



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

[www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

[enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk)

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

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear parents,

We have reached the end of an extremely long and busy term – one week longer than most other schools in Birmingham, but an extra week that has produced some wonderful work. Thank you to all the children who led our reflective Holy Week assemblies and to all parents and extended families (and former pupils) who attended. I cannot emphasise enough the quality of work produced by the children this week and how much deeper their understanding is as a result. We finished today with an incredibly professional and moving performance of the Stations of the Cross from Year Six.

I know it is sometimes inconvenient if there are siblings or other children who attend schools with different term dates (my own children attend two different schools with different term dates) but, in my opinion, all Catholic schools should do what our Governors agree to do and base the term dates around the liturgical calendar of the Church, particularly around Christmas and Easter. Thank you, as ever, for your continued support.



### Golden Book

**Reception:** Alex Ruskov for trying so hard to make excellent choices! Alex has shown great listening skills and produced some wonderful work around the key events of Holy Week. He has also made excellent progress with his reading and writing over this term too! Keep up the hard work, Alex!

**Year One:** Elliot Fowler for being such a superstar in phonics and reading: he is even taking time at home to complete extra phonics! In RE, he has listened carefully and thought about the thoughts of feelings of those close to Jesus. He is always kind and considerate to others and a wonderful friend to everyone. Keep it up, Elliot!

**Year Two:** Everyone is so proud of Daniel this week. During Holy Week, he produced some brilliant pieces of work, both written work and pieces of artwork. Daniel's work on the Stations of the Cross has particularly stood out. He went into enormous detail about Mary's feelings as she was with Jesus at the cross. It was incredibly touching and moving. A fantastic end to the week and term! Well done, Daniel!

**Year Three:** Gracie Goddard could be put in the Golden Book every week. She is the perfect role model for all pupils at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School. Every piece of work produced is of the highest quality. Her behaviour is impeccable and she puts 100% effort into everything she does. You are a

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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.**

pleasure to teach, Gracie! Keep up the good work.

**Year Four:** Helena Ridgeway for her impeccable composure and grace during our Holy Week assembly on Tuesday. She delivered her own lines eloquently, as well as helping other classmates remember their cues. Well done, Helena!

**Year Five:** Katie Deeley has worked really conscientiously this week; she has written thoughtful reflections on the events during Holy Week and has been forthcoming when discussing emotions and feeling of others during lessons in class. She is a great friend to others and is always polite and helpful in class. It has been a real pleasure getting to know this pupil over this Spring term as she is bright, bubbly and has a wonderful sense of humour. Well done, Katie, for being so focused on improving your work this term.

**Year Six:** Dylan Edgington has been finding his own ways to improve his work and implementing these methods independently. This is always great to see as it shows self-motivation which bodes well for his studies moving forward as material inevitably becomes more challenging. Keep it up, Dylan!

### **Values and Virtues**

This half term, we have been focusing on being attentive (paying attention to the world around us) and being discerning (consciously thinking about the choices we make). Articulating this weekly in assemblies and daily in class really helps children to reflect on who they are and what they are doing. The following children have especially stood out:

**Reception:** Linda Hajas

**Year One:** Isabella Davies

**Year Two:** Anora Mandapati

**Year Three:** Gemma Ip

**Year Four:** John Luckman

**Year Five:** Ava Ling-Lee

**Year Six:** Richard Qiu

### **Father Paul**

Please keep Father Paul in your prayers as he recovers from his very painful injury. He requires plenty of time and space to recuperate but we hope to see him back on his feet in the coming weeks and months. Father John Collins will continue to say Mass in Father Paul's absence.

## **Easter Triduum**



The times of Services at Church over Easter are as follows:

### **Maundy Thursday:**

Washing of Feet at 7pm

### **Good Friday:**

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm;  
Stations of the Cross 7pm.

### **Holy Saturday:**

Easter Vigil Mass 8:30pm

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday Mass 10am;  
5:30pm

### **Phonics workshop for Reception parents**

Building on our Year One Phonics workshop, parents with children in Reception are warmly invited to a Phonics session run by Miss Hodgkins on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 5:30pm. 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, as additional staff will be on hand to keep them occupied. The purpose of the meeting is to inform you about how we deliver Phonics in school, focusing especially on diagraphs and trigraphs, and how we teach children in Reception to read.

### **Sponsored school sleepover – 11<sup>th</sup> April**

Thanks to all who participated. There is no final total *yet*, but hopefully the children (and staff) have now caught up on sleep! Please ensure all money is returned to school after the Easter break so we can pass it onto ST Basil's and SIFA Fireside and help those in need.

### **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. Please ensure that shoes remain appropriate and in line with our uniform policy.

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

Remember to sign up for this. It is £1 per ticket and the first draw is on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. You can [>>enter here <<](#) and be in with the chance of a £25,000 jackpot.

*Welcome to St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School lottery. This lottery has been set up by St Ambrose Barlow PTA specifically*

*to raise money and make a difference for our children!  
It's a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children - we aim to provide extra resources for the children and improve the school environment.*

### **PTA End of Term Update**

A huge thank you to you all for your continued support of the SAB PTA. This term we have tried a couple of new and different events, all of which were successful. The Doughnut sale in February raised £260. The *Wonderlicious* Chocolate Bars raised £566. The golden tickets were well received; we hope your children all enjoy their prizes.

We are currently waiting to hear from Tesco on where we placed during our feature in their blue token event - this will be a minimum of £500 and we will update you as soon as we know. We also received £358 from the Asda Cashpot scheme.

We also launched the school lottery (see above) which currently stands at around £950 in fundraising for the year! Our first draw is on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, so please don't forget to sign up for your ticket.

We want to thank you all for your very generous donations for our bottle tombola and new gift tombola at our

Summer Fete - plans are well under way and we will officially launch after the Easter break, with details of what you can expect at this year's extravaganza.

This term, we have purchased the bike and scooter racks, which you can see as you walk in to school. I am sure you will agree they look amazing and are already well utilised by the children!

We provided everything needed for a hot chocolate treat for our Year Five and Six children who took part in the school sleepover last weekend. We also provided refreshment and decoration at this year's Confirmation, and upcoming First Holy Communion.

We are still looking at playground renovations for the KS2 playground, and we will also be funding the purchase of glockenspiels which will be used by all children in their music lessons.

After Easter, we will hold a coffee morning, so please come along, especially with any ideas for improving the school playgrounds. We will announce a date as soon as possible.

### **KS2 SATs**

Key Stage Two tests (SATs) are a fact of life in primary schools, I am afraid. A reminder that these do not define the children but merely serve as a purpose to see what percentage of the children in this school achieve the expected standard and how this compares nationally. The SATs are not qualifications in the way that GCSEs or A-Levels are. You will be aware from

our school website that our data is above the national average and this is down to the quality of teaching and the support of our parents, as well as the effort and application of our children, but this same data by no means defines a child's experience here at St Ambrose Barlow.

If SATs did not exist, I would still give the same advice to any parent who wishes their child to be the best they can be: read to them, hear them read in return, practice their times tables and number bonds (hence our focus on TTRS and Numbots) and talk to them about what they are learning in school and how this relates to what they have learnt previously.

No child in Year Six needs to panic about the upcoming assessments. I have total faith in them and their ability.

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

Happy birthday to Arlo in Year One who is six on Saturday and to Adam in Year Three who is eight on Easter Sunday. All that chocolate to celebrate!



Happy birthday to all those who celebrate over the Easter break: Nancy in Year Two turns seven; Elena, Elsie and Lawson in Year Three turn eight; Oliver G in Year Four turns nine; Alesha, Mia and Ellie-Mae in Year Five turn ten; finally, Halle and Isabel in Year Six turn eleven. Happy birthday to all!



### **May dates for your diary**

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> May:** Children return to school

**Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May:** Year Three FHC Masses  
10am and 11:30

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May:** KS2 SATs start

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> May:** Year One Class assembly  
9am; Marian Procession 2pm

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> May:** Children break up for  
half-term at 3:30

### **June dates for your diary**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** School closed for INSET  
**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** School re-opens for  
Summer Two

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Five and Six  
residential to Paris

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Five and Six  
residential to Whitemoor Lakes

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Mass  
2:30pm

**Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** Corpus Christi  
Procession 10am

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> June:** Whole School Mass for  
Sacred Heart of Jesus 9:30am

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June:** Summer Fete 12-3pm

### **July dates for your diary**

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Reception Class Assembly  
9am

**Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Keyboard and choir  
concert 2:15pm

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Reports out

**Mon 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Five eco-retreat @  
Columbans

**Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers'  
Assembly 9am

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> July:** Whole School Mass at  
9:30am

Break up for summer at 2pm

Parents, we will  
see you all on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.  
Children can  
wear their  
summer uniform  
if those choose. God bless you all.  
Have a happy and holy Easter.



*J Clinton*

Mr Clinton