



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

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Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our children after a much needed half-term break. We have a busy seven weeks ahead of us: sacramental preparation Masses for Year Three and Six, class assemblies and Masses, PTA discos, and - of course - our Reception nativity, our KS1 nativity, and our KS2 carol service. Practices for these will soon begin – you can support your child by helping to learn their lines and the songs. School will soon be filled with music about inns being too full, angels in the sky, and kings paying homage.

Thanks again for your wonderful Harvest donations. Your generosity is hugely appreciated and we made three separate trips as a school to pass on your goods to those in need: the homeless of Birmingham with SIFA Fireside; the needy of our local community at Sparkhill Foodbank, and those who have arrived in our country with little to their name, at St Chad's Sanctuary. One of my favourite things about this school is how well the children can articulate their reasons behind their actions: they know a sanctuary is a safe place, they know we are brothers and sisters with all across the globe, and they know we are being called by God to build the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Conor Breslin for always being such a super star! Conor has been a great role model to all of his peers, he ensures he is doing the right thing and follows our classroom rules. This week, Conor has also played an amazing role of a priest in our role-play Baptism in RE! Keep up the hard work, Conor!

**Year One:** Hayley Sin for having the best start to this half term and giving a 100% in everything that she does. Hayley has worked hard this week practicing her cursive handwriting and producing some fabulous pieces of handwriting. She has a great attitude towards learning and is always willing to give things a try. A great example to others, Hayley! Well done!

**Year Two:** Sebastian Henvey for his positive attitude towards his learning and always striving for the best. We are all so pleased with Sebastian this week and his brilliant attitude towards his learning. He has listened carefully and followed instructions and this is evident in the work he has produced this week. What a brilliant first week back! Keep it up, Sebastian. Well done!

**Year Three:** Ella Kirby for growing in confidence and putting so much effort into everything she does. Due to her brilliant work ethic, she has already made such progress so far this year and she is a great role model to her peers. Keep up the hard work, Ella!

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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.**

**Year Four:** Aurora Clifton for her focus and attitude this week. She has come back to school keen to develop her knowledge and skills and has produced some excellent work across all subjects, but especially in Literacy with her newspaper article. Keep this amazing effort up!

**Year Five:** Annabelle Spencer has made a fantastic start to the new half term and is really living out our values and virtues by being 'Intentional' and 'Prophetic'. 'Intentional' by making wise choices inside and outside the classroom and 'Prophetic' through her mature and sensible actions. By demonstrating to others how to be a great role model, she is setting a great example of Year Five behaviour. Brilliant to hear!

**Year Six:** Jude Goddard showed excellent team spirit during D.T. this week. Year Six were tasked with building a free-standing structure with as much height as possible. He excelled at this and has also been making a concerted effort to present his work to a high standard across the curriculum. He also makes such thoughtful observations in Guided Reading with our text that presents many moral dilemmas. Keep it up, Jude!

### **Academisation**

On Friday of last week, we formally submitted a request to the Department for Education to become an academy and join St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company. A lot of the work will be completed in the background and it is envisaged the process will take around six to eight months. I would imagine the process will be completed at some point near the start of the next

academic year but I will endeavour to keep you updated.

As you may be aware, it is the vision of the Archbishop for every voluntary aided school to become an academy. Eventually, there will be four large Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts (CMATs) operating across the Archdiocese, each with approximately 20,000 pupils in its care. This means that, in time, every school will eventually apply to the DfE to do what we have done, and smaller MACs currently in operation will be merged into larger trusts. As you imagine, the very nature of the size of these CMATs will ensure that each school will retain its own individual identity. The application made to the DfE before half-term is literally to change the legal entity of the school and changes how we obtain our funding but, in the very short term, no changes to the day-to-day operation of the school (term dates, uniform, policies, and opening times) will be apparent.

### **Hello to...**

Hello to Ms Parveen, who has joined our staff this week as a lunchtime supervisor. She is a hugely appreciated addition and I am sure you will make her feel very welcome.

### **Hall Green library**

Yesterday, Year Four attended Hall Green library. Please see the diary dates for information of when other classes will attend. As ever, if you wish to volunteer to accompany your child's class (or any other class), you are more than welcome.

### **School dinners and hot snacks**

A reminder that, ideally, school dinners should be paid for in advance via School Money. Especially now that the days are colder, we continue to sell sausages sandwiches on a Tuesday and bacon sandwiches on a Thursday. These are hugely popular but also need to be paid for a day in advance via School Money. Our cook, Andrew, is given the list of children who have paid and prepares the number needed.

### **Year Three**

The children of Year Three, who are preparing for their First Confession and Communion, will attend a sacramental preparation workshop tomorrow at the parish hall. On Sunday, they will lead our readings and prayers at 10am as Father Paul celebrates Mass. Please keep these children in your own prayers as they make their first Confessions next Thursday. This is a huge step on their journey of faith, learning about how forgiveness and reconciliation is a huge symbol of God's love for them and for us all.

Sunday's Mass, as well as being led by Year Three, is also dedicated to those who died defending the country. It is Remembrance Sunday. Each class has created a wreath and these will be laid in front of the altar at Mass.

### **Uniform**

The children look so presentable in their winter uniform: shirt and tie; trousers, skirt, dresses or pinafore. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring that our uniform standards remain as high as possible – our high

standards make us distinct from any other school.

If you are ever in doubt of what may or may not be permissible (e.g. hair styles, ear rings, jewellery, shoes), our uniform policy is on the website and contains useful pictures as a guide.

### **PTA**

Thank you to all who attended this morning's PTA AGM. A lot of fresh ideas for the next year, so thank you all for your input. We are pleased to announce the committee for 2024/25:

**Chair** - Sarah Currington

**Vice Chair** - Emma Holsey

**Treasurer** - Emily Aston

**Vice Treasurer** - Laura Fitzpatrick

**Secretary** - Becky Dawson

On a separate note, please ensure your disco tickets and consent form is returned to the school office ASAP.

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

Happy birthday to Gracie in Year Three who turned eight on Monday. Happy birthday also to Jasper, also in Year Three, who turned eight on Tuesday. Tomorrow, Ambrose in Year Four turns nine and Logan in Year Three celebrates turning eight. On Saturday, Esmae in Year Two turns seven and on Sunday, Nova in Year Six is six. Happy birthday to all!

Congratulations also to Lily and Cynthia on the third anniversary of their forever home. Enjoy your fireworks tomorrow, girls!

### **Year Four Class Mass**

This had had to be unfortunately cancelled. It has been rearranged for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 2:30pm.

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

**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 at Hall Green library; Year Three Confessions 6pm at the parish church

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

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Nov:** Year Two at Hall Green library

**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

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Six at Hall Green library.

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Four Class Mass 2:30pm

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

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

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Year Five at Hall Green library (am)

**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

### **February dates for your diary**

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Three Class Assembly 9am

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Six Class Mass

Have a good week. It was a pleasure to welcome the children back. We started the week with a learning walk from some of our governors. Their feedback was so positive: mainly, that it was clear that the children love the school and their learning!

God bless,



Mr Clinton