



# 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 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of what has felt like the longest half-term yet. It's been a long eight weeks since we welcomed back the children at the start of September after their summer holidays and those eight weeks were jam-packed! We have kicked off with both Year Three and Year Six's Sacramental Preparation; we have elected our school council, chosen the Head Boy and Girl and the Mini-Vinnies council has been formed. We have welcomed our new Reception children, held two parent consultation sessions to discuss children's and held two successful open sessions for prospective parents.

There is so much to look forward to next half-term with Nativity practises and Carol Service rehearsals. November, as you know, is dedicated to remembering the dearly departed and, later on in this newsletter, there are important details about a special homework project to do over the break.

### **Golden Book**

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

**Year One:** Elliot Fowler has worked really well this week. He has become independent in his work, showing great resilience, especially in Computing. He

was very eager to contribute during Science, identifying many body parts. In the classroom he is always helpful and polite. What a star!

**Year Two:** Mia Bhachu has been a star this week. She has really impressed this week in so many ways. Mia demonstrates a fantastic approach to her learning: she listens well, thinks carefully about her answers, and achieves the learning objective. She produced a beautiful acrostic Autumn-themed poem, which was full of fabulous adjectives and ideas. We are so proud of Mia and what she has achieved this week. Keep it up, Mia - you are a star!

**Year Three:** Ethan Hughes for having a really good week. Ethan has been working on his independence in class and has grown in confidence. This week he has shown perseverance when completing his work on subtraction with renaming. He also produced a brilliant persuasive advertisement for his robot in Literacy. Superb work!

**Year Four:** Sonny Chow deserves all the praise for his amazing work this week. He is always ready to start the lesson, share his thoughts with the class, and he has produced some beautiful work this week around the rosary. Well done, Sonny - keep it up next half term!

**Year Five:** Edward Newman is a quietly confident member of the class, who is helpful and considerate to his fellow peers. This week was his time to shine

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

as he spoke eloquently and clearly during his persuasive speech on Birmingham. He showed great maturity and humour in his speech, often trying to engage with his audience by asking rhetorical questions (which obviously required no answer). It was so lovely to see him at his best and the captive audience would agree with this too.

**Year Six:** Annie Sylvester is a joy to teach. Respectful, kind-hearted and generous. She always tries her best - so much so that it would be difficult to know what her favourite subjects were from her work as it is consistently of a high standard across the curriculum. She is a credit to St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School. We have no doubt she will go on to do great things!

### **Goodbye to...**

We say goodbye today to Indira Dumasia, one of our lunchtime supervisors. She has been a great help and a valued member of staff these past three years or so, and we wish her all the very best as we bid farewell. Indira joins St Bernard's: our loss is their gain. We wish her all the very best.

### **Parking around the school site**

Please, when picking up children at the end of the day, do not park over the drive ways that belong to local residents. I know it gets congested outside the gates. The only solution is to either arrive a little earlier and get the pick of the spaces, or arrive a little earlier and park further away and walk. Please do not turn up at 3:30 and, in a panic, park in an inconvenient or illegal manner. Our local residents are well within their right to complain to inconsiderate drivers. They are also well

within their rights to photograph offending vehicles and report to the police and the council.

### **Half-term homework**

After half-term, all classes will complete an extended written piece on their class saint. You may remember that this was set as homework last year, but will be completed in school time this year.

In its place, as homework, we are asking children to think about people that are heroes in our own communities and families. We want children to create a page with a drawing/picture of the person and their story. This can be a person that is living or deceased. This work links to our focus on All Saints Day. The work will then be collated into a flip book available to enjoy for visitors.

Our prayer tables in class will again focus on our loved ones and dearly departed. Children can bring in a photograph or draw a picture, should they wish. The prayer tables look fantastic for the month of November, dedicated to the deceased.



### **PTA AGM**

The PTA's AGM will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 9am at school. Come along and enjoy a coffee and some cake and hear about last year's finance and this year's plans!

### **Secondary options**

It was fantastic to welcome Mr Clinton the elder from Archbishop Ilsley and Mr Williams from St Peters to school yesterday to chat to Year Five and Six about their secondary options. It was not a sales pitch as such, but more an explanation on the importance of Catholic secondary education and the emphasis that we place on formation of character. Parents, you get six options for schools on your secondary application. I urge you to use all six! We had children last year who only put down two choices, didn't meet the admissions criteria, and then were given a school that they had not chosen – this could have been easily avoided!

### **Uniform**

Now that the first half of Autumn Term is over, can we please request that all children return in winter uniform in November. This information, along with the uniform policy, is available on our website. The policy contains examples of what is and what is not allowed in school, to further support your child:

<https://www.sab.bham.sch.uk/uniform/>

The winter uniform has been copied below for your convenience:

### **Boys**

- White school shirt
- School tie
- Grey 'v' neck school pullover
- Grey school trousers (long)
- Plain grey or black socks
- Black shoes
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### **Girls**

- White school shirt
- School tie
- Grey 'v' neck school cardigan/pullover
- Grey school skirt/pinafore dress or grey school trousers
- Plain grey, black or white socks
- Plain grey or black tights
- Black shoes

If leggings are worn underneath girls' skirts, please ensure they are plain black or grey – the same colour as our tights – in line with the policy. Thank you.

### **School Fund / Building Fund / school Dinners / School Money**

Please ensure that any monies owed for school lunches are paid upon the return after half-term. If you are also in a position to donate to School Fund and the Building Fund via School Money, please do so. School Fund is used for some much that benefits all children, it really is worth paying. The Building Fund, obviously, goes towards the general upkeep and improvement of the site, including any extra works being done.

### **Sporting success**

On Wednesday, Miss Ball and Mrs O'Driscoll took 14 of our Year 5 and 6 footballers to the BCSSA 5-Aside tournament at Goals, Star City. They

showcased some excellent football, teamwork and perseverance and were an absolute credit to our school. A special mention to Nevaeh for being recognised as an 'excellent all-rounder' during the girl's competition and to the boy's team who came 4th out of 16 schools.

### **Hall Green library**

Communication from the Save Hall Green library campaign:

*"We are writing to inform you of the latest developments regarding the future of Hall Green Library. Birmingham City Council has announced new proposals to reduce the library's opening hours to just three days a week, which we believe will significantly affect the support it provides to local schools, families, and community groups.*

*The council has opened a new consultation period from 23rd October to 3rd November, and it is crucial that our community voices are heard.*

*We kindly ask you to encourage parents to participate in the consultation. We have attached a letter that parents can sign and return to the school or drop off at Hall Green Library. Their support will help us advocate for maintaining full-time library services that our community relies on.*

*Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the best for our local children and families."*

This letter has been sent out with this newsletter. Please return it after half-term.

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

Happy birthday to Delilah in Reception who was five on Monday and happy birthday to Malakai, also in Reception, who is five tomorrow.

Happy birthday to all who celebrate over the half-term break too: Noah PB and Ava-Mary in Year Six and Florence and Andreas in Year Four.

### **Mrs Healy**

You may be aware that both Mrs Healy's father and father-in-law have passed away in the past few weeks. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Father John Collins will say a special Mass this Sunday at St Ambrose Barlow Church.

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

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov:** Holy Day of Obligation for All Saints' Day

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

**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)

**January dates for your diary**

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Jan:** School closed INSET

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Jan:** School re-opens for all children

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Whole School Mass 9:30am

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Four Class Assembly

Have a great half term. See you all on 4<sup>th</sup> November!

God bless,



Mr Clinton