



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 4th April 2025

Dear parents,

During our staff briefing yesterday, I spoke about how quickly the year is passing. We have nine days left of this term and then it is our Easter break. We have fourteen school days in May, spread over three weeks. Before we know it, it'll be the final seven weeks of Summer Term and your child's report will be drafted and signed and sent.



This week has also been a busy week with trips – Year Three went to Compton Verney to learn about the Neolithic period to complement their Stone Age topic, and Year Two went to Selly Manor Museum to aid their understanding of the Victorians. Next week is our focus on 'Other Faiths' and then, the week after is our whole school focus on Holy Week, starting with the Year Three children leading our Palm Sunday procession at Mass on Sunday. You are all warmly invited to our Holy Week assemblies that begin on Monday 14th April at 9am.

Golden Book

Reception: Penelope Kelly for always being such a fabulous pupil! Penelope ensures that she is always trying her

very best and is really working on her confidence in reading and writing. Her handwriting is beautiful and her work is always presented neatly. She is a wonderful role-model for her peers!

Year One: Zinedine Khan for his brilliant Literacy work this week. Zinedine has enjoyed exploring our new book '*Stuck*' by Oliver Jeffers. He showcased his brilliant ideas of how he would get his kite down from the tree. Zinedine has really tried hard all week and put great effort into every task that he has been given. Well done, Zinedine.

Year Two: Theo Edwards has really stood out this week for his adventurous vocabulary when writing his persuasive leaflet! He has also been working really hard with his phonics and trying his best to apply all the tricky words he knows into his writing. Theo has also applied himself in Maths by being able to use lots of different resources to help him with his arithmetic. Keep up the determination and perseverance, Theo! Well done!

Year Three: Erin Jackson for always being the best person she can be. Erin is an excellent listener and is always doing what she should be doing. She wrote a great recount of our out school trip to Compton Verney yesterday to impress her teachers. Keep working hard and being the best you can be, Erin!

Year Four: Kieron Bradbury-Slater has made a tremendous effort with his

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

presentation this week. His handwriting across all subjects and he wrote some fantastic questions to guide his research into his non-chronological report. Super work, Kieron - keep it up!

Year Five: Zane Fernando is a joy to teach because he just seems to absorb all the information we discuss and learn in lessons. Zane has the ability to *look* like he is not listening but, secretly, he is taking it all in. He is a smart, intelligent pupil who just loves learning about....everything! He is a friendly, happy cheerful member of the class who always laughs at Mrs McGrory's jokes, proving he has a great sense of humour. We just love hearing about all of his wild and imaginative ideas. Don't stop being creative, Zane - the world needs people like you who think outside the box.

Year Six: Noah Deeley has been trying really hard in his revision work for his SATs, particularly in Maths. His perseverance is paying off with success in practice papers but can also be seen in other subjects. We have been looking at creating interest and captivating the by varying our sentence openers reader in our writing this week and Noah has produced some great ideas in preparation for our work based on '*Who Let the Gods Out?*'. Keep this incredible effort up, Noah.

Wednesday Word

This has been emailed out this week and contains the Gospel for the next five weeks, up until the Breakfast on the Shore following the Resurrection of Jesus. We will continue to use it for the next two weeks in school until we break up on Maundy Thursday.

London College of Music Piano

Exam

Thank you to Madam Grange who took our children to Shirley Baptist Church for their piano exams. All children passed! Lila, Violetta, Sonny, Jude and Gracie all achieved a distinction, and Lauren, Elijah and Dermot passed with merit. I accompanied the children and their behaviour and conduct was of the usual incredibly high standard - they were complimented by all the additional adults from other schools. Congratulations, all.

Phonics workshop for Year One

parents

Parents with children in Year One are warmly invited to a Phonics workshop run by Mrs Healy and Miss Traynor on Monday 14th April. The workshop will take place at 5:30 and it would be extremely useful if at least one parent from each family could attend. If you need to attend with children, that is fine. The purpose of the meeting is to inform you about how we deliver Phonics in school and give you more information about the Phonics screening check that staff will administer to your child during Summer term. We submit this data to the Department for Education and publish it on our website; the more information you have about the screening check, the better. Please make every effort to support your child by attending.

Other Faiths Week

This begins on Monday. Every class will have a different religion to focus on, and each class will have the opportunity to visit an example of the relevant place

of worship too (with the exception of Year Six, who will have something arranged later due to the lack of availability this week). Watch this space! Reception will visit our own parish church while Year One will visit another Catholic place of worship. Year Two will visit another Christian church while Year Three will attend our local Hindu mandir. Year Four will visit the synagogue and travel by coach to Singers Hill, and Year Five will visit the Sikh Gurdwara in Smethwick, also via coach. Year Six will focus on Islam. Thanks to Mrs Bresnen for organising

Sponsored school sleepover – 11th April

The president of the Mini Vinnies – Halle Parsons – has led her team in designing our sponsorship forms for the sleepover. This will take place on Friday 11th April from 7pm and children can be collected between 7am and 8am the next day, after eating their morning toast. All children in Year Five and Six are welcome to attend and the only condition is that they must pledge to raise at least £10 sponsorship money. This should mean almost £600 for our SIFA Fireside and for St Basil's (<https://stbasils.org.uk/>). Of course, if children raise more, we can donate more. I think we managed over £3000 last time it was run, under the leadership of Carys Henvey in 2022. No pressure, Halle.

PTA School Lottery- You need to be in it to win it!

The PTA are pleased to announce that our School Lottery is ready to launch! You will be entered in to a weekly local

draw - this prize is dependent on how many entries in the lottery our school has but entry includes a weekly national draw with a top prize of £25,000!!!! The national draw is for ALL ticket holders from all schools in the UK that take part in the lottery. In addition to the chance to win, a percentage of each ticket comes back to the PTA as fundraising! If you have any questions, please ask a member of the PTA committee. Our first draw is on Saturday 3rd May. Good luck everyone!

[>>Enter here! <<](#)

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to Emily Healy in Year Four who is nine today! Have a great, day Emily.



On Sunday, Cee-Jai in Reception celebrates his fifth birthday. Let's hope the sun continues to shine on this special day! Happy birthday, both!

April dates for your diary

Mon 7th April: Other Faiths Week

Tues 8th April: Year One at Olton Friary Catholic Church;

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 Mandir;

Keyboard concert at 2:15pm

Fri 11th April: Year Five at Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara;

Year Five and Six sponsored school sleepover

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

Sun 13th April: Year Three children to lead 'Palm Sunday' procession at church at 10am

Mon 14th April: Year Three to lead 'Palm Sunday' Holy Week assembly;
Year One parents to attend Phonics workshop 5:30pm

Tues 15th April: Year Four to lead 'Last Supper' Holy Week assembly

Wed 16th April: Year Five to lead 'Gethsemane' Holy Week assembly

Thurs 17th April: Year Six to lead 'Stations of the Cross' Holy Week assembly;

school closes for end of term at 2pm – no Kidzone club.

May dates for your diary

Tues 6th May: Children return to school

Sat 10th May: Year Three FHC Masses 10am and 11:30

Monday 12th May: KS2 SATS start

Fri 16th May: Year One Class assembly 9am; Marian Procession 2pm

Fri 23rd May: Children break up for half-term at 3:30

June dates for your diary

Mon 2nd June: School closed for INSET
Tues 3rd June: School re-opens for Summer Two

Mon 9th June: Year Five and Six residential to Paris

Mon 16th June: Year Five and Six residential to Whitemoor Lakes

Fri 20th June: Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

Sun 22nd June: Corpus Christi Procession 10am

Fri 27th June: Whole School Mass for Sacred Heart of Jesus 9:30am

Sat 28th June: Summer Fete 12-3pm

Have a good weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Mrs Deneny, if you're reading this – I hope Nottingham Forest get the grand total of zero in their game on Saturday evening. God bless,



Mr Clinton