



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 11th April 2025

Dear parents,

Pope John Paul II had a wonderful phrase about the RE Curriculum being the "core of the core" in schools, above every other subject. I would say this is true at our school and explains why the Governing Body agree every year to change our term dates so we can remain in school for Holy Week. The work the children undertake and produce this week is of such a high standard and enforces their understanding of the last days of the life of Jesus before His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We start our preparations with a joint venture between the school and the parish this Sunday, where we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The procession at church at the 10am Mass on Sunday will be led by our First Holy Communion children (and they will practise this tomorrow during their workshop). The same children will then recount these events in their assembly on Monday morning, with every class in Key Stage Two following likewise on their respective days. See diary dates for details. All are welcome.



Golden Book

Reception: Michael Doran for his excellent attitude towards his work this week. Michael has shown great listening skills during lessons and has been putting his hand up to share some of his great ideas. He has worked really hard to apply his phonics knowledge in his reading and writing too! Keep up the hard work, Michael!

Year One: Faaris Ahmed for being such a superstar in phonics and reading this week. He is working hard to sound out words and blend and has been working hard to use prosody when reading. His confidence and independence are growing every day and it is fabulous to see. Super work this week, Faaris!

Year Two: Bertie Wardle is a model pupil here at St Ambrose Barlow. He listens so carefully and gets on well with everything and always follows the school rules. He has really applied himself in everything we have done this week. Bertie always strives to be the best version of himself too. Keep this up, Bertie! Well done!

Year Three: Edward Newton for being a really hard worker. Edward puts all his effort into everything he does to ensure he is doing the best he can. He is also a great asset to our class assembly and performs his line fantastically.

Year Four: George Parkes has been constantly challenging himself during Maths lessons for the last few weeks. He has been contributing to lessons to

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

check his understanding, pushing himself to finish more activities and finding joy in the process of problem solving. This is wonderful to hear. Keep this up George!

Year Five: This week, Francis Fitzpatrick has worked consistently from the get go. Even before some other pupils have come into school, he has been coming into class and tackling his Maths work with great determination and perseverance. Not only has his Maths work improved, but his confidence to tackle new challenges has also increased. Well done, Francis: it is difficult to constantly put 100% into your work and face new challenges but you have made a huge effort this week and it has not gone unnoticed. Your enthusiasm for learning is setting a great example for others to follow.

Year Six: Harrison always models good behaviour and manners and is everything we expect from a St Ambrose Barlow pupil. Kind, friendly and generous, Harrison also tries hard in his learning, showing particular focus at this time with SATs that are now just around the corner. He has a winning smile that would light up any classroom and is always willing to share his God-given talents to benefit others. Keep being your lovely self, Harrison, as you enjoy your final year here at school!

Father Paul

As you will see from the parish newsletter, Father Paul has suffered a nasty fall and is in quite a bit of pain. He is assured of our prayers during his recuperation but what he really needs is undisturbed time to rest. Keep him in your thoughts but please keep any

plans to visit to a minimum. Father John Collins will cover the parish duties in Father Paul's absence, and will lead Sunday's Mass and procession. Father Paul is a remarkable source of strength for the school and gives so much to our staff and our children. I want to thank him for all he does and we look forward to his return to health in the coming weeks.

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

Thank you to Mrs Bresnen for organising and to the children for engaging fully in this. It is a great source of pride for me as headteacher that whenever we take the children out of the school, they are always complimented on their conduct and their manners. I joined Year Three at the

Hindu mandir and was amazed at their insightful questions and polite curiosity about how others in our local community practise their faith. Next week, the children will write a letter to each respective place of worship, thanking them for their hospitality.

Sponsored school sleepover – 11th April

This takes place tonight. The staff are staying over too, in shifts, to ensure that the children are happy and content. It is great preparation for our upcoming residential but also a wonderful way to fundraise for the needy in our local community. Please try to get your sponsorship money in as soon as possible so our eager Mini-Vinnies can begin the counting and donating to St Basil's and SIFA Fireside. We have a target to beat!

Summer Uniform

Children can return after Easter in their optional summer uniform: that means shorts and light blue polo shirts for boys and blue and white checked summer dresses or light blue blouses for girls.

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

Remember to sign up for this. The first draw is on 3rd May. You can [>>enter here! <<](#)

My appreciation, also, to the PTA for the *Wonderlicious* Golden Ticket bars that were given out on Monday, Easter eggs, film afternoon, non-uniform days, trainee Assistant Headteachers to help in assemblies, and hot chocolate dates.

What a brilliant idea! Thanks to all involved.

Birthdays this week...

Happy birthday to
Deen from
Reception who
was five on
Tuesday. Today,
Abel in Year Five turns ten. Happy birthday to both.



April dates for your diary

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.

Good luck to Birmingham City this weekend and to any families going down to Wembley. A decent week for them: sealing promotion and the chance for more silverware. Not such a good week for the Villa, but at least Mrs Deneny had nothing to say to me when I saw her on Wednesday.



Mr Clinton