



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

www.sab.bham.sch.uk

enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents,

This morning, our assembly was led by Year Three and it was superb! Loud voices, a fantastic account of the life of St Vincent Ramano, and super singing! My thanks to Mrs Vinti, Mrs Thorne and especially Miss Ball for their input.



On Sunday, Year Six will read and lead the singing at Mass at 10am. Please join us. This is their final Mass before they celebrate their Confirmation with Bishop David on Friday 28th February. As you can see from the Wednesday Word, the theme is vocation, with the Gospel focusing on the call of the fisherman.

There is one final week before we break up for a well-deserved break next Friday. The children have all worked so well and the staff were singled out for special praise during our CSI inspection for their hard work, their dedication, their superb subject knowledge, and their caring and compassionate nature. This may come as no surprise to you, but the praise is especially moving when it comes from two external visitors who see a lot of schools during the course of their inspections.

Golden Book

Reception: Aubrey Sheldon for her fantastic attitude towards her learning! Aubrey has worked very hard this week in Literacy, she has produced some amazing work about The Gingerbread Man and has enjoyed writing a list of ingredients that she will need to make her very own gingerbread. She is also very kind and generous to her friends too! Keep up the hard work, Aubrey!

Year One: Elliott Evans for always getting on with his work straight away and showing lots of enthusiasm. He has become very independent and his writing has really improved. He is eager to read, using fantastic prosody. Keep on working hard, Elliott!

Year Two: Isaac Fiaz-McNally- Isaac has had a brilliant week, especially in Maths! We have been learning about temperature this week and Isaac has listened so well and is able to understand how temperature is measured and what we use to measure it. It has been so pleasing to see Isaac contribute to lessons this week, with such confidence too! Well done, Isaac!

Year Three: Alec Burns for being so fabulous during Year Three's class assembly. He took on an extra role as our class saint 'St Vincent Romano' and played his part fantastically. This is all on top of his excellent work ethic in lessons this week. Well done, Alec.

Year Four: Oliver Grange for helping his group lead a wonderful prayer service this week on creation and asking

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his class to go forth thinking of the ways they can help be good stewards of this planet. He has really been challenging himself in Literacy using sentence tricks to develop interest for his work based on the book *"Woof!"* which we are reading in Literacy.

Year Five: Ava Lee-Ling has really shone this week. She is coming into class and settling down quickly, completing the tasks confidently and independently. It is the effort she has put into her writing this week that has really stood out. Ava has not only improved the pace of her writing, but also worked well to develop her use of punctuation and included dialogue in her finished science fiction story. This has been wonderful to see and achievement worth celebrating. Well done, Ava - we look forward to seeing your results climb as the effort you have put into your work is now reaping results.

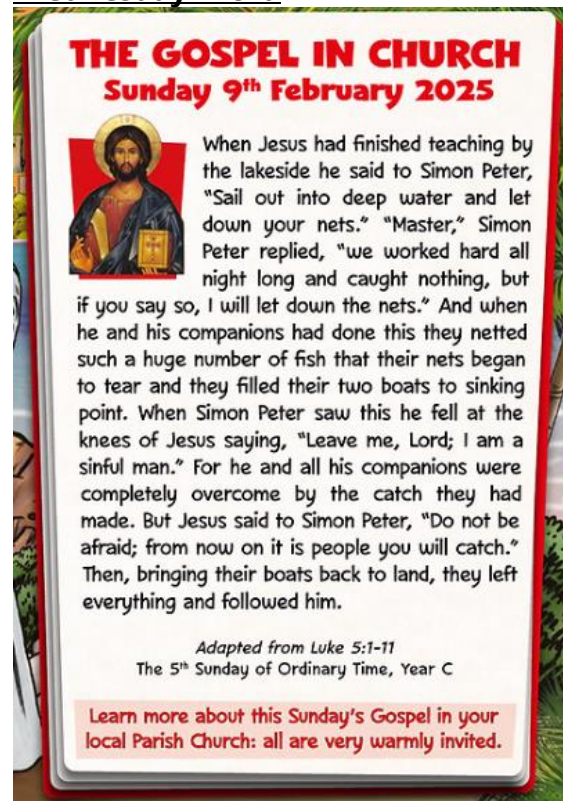
Year Six: Oliver Healy is an enthusiastic learner with a particular love of History. He can always be relied upon to ask thought-provoking questions but also to share some of his own knowledge of history from a personal interest in the subject. However, his enthusiasm for learning is not limited to History but is demonstrated across the curriculum. This thirst for knowledge and intelligent questioning will serve him well now and in his future academic pursuits. Fantastic to hear!

Mick Edginton's funeral

My thanks go to Mrs Vinti who played at Mick's funeral yesterday and to Madam Grange and the Year Six children who volunteered to sing also.

It was hugely appreciated and a fitting send off for a parishioner who supported our parish and Father Paul so ably. It was also a loving tribute to a grandfather who was such a source of inspiration to his grandchildren - one of whom is a former pupil of ours, and one who is a current pupil. Mick's family have donated a bible to school in his memory, which we will put to good use. May he rest in peace.

Wednesday Word



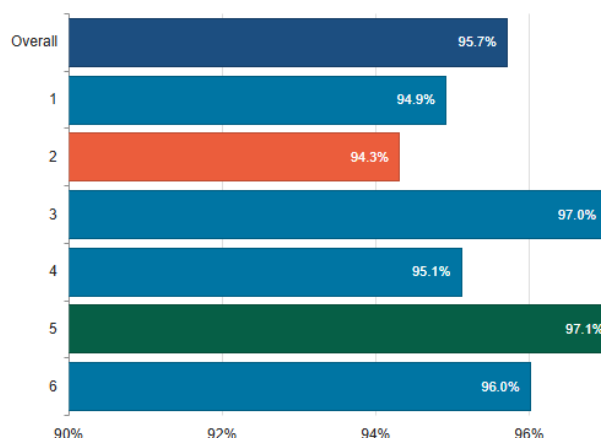
Attendance

All schools have a continuing responsibility to proactively manage and improve attendance across their school community. Attendance is the essential foundation to positive outcomes for all pupils including their safeguarding and welfare. We aim for 100% attendance but obviously some absences (illness, medical

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appointments, funerals, etc.) are unavoidable. However, even if attendance at school were to drop to 95%, this equates to two weeks of lost learning, equivalent to 50 lessons! You can understand why any attendance that falls below 90% (equivalent to missing four weeks in a school year) becomes a serious concern for school and is where we start to take more formal action.

Happily, our current levels of attendance for all children is 95.7%. See the graphic for how this relates to levels in each class.



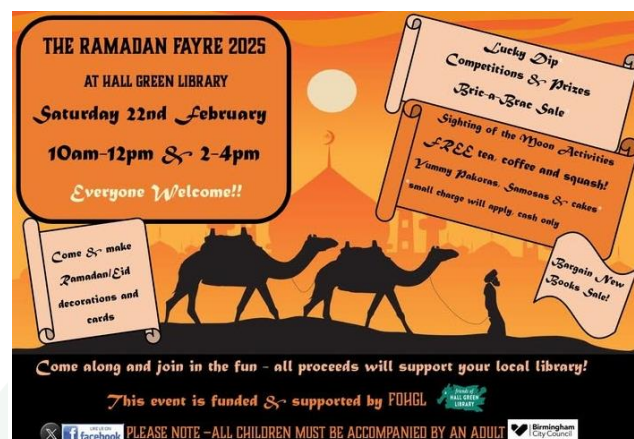
Twitter / X

We will leave our old account @SAB_B28 on Twitter for the foreseeable but we will no longer be posting on that platform. Instead, our pictures (prayer services, sporting achievements, examples of work, etc.) will be posted on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/stab_b28/). Feel free to follow us with your own personal account – our policy is not to follow parents back, so your timeline will remain private from us. Other announcements and pictures will be posted on Blue Sky eventually, and

hopefully all our old Twitter data can be hosted on that site too. I appreciate it is inconvenient to create a new social media account just to keep up with school communication but the alternative is to remain on X and that is something as a school that we are uncomfortable with in the current climate.

Hall Green Library

You are invited to Hall Green Library's **Ramadan Fayre** on Saturday 22nd February. This special event will bring families together to celebrate Ramadan with fun activities, delicious food, and a chance to support our local library. With **Birmingham City Council's recent decision to reduce the library's opening hours to just three days per week**, it is more important than ever for the community and families to get involved in activities that keep our library thriving.



Incredibly, the council have proposed that Hall Green Library will close on Saturdays. Please sign this petition below to make your opposition clear: <https://chnq.it/DBZyh5YJqQ>

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Ella in Year Two who was seven on Tuesday. Zane in Year Five was ten on Wednesday. Dermot in Year Four was nine on Thursday. Today, Anora in Year Two turns seven and on Sunday, Hayley in Year One is six. Happy birthday to everyone celebrating!

February dates for your diary

Sat 8th Feb: Year Six children Confirmation workshop

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

Thurs 13th Feb: Year Two to visit Hall Green Library

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

Mon 24th Feb: Children return to school

Thurs 27th Feb: Year Three to visit Hall Green Library

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 – theme to be announced; Year Four to visit Hall Green Library

Thurs 13th March: Year Five to visit Hall Green Library

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

Thurs 20th March: Year Six to visit Hall Green Library

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

Thurs 27th March: Year Two to visit Hall Green Library

Fri 28th March: Year Two Class Assembly 9am

April dates for your diary

Thurs 3rd April: Year Three to visit Hall Green Library

Mon 7th April: Year One Olton Friary Catholic Church

Tues 8th April: Year Two at Church of the Ascension; Year Four at Singers Hill Synagogue

Wed 9th April: Reception at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Church

Thurs 10th April: Year Three at Hindu BAPS Shri Saninarayan Mandir

Fri 11th April: Year 5 at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara

Sat 12th April: Year Three at parish hall for First Communion workshop 10am

Have a relaxing weekend. We hope to see you on Sunday as Year Six help lead our Mass. God bless,



Mr Clinton