



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents,

Merry Christmas! All the blessing and joys of the season. We break up today after a long and busy term. Thank you, on behalf of the staff, for your kind gifts and cards and wishes. None of it is expected or necessary, but it is hugely appreciated all the same.

We have ended this week and the term with a lovely Mass this morning celebrated by Father Paul. The Mass times for Christmas are copied below – we hope to see our children there!

Christmas Eve: 5:30pm (Family Mass) and 8pm

Christmas Day: 10am (no evening Mass)

Golden Book

Reception: Elijah Fishley for being a super star this half term! Elijah has been very kind to his peers and has worked very on building relationships. He has really settled in the class and our daily routines too! Well done, Elijah!

Year One: Roisin McAuley for another amazing week in school. As always, she has listened well, worked hard and always given her best. Her responses in RE this week have been thoughtful and she has shown that she has learnt lots about Advent. Well done, Roisin!

Year Two: Anora Mandapati was chosen by Mr Clinton for always trying her best in lessons and being such a positive influence for the rest of the class. She greets staff every morning with a smile and shows off her wonderful manners. She is exactly what we want from a pupil at St Ambrose Barlow.

Year Three: Finley Dewell for being an excellent member of our class. He is extremely helpful, always willing to do different jobs around the classroom. He always puts lots of effort in to everything he does in class and always takes time out to help his peers if they are struggling. Keep up the super work Finley!

Year Four: Dermot Pickering has been a generous and active example to his classmates in the last few weeks. He has been really engaged with the reverse Advent calendar and applied that understanding and compassion to our Literacy topic, where we have written a persuasive letter to other schools to do likewise next year! Well done, Dermot!

Year Five: Poppy Nixon is a conscientious and hard-working member of the class who is always eager to do her best in all lessons. She is one of those pupils who you can just chose to do something, and she will always do it to the best of her ability. We love teaching Poppy as she is a great listener and contributes well in

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

class. She is a genuine good egg and a real asset to the class. Thank you, Poppy!

Year Six: Sam Tighe is always so polite! He shows a real willingness to learn and takes on board any advice with a smile. He is friendly, kind and calmly gets on with things. He has shown particular resilience in his Maths fraction work this week, learning from his mistakes and building on prior knowledge to achieve success. This positive work ethic will serve him well as we gear up things in the New Year!

Values and Virtues

Our Values and Virtues this half-term have been 'Intentional' (doing something on purpose) and 'Prophetic' (setting an example for others). The pupils below have shown on both accounts!

Reception: Michael Doran

Year One: Ava McColgan

Year Two: Theo Edwards

Year Three: Albie Sweet

Year Four: Oliver Ellard

Year Five: Orlaith Quinn

Year Six: Ailish Kingston

Calling for all stamps...

The Lily Mae Foundation is a local charity supporting parents and families after the loss of a baby.

Please can you save your used stamps over the festive period and return to school in New Year. We will forward these on to the foundation.



The stamps are then sold and money raised is used by the charity to support the families in need.

Carol Service

Thank you to all who came and supported the children in their singing and thank you especially to Madam Grange and Mrs Vinti for their hard work and input. There is a recording of the Carol Service that can be found on the parish website or via

<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/saint-ambrose-barlow> (scroll down to the bottom of the page for past recordings). The password for the recording is SAB123.

Goodbye and good luck

Farewell to Year Five's Edward and Eugene as they depart our school and our shores to start life anew in Australia! Good luck! School will not be the same without you. Thank you also to Mr Michael Newman who has served so selflessly on our Governing Body. We wish the whole family, including Mum (another former pupil), all the very best!

Finance

We are moving to our new platform *My Child at School* in the new calendar year. Therefore, please ensure any outstanding amounts - trips, school dinners, wraparound care - is paid via School Money by the time the children return to school in January. A huge thank you to Mrs Corrigan because the workload in changing over to a new platform is huge. It will come with great benefits for our parents but means an

enormous effort from our office staff! Please bear with us.

An update on our reading curriculum

Reception have been reading stories about Dinosaurs. They have really enjoyed *both 'Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs'* and *'Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp'*. Today, we had a little Christmas treat and listened to The *'Christmasaurus'* by Tom Fletcher to end our Dinosaurs topic and get us in the Christmas spirit!

This term, Year One have thoroughly enjoyed reading *'Supertato'* and *'Evil Pea Rules!'* They were delighted to find out that Supertato always manages to save the day. Another favourite has been *Zog* where they enjoyed learning about his resilience before predicting what he would do next!

Year Two loved reading *'The Hedgehog'*, which is about Max the hedgehog who lived on the opposite side of the road to the park and made it his mission to be able cross the road safely. Year Two then moved *onto 'The Chocolate Monster'*, which is about a girl called Lucy who claimed she didn't lose things, they just disappeared - who'd have guessed that a monster under her bed was taking them?

Year Three have enjoyed a number of books this half term. We've read *'Akimbo and the Elephants'* from the Akimbo Adventures series by Alexander McCall Smith during guided reading. We have also linked our Literacy to our History topic of the Stone Age and

completed lots of excellent work after reading *'Stone Age Boy'* by Satoshi Kitamura and the children have also enjoyed the start of the classic story *'Stig of the Dump'* by Clive King.

Year Four have been loving *'How to train your Dragon'* by Cressida Cowell this half term. We have been rooting for Hiccup the Useful to fulfil his destiny, become a Hero and keep his spot in the Hooligan tribe. We have enjoyed talking about the differences and the similarities between this and the animated movie and created our own scripts based on the text *'HEROES OR EXILE!'*

Year Five read *'Beowulf'*, which is was a retelling of the famous Anglo-Saxon poem originally written in Old English. The story is a story of good vs evil: our hero, the mighty warrior Beowulf, has many battles but it is his one final battle which is the hardest battle of all: it is a fight to the death against a treasure-hoarding dragon. We enjoyed reading this story because it is action-packed and full of adventure. Our new text was *'A Christmas Carol'* by Charles Dickens. We really enjoyed learning all about Charles Dickens; about how he lived during Victorian times and wrote this novella as a ghost story to be shared at Christmas time.

Year Six have loved reading *'War Horse'*, which followed the narration of the horse, Joey. We walked with him through the highs and lows of his friendship with his owner Albert, following him overseas to No Man's

Land, through occupied France and eventually back to England. When we finished that, they moved onto '*Pig Heart Boy*', where we had great fun learning what xenotransplantation is....!

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Theresa in Year Two who was seven on Monday. Happy birthday to Zizi in Reception who was five on Wednesday and to Alex in Year Four who was nine on the same day. Happy birthday to Nancy in Year One who is six today and happy birthday, also, to Ezra in Year Three who is eight today. Tomorrow, Annabel in Year Five celebrates turning ten. Happy birthday to all! Happy birthday to those who celebrate over the Christmas break too: Elijah in Year Six, Niall in Year Five, Rico and John in Year Four, Millie in Year Three, Lennon, Chris and Isaac in Year Two, Faaris, Amelia, Zinedine and Mia in Year One and Ailbe and Evelyn in Reception! Phew!

January dates for your diary

Mon 6th Jan: School closed INSET

Tues 7th Jan: School re-opens for all children

Wed 8th Jan: Whole School Mass dedicated to memory of Noah Edwards 9:30am

Fri 17th Jan: Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm

Fri 24th Jan: Year Four Class Assembly

February dates for your diary

Thurs 6th Feb: Year Six parents Confirmation meeting 6pm in Church hall

Fri 7th Feb: Year Three Class Assembly 9am

Sat 8th Feb: Year Six children Confirmation workshop

Sun 9th Feb: Year Six to lead 10am Sunday Mass

Fri 14th Feb: Year Six Class Mass; break up for half-term.

Mon 24th Feb: Children return to school

Fri 28th Feb: Sponsor workshop, 2pm; Year Six Confirmation 7pm

March dates for your diary

Sat 1st March: Year Three children at FHC workshop, 10am in Parish hall

Sun 2nd March: Year Three children lead Sunday Mass 10am

Wed 5th March: Whole School Mass for Ash Wednesday, 9:30 at church

Thurs 6th March: World Book Day
Mon 17th March: Parent Consultations 3:30 – 6:30

Wed 19th March: Key Stage Two Reconciliation service 1:30pm; Parent Consultations 3:30 – 6:30

Fri 21st March: Year One Class Mass 2:30pm

Tues 25th March: Whole School Mass for the Annunciation 9:30am

Wed 26th March: INSPIRE workshop for Year Three children and parents

Fri 28th March: Year Two Class Assembly 9am

Have a happy and a holy Christmas. See you all in January! May I be the first to wish you all a happy new year.

God bless,



Mr Clinton