



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 4th October

Dear Parents,

I am starting this newsletter with an apology: believe me, no headteacher ever wants to see a school closed. Last Thursday though, after a combination of heavy rainfall and the work on the roof having being delayed, I spoke to representatives from the Governing Body and made the decision to keep the school shut on Friday in the interests of health and safety. It was not the rainfall *per se* but the risk posed by the water affecting the electrics in school. We used Friday to clear up and make the site safe for Monday.

You will also be aware that the work on the roof is hugely behind schedule. This again is unplanned and hugely disappointing. We are liaising with the contractors and the project manager to find a solution as soon as possible.

In happier news, our sacramental programme continued unabated last weekend with our Saturday Confirmation session. We then had a Mass of Enrolment for our Year Six children on Sunday, where our youngest Reception children were also presented and welcomed by the parish. Thank you for making this such a joyous occasion.

Golden Book

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

Year One: Zinedine Khan for showing great motivation to learn in Year One. He has attempted every task with a positive attitude and a brilliant big smile. Zinedine has worked hard in his phonics lessons to recognise sounds in words. He especially impressed the adults with his collaborative work during Poetry Day! Well done, Zinedine!

Year Two: Lennon Mooney is in the Golden Book this week. Everyone needs a Lennon in their class! He puts in 100% effort all of the time in everything he does. He is always contributing to lessons and listens carefully all instructions given and always produces a brilliant piece of work. Lennon especially stood out during Poetry Day this week and showed excellent ideas and partnership. Well done, Lennon - keep it up!

Year Three: Arlo Williams for always showing such excellent perseverance. Arlo really tries hard in every lesson and makes sure he has his hand up to contribute his ideas. Thank you Arlo, for always being the best you can be.

Year Four: John Luckman for an incredible first week - he has settled in really well. He has started this school producing some wonderful work across all the subjects especially some wonderful work on poetry day. Keep this up, John!

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we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

Year Five: Nevaeh Osbourne could be chosen any week! She is ready to work from the get go! When she walks into the classroom, she settles down to her activities quickly and quietly. She has worked diligently in her Maths lessons this week. She has demonstrated greater confidence and has improved her participation in lessons by contributing her ideas more readily. She has reflected on the advice given in class to further improve her written work and we look forward to reading her completed myth next week.

Year Six: Halle Parsons has made a concerted effort in the last week in all her subjects but particularly Science and on Poetry Day. She showed a mature attitude to her learning, making good choices that she knew would have a positive impact on her work. She made a determined effort to be kind and helpful towards the year one learning partner on National Poetry Day, producing a super poem and drawing - a real collaborative effort! Keep it up, Halle!

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 6th October 2024**



People were bringing little children to be with Jesus. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was annoyed and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round the children and gave them his blessing.

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company

Last week, communication about this school potentially joining St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company was sent out. This is in line with the Archbishop's vision for Catholic Education. The documents sent out should address any questions you may have but I am more than happy to be approached, either formally or informally, to discuss what this may mean for the school and our children. I can assure you that, in the short term, nothing about the school will change: we will retain our distinctive character, staff, uniform and high standards.

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 session here at school on the following dates:

Tuesday 22nd October 2:00pm
Thursday 24th 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.

Music

There is a document on our website that details our approach to Music. It is a long held belief of mine that music (whether the teaching and learning or enjoyment of) should be not be just the preserve of the privately educated or the privileged. Hopefully, you see the

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fruits of our labour during Masses and assemblies and especially our KS2 carol service, where our children sound like a cathedral choir.

We also have weekly music lessons, led by Mrs Vinti who is superb in what she teaches the children. What the children achieve in her lessons is jaw-dropping.

Madam Grange teaches keyboards and run our choir. All choirs need an audience so we arrange termly concerts for our parents, and we also perform at Young Voices at Resorts World – again, an amazing performance and fantastic opportunity.

In addition to this, we also go above and beyond what the curriculum requires and give every child in Key Stage Two the opportunity to take part in whole class tuition of an instrument – flute and fife in this case. This takes place in Year Four, and children can elect to continue in Year Five and Six. This unfortunately comes at quite an additional cost to school, which we are willing to subsidise but also ask parents, if they can, to contribute to. You will see this charge on School Money. It is voluntary, in that nobody is forced to pay, but it would help school out tremendously if you could make a donation, should your child be in Year Four and learning an instrument in class. If funds are not received, we will re-evaluate whether this approach is needed or wanted by parents.

Parking and parental conduct

I am sorry to report that three separate incidents have occurred in the last two weeks regarding parking: complaints

from our local residents; complaints from parents walking with the children; and a confrontation between two drivers. The school is placed in an unfortunate position: we are not responsible for the public paths and roads outside school but it also remains true that it is some of our parent body that are the cause of the issues.

There is only one clear solution: put our children at the very centre of your approach – treat other road users, other parents, and our local residents with courtesy and respect. Do not park on the yellow zig-zag markings, on the pavement, on any corners, or over any drives that may block access to our neighbours' drive ways. Thank you.

Parents, if you do see illegal parking and wish to report it, you can email with a photo to enquiry address and we will report infringements directly to the police. Parents and residents can also report to the council using the following link: https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/2/0109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle

Birthdays this week (and last)...

Happy birthday to Tobias in Year Three who was eight on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Helena in Year Four who was nine on Wednesday. Happy birthday to Kieran, also in Year Four, who is nine tomorrow, and Bella in Year Three is eight tomorrow too. On Sunday, Cian in Year Six is eleven. Happy birthday to all!

October dates for your diary

Tues 8th Oct: Individual pupil photos

Thurs 10th Oct: Year Three to Hall Green library; Year Five visit Safeside Centre

Mon 14th Oct: Book fair all week; Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30pm

Wed 16th Oct: Harvest Mass 2pm; Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:30pm

Thurs 17th Oct: Year Six to Hall Green library

Fri 18th Oct: Year Six Class Assembly 9am; PTA AGM 2pm School Hall

Tues 22nd Oct: Reception Open Afternoon 2pm

Thurs 24th Oct: Reception Open Morning 10:30am; Year Five to Hall Green library

Fri 25th Oct: Break up for half-term

November dates for your diary

Mon 4th Nov: School opens for all children

Thurs 7th Nov: Year Three parent meeting 'Forgiveness 6pm parish hall

Fri 8th Nov: Year Four Class Mass 2:30pm

Sat 9th Nov: Year Three children Sacramental workshop 10am parish hall

Sun 10th Nov: Year Three lead Mass 10am

Thurs 14th Nov: Year Three Confessions 6pm

Mon 18th Nov: PTA KS1 Disco 3:45 – 4:45

Fri 22nd Nov: Year Five Class Assembly

Sat 23rd Nov: Year Six children Confirmation workshop 10am parish hall

Sun 24th Nov: Year Six lead Mass 10am

Mon 25th Nov: PTA KS2 Disco 3:45 – 4:45

December dates for your diary

Wed 4th Dec: KS2 Advent Reconciliation Service

Fri 6th Dec: Reception Nativity 2pm

Mon 9th Dec: Year One Nativity 2pm

Tues 10th Dec: Year Two Nativity 2pm

Thurs 12th Dec: Keyboard and choir concert 2pm

Fri 13th Dec: Rec and KS1 @ '*Finding Santa*'

Tues 17th Dec: KS2 Carol service 7pm

Wed 18th Dec: KS2 @ see *Beauty and the Beast*

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

Have a relaxing weekend. Please note, there will be no newsletter next week as I am off site in the latter part of the week. I leave the school in the capable hands of our acting Assistant Headteachers, Miss Newman and Miss Ball.

God bless,



Mr Clinton