 10am

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

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Nov:** PTA KS1 Disco 3:45 – 4:45

**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

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Nov:** PTA KS2 Disco 3:45 – 4:45



**December dates for your diary**

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 Advent  
Reconciliation Service

**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. Please join us  
for Mass this Sunday and pray for our  
Year Three children as they start their  
sacramental journey. .

God bless,



Mr Clinton