



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents,

Some wonderful news to share with you all. Two weeks ago on Thursday evening, Mr Hawkins and his wife celebrated the safe arrival of their baby daughter, Lily Dottie. Mr Hawkins has been in twice while on paternity leave to show her off, and she is beautiful! She obviously takes after her mother.

Today, we said goodbye (for a short time) to Mrs Hunt, who starts her own maternity leave. She has been our Year One teacher for the past three years, and has been helping Mrs Healy and Miss Traynor out for the past six weeks or so. We wish her all the very best and will share news of the newest addition to our school family as soon as we get it!

Today, Year Six led us in a wonderful assembly that focused on WWI and WWII, the books they have read in class in Literacy and in History, and linked in the lives of the saints too, especially the sacrifice made by St Maximilian Kolbe and the life led by St Josephine Bakhita. A wonderful start to the day, and a delight to welcome our Reception children to their first class assembly.

### **Golden Book**

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

**Year One:** Isabella Davies for having a superb attitude towards her learning. Bella gives 100% to every task she completes and is always keen to share her ideas and opinions with the class. Bella is becoming more confident at reading short words from sight by identifying any sounds in them. Super work, Bella!

**Year Two:** Theresa Joseph has been wonderful this week! Everyone needs a someone like Theresa in their class. She is so sensible and kind to everyone and sets a good example. She listens carefully to each instruction given and gets on with her work independently, not forgetting to mention how her work is always so beautifully presented. Well done, Theresa!

**Year Three:** Bella Mills for being a perfect example of what we want from a pupil at St Ambrose Barlow. Bella always tries her very best in everything that she does. In addition to that, she always listens very carefully and attentively to instructions and is extremely helpful around the classroom. She is a great role model for those around her. Keep up the excellent work, Bella - you really are a superstar!

**Year Four:** Florence Young for her dedication to learning and trying to be best version of herself. She has worked hard all of this half term to push herself to produce excellent work including her version of the Our Father prayer this week. Keep up this focus Florence!

With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side,  
we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

**Year Five:** Niall Earp has really excelled in his Maths work this week, answering questions readily and working well to complete his Mental Maths starters independently. He has also worked hard on his reading and comprehension skills showing perseverance and greater confidence. Well done, Niall; we are really proud of your resilience and determination. Keep it up!

**Year Six:** Max is a model pupil who can always be caught doing the right thing. He is kind to all, applies himself diligently to ALL his studies and indeed, any task that is given to him. He contributes excellently to discussions in class and is always willing to listen to the opinions of others. He is mature beyond his years and a superb role model we can all learn from. Max has also applied himself fully to rehearsals this week for the Year Six Class Assembly, being one of the first to learn his lines.

### **St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company**

Some weeks ago, 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. Just to assure you, parents, of two queries I have fielded recently: the first is that part of the Archbishop's vision is that each CMAT (Catholic Multi-Academy Trust) is composed of around 20,000 pupils each. This means that the smaller MACs in existence will possibly merge with others to achieve these numbers. That said, it was the Diocese that directed us to which we should potentially join. The

second is that parental choice for their choice of secondary schools is a right to be exercised and this is enshrined in what the church teaches – parents are the first educators of their children. Therefore, the school joining a particular academy trust will have no bearing on what secondary school a child can apply for. More on that below.

### **Secondary School options**

Next Wednesday, senior leaders from all of our local secondary schools (St Peter's, Bishop Challoner, and Archbishop Ilsley) are visiting to talk to our pupils about the importance of Catholic secondary education. They will speak to the children in class from around 2:30pm and then will remain on site after 3:30pm should any parents wish to attend and ask any questions. I urge you to take the time to speak to the headteachers for five or ten minutes. Parents have six choices when picking secondary school options: I urge you to use all six!

<https://eadmissions.birmingham.gov.uk/prefs.php>

### **Parent Questionnaire**

Following your child's parent consultation, please use the link below to provide feedback about the school's approach to Catholic Life.

[\*\*>>St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Life Parent Questionnaire<<\*\*](#)

You also have an opportunity to add any additional comments at the end. The questionnaire should take less than five minutes to complete. Thank you for your ongoing support.

### **Wednesday Word**

This has been emailed out this week with the Gospel for this Sunday and the following two Sundays, to cater for the half-term break.

### **Harvest Mass**

Thank you for your amazing generosity and all your harvest gifts, clothes, and essential toiletries. As I said during Mass, the display that we made from your gifts was impressive but that was literally what was collected by half of one class. Your actual offerings filled my office and the minibus – as the Mini-Vinnies and the Prefects, who gave up their Thursday morning to bag it all up, can testify! The donations will be split three ways: the Church of the Ascension foodbank, to help our immediate community; SIFA Fireside to help the homeless of Birmingham, and St Chad's Sanctuary, to help those fleeing their own country and seeking asylum in ours. As Father Paul said, we are tasked with building the kingdom of God here on earth, and our actions this week have hopefully gone some way to improve the lives of others.

### **Mini-Vinnies**

The Mini-Vinnies will be led this year by Halle Parsons, who has been chosen to be President. She read the introduction to Wednesday's Mass so thoughtfully – Father Paul commented on how it seamlessly transitioned, from an explanation of what we do, to a prayer for all who we help. I am sure she will lead the group with compassion and love. Halle will be ably assisted by the following Year Six children:

**Vice Presidents:** Lila Delaney and Lily Cunnachie

**Secretaries:** Ailish Kingston and Elijah Roberts

**Treasurers:** Sam Tighe and Lauren Hughes

This is the Executive Committee – however, any child that wishes to participate in activities can and will do.

### **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:

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

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.

### **Parking and parental conduct**

A reminder that parents and residents can report illegally or dangerously parked cars to the council using the following link:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/2/0109/parking/1983/report\\_an\\_illegally\\_parked\\_vehicle](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/2/0109/parking/1983/report_an_illegally_parked_vehicle)

### **PTA AGM**

This has been unfortunately postponed. The new date is Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9am at school. The minutes and newly appointed officers will be posted on our website following the meeting. Come

along and enjoy a coffee and some cake and hear about last year's finance and this year's plans. Thanks to all who attended!

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

Happy birthday to Kadey-Mae in Year Five who was ten on Monday. Happy birthday to Bertie in Year Two who was seven on Tuesday. Happy birthday to Henry in Year Five who was ten on Wednesday. Today, Maeve in Year Five celebrates her tenth birthday and Ravneet in Reception celebrates her fifth birthday; I will never forget this as they both share their birthday with my daughter (nine today). On Sunday, Darron in Year Five celebrates turning ten. Happy birthday to all those who celebrate this week, and to all those who celebrated last week too.

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

**Tues 22nd Oct:** Reception Open Afternoon 2pm

**Wed 23rd Oct:** Catholic Partnership Five a-side tournament

**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:** PTA AGM 9am; 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 at the parish church

**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. Children return next week for their final week of the Autumn half term, before their well-deserved break.

God bless,



Mr Clinton