



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 20th June 2025

Dear parents,

Our intrepid travellers returned from France last Friday, and our happy campers who spent three days at Whitemoor Lakes got back this Wednesday. Thanks to all staff involved in both trips, and thank you to the staff who selflessly gave up their time to give the children this opportunity. The feedback from both trips were brilliant, and behaviour impeccable!



We remember in our prayers Father Paul. It is at times like this – with our Going Forth Mass last Sunday, Reception's Class Mass today, our Corpus Christi procession this Sunday and our Leavers' Mass this coming Thursday that his absence is felt more keenly than ever. We pray that Blessed Edward Oldcorne intercedes on Father Paul's behalf and his rehabilitation in Oswestry can start in earnest.

Finally, as you are now aware, yesterday afternoon, the school went into full lockdown on the advice of the police. Thankfully, due to our drills, the children were well practised and knew what to do – they did so without panicking and without knowing the circumstances at the time. I just want to thank you for your kind emails

afterwards. Obviously, we have a strong culture of safeguarding at school and keeping children safe is part and parcel of what we do here but your kind words and support made a very stressful situation easy to deal with.

Golden Book

Reception: Maisie Fullbrook for returning to school with such bravery and resilience. She has worked so hard this week to complete her work to the best of her ability and she has remained positive and enthusiastic. Well done, Maisie!

Year One: Angelo Sanjay for settling into life at St Ambrose Barlow so well. He has worked extremely hard while getting used to lots of new routines. He has already made lots of new friends and Year One are all very happy that he has joined our class.

Year Two: Mia Bhachu is a conscientious learner who consistently demonstrates a positive attitude towards all aspects of school life. She always listens attentively, follows instructions carefully, and contributes thoughtfully to every lesson. Mia is a role model to everyone, following our school rules and demonstrating our values and virtues. Mia's enthusiasm, kindness, and dedication is faultless. Mia, you are simply a star!

Year Three: Since January, Tayla-Mae Fieldhouse has grown in confidence and shown incredible perseverance in all subjects, especially Maths. The

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

improvement in her Maths fluency has enabled her to answer more challenging questions independently.

Year Four: It has been a delight to see James McColgan make some good choices this week in lessons and the playground. His interpretation of folk tales has been incredibly well thought out and beautifully presented and I think James has enjoyed getting into the character of the audacious Brer Rabbit.

Year Five: Emily O'Keeffe has been a pleasure to teach this week. Even after a busy five days away in Paris, this pupil has come back into school ready and eager to learn. She can always be relied on to put 110% into everything she does, her work is always neatly presented and she undertakes any task with minimal fuss. We really enjoyed getting to know Emily during our trip to France and caught occasional glimpses of her adventurous side, something less often seen in school. She was fun, friendly and funny. Emily worked really well with the Year Six pupils this week, showing she is mature and sensible. Well done, Emily – Mrs McGrory would happily take you on many other adventures, so long as she learns to be as brave and outgoing as you are!

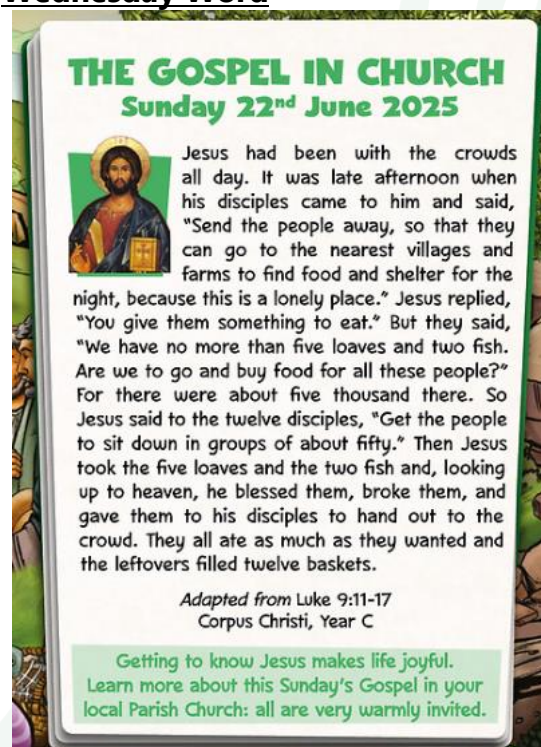
Year Six: Elijah Roberts had an enjoyable, productive week working on the Solar System whilst his peers were exploring Paris. Then, he gave 100% to everything he put his hand to at Whitemoor Lakes (including winning the much-coveted Tidiest Room prize). Still focused, he spent yesterday when we were all back in Year Six with his head down, producing good quality

work; all done, too, with his infectious enthusiasm. Keep it up Elijah!

Corpus Christi Procession

After 10am Mass this Sunday, you are all invited to process up from church to school, following the Blessed Sacrament. Year Three will lead the procession in their communion outfits, followed by the monstrance under a canopy, followed by parishioners and parents and other children. Hot drinks and squash will be available at school and, as before, you are welcome to bring a picnic to eat in our grounds.

Wednesday Word



Bikeability

Unfortunately, the date for Year Six has had to be cancelled, due to circumstances beyond our control. Instead, both Year Five and Year Six will undertake Bikeability on Monday 7th July, with two groups of six children working each day.

Key Stage One Sports Day

This will take place at 2pm on Tuesday 1st July. There will be various activities in the school playground: a whole class team game run by Dale, our coach from Aston Villa; a round robin of four activities (skipping, dribbling, hurdles, bean bag throwing) in the KS1 playground, and then races – egg and spoon, sprint, and balance run - run by Miss Ball in the KS2 playground. Parents will follow children around, following the directions of our staff. Children will need to wear a t-shirt which is the same colour as their house:

St Oscar Romero - Red

St Maximilian Kolbe - Blue

St Josephine Bakhita - Green

St Teresa of Calcutta – Yellow

Paris 2027

This has been booked for March 2027 – slightly earlier in the calendar than our usual timings, but slightly cheaper for this too. We will send out communication in the coming weeks to all parents of children in Year Three and Four to get an idea of numbers and whether the trip is practical. Realistically, we need around 40 children to sign up for the residential to be financially viable. There will also be a UK based residential that has been booked before for the week preceding the Paris trip. Parents are welcome to book their child onto one or both trips.

Transition Day

On Wednesday 2nd July, children will meet their new teacher, while the vast majority of Year Six travel to their secondary schools. Staffing for 2025/26 is as follows:

Reception: Miss Hodgkins, supported by Mrs Robinson

Year One: Miss Traynor and Mrs Hunt, supported by Mrs Thorne

Year Two: Miss Hookes, supported by Mrs Fayaz

Year Three: Miss Ball, supported by Mrs O'Driscoll

Year Four: Miss Reynolds, supported by Miss Brookes

Year Five: Mrs McGrory, supported by Mrs Drewry

Year Six: Mrs Healy and Mrs Bresnen, supported by Mr Turner

Staff goodbyes

This means that we wave goodbye to Mrs George, who joined in September of this academic year and has been working with Year Six. A former architect, she has shared her wealth of knowledge with Year Six and we have hugely enjoyed working with her. She moves to another Catholic school, Holy Name, in Great Barr. We thank her for her hard work and we wish her all the very best.

We also wave goodbye to Miss Newman, who previously worked with Year Six, as well as many children in key Stage One. She leaves us to work with young adults with additional needs at a Further Education college where I know she will be a great success. Miss Newman has been an asset to our school and also stepped up to Acting Assistant Headteacher when Mrs Bresnen was on maternity leave. She will be missed!

Finally, Miss Downing leaves us to undertake her primary teacher training.

She has been brilliant in the time she worked with us and, having taught her myself when she was a pupil, I wish her all the very best and I am delighted that she has followed in this vocation.

It is rare that staff leave our special school community but I know that you will join me in thanking them for their service, for their selfless devotion to our children, and wish them all the very best for the future. Perhaps, like Mrs Deneny, they will occasionally make an appearance again...

St Peter's Fifty-Fest

See the flyer below. St Peter's are turning 50 and having a festival on Friday 4th July at 4pm until 7pm. They are looking for stall holders who may wish to sell their wares: jewellery, crafts, plants, cakes, etc...



Summer Fete

Not long now! Start saving your pennies, your pounds and your larger denomination notes for our Summer Fete on Saturday 28th June – next week!!!! Blow all your hard earned cash on the bottle tombola, the BBQ, the inflatables, soak the headteacher, the ice cream van, the craft market, and

many more...! Thanks to the PTA for organising and all the adult volunteers, who also go above and beyond to make this day a success.



See below for details of our raffle: the first prize is £200 and tickets will soon follow, for sale at £1 per ticket.



Birthdays this week

This week, Ava in Year One turns six today, and Eliza in Year

Two turns seven. Happy birthday, both. On Saturday, Lily in Reception celebrates her fifth birthday, and on Sunday, Mylah in Reception turns five also. Enjoy your special day, girls!



June dates for your diary

Sun 22nd June: Corpus Christi Procession 10am

Thurs 26th June: Year Four @ Hall Green Library; Family Mass 5pm

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

Sat 28th June: Summer Fete 12-3pm

Mon 30th June: Year Five eco-retreat @ Columbans; Catholic Sports at Alexander Stadium

July dates for your diary

Tues 1st July: Key Stage One Sports Day

Wed 2nd July: Transition Day (Meet the Teacher)

Thurs 3rd July: Year Five @ Hall Green Library

Fri 4th July: Reception Class Assembly 9am

Mon 7th July: Year Five and Six Bikeability

Tues 8th July: Key Stage Two Sports Day TBC (due to availability of site)

Thurs 10th July: Keyboard and choir concert 2:15pm

Fri 11th July: Year Six @ Hall Green Library (am); Reports out

Mon 14th July: Year Six eco-retreat @ Columbans

Thurs 17th July: Year Six Leavers' Assembly 9am

Fri 18th July: Whole School Mass at 9:30am; Break up for summer at 2pm

Have a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the warm weather and we hope to see you at Mass on Sunday for our Corpus Christi procession and picnic!

God bless,

Mr Clinton