



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear parents,

We started the day with an assembly about going plastic-free, in line with our Sustainability action plan, which was led so conscientiously and so ably by Mrs McGrory and her merry team of eco-councillors. It was hugely impressive – my thanks to all the children who were involved! We ended the day with a wonderful Mass celebrated by Father John and assisted so well by the children of Year Two, with a focus on St Francis of Assisi and care of creation. Along with Year Five's eco-retreat at the Columban Fathers yesterday, you can certainly see what our focus for this year is!

Golden Book

Reception: *Children will start attending our weekly Gifts from God assembly, after October half term, and this is when their Golden Book celebrations will begin.*

Year One: This week, Penelope Kelly has impressed us in every single lesson. Not only has she listened brilliantly, but she has also contributed some fabulous ideas to our class discussions. In Art, after studying Van Gogh, Penelope wowed us with her incredible attempt to replicate the Starry Night painting. Super work, Penelope!

Year Two: This week we want to celebrate Isla Caughey for her fantastic

attitude towards her learning! She always works hard in every lesson, listens carefully and always gives her very best. In Maths, she has shown some amazing perseverance when we were doing column addition and renaming. Isla didn't give up, even when it was tricky! We are so proud of you Isla! Well done!

Year Three: Samuel Hajas for always showing his teachers how wonderful he is. Samuel listens well and therefore produces work of a great standard no matter what the subject is. He is an excellent role model for his peers and is a joy to have in the classroom. Keep up the good work, Samuel!

Year Four: Tayla-Mae Fieldhouse has really impressed this week. She had taken all of her learning from Year Three and pushed and developed herself through her writing to produce work that she is proud of sharing and showing on our wall. Keep this momentum up!

Year Five: This week, Mrs McGrory could have chosen any one from her class, as they were all brilliant on the Eco retreat, but Ethan Valesquez really deserves to be celebrated above the others. In the few weeks that she has been teaching Year Five, he has shown he is a sensible and mature member of the class. All of his work is completed to a high standard, and he works quietly and conscientiously. Mrs McGrory is famous for her sense of humour (and poker face) and she just loves Ethan's

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sense of humour and smile each morning, when he enters the classroom. He really enjoys learning and she cannot wait to see where his learning will take him. Ethan, you are fabulous, stay inquisitive and passionate about learning: it will take you far.

Year Six: You will be hard pushed to find a student who works as hard as Zach Lloyd day in, day out. All teachers who have worked with Zach so far this year, have commented on his can-do attitude, fabulous work ethic and him simply being a delight to teach. His Maths books today after this 'chunking' lesson while doing long division was a delight! We look forward seeing everything Zach is going to achieve this year!

Mini-Vinnies

Watch this space! Year Five and Six will be spoken to about the responsibilities



involved as President, secretary, communications officer, and treasurer and then they will invited to apply. I must commend the children on their enthusiasm though – letters are piling up on my desk before the adverts have even gone out!

School Council

Unlike the prefects and head boy and girl, school councillors are elected by their classmates and play a role in improving provision in school from a pupil's point of view, with regular meetings where they can offer feedback. The votes have been cast and counted and I am delighted to

announce the School Councillors for 2025/26:

Year One: Alfie Holmes and Mylah Tapper

Year Two: Arlo Tranter and Nancy Hall

Year Three: Callie-Anne Hudson and Sebastian Henvey

Year Four: Gracie Goddard and Jasper Fung

Year Five: Ailbhe Lillington and Oliver Ellard

Year Six: Morgan Keogh and Francis Fitzpatrick

Harvest Gifts

During Monday's assembly, we explored the story of the rich man and the poor man – and how the rich man couldn't even bring himself to share the crumbs off his table. This served as the launch for our Harvest Gifts collection. I need to give Oliver Grange a special mention here: we talked about how pasta and rice are every day staples and very much needed, but how Coco-Pops and Oreos as a treat would be appreciated too. Oliver then took his Mum shopping and offered to spend his own money on crisps, strawberry fizzy laces, flavoured yoghurts and fizzy drinks. All of this this – the plain pasta and the luxury treats – will be donated and shared out between SIFA Fireside, St Chad's Sanctuary, and our own Church of the Ascension foodbank after our Harvest Mass in two weeks' time. Please donate what you can: tea bags, coffee, cereals, rice, biscuits, crisps – even shower gel, toothpaste and toilet paper!



Paris

Paris has been provisionally booked for five days in March 2027, though the final dates are yet to be confirmed. This will be done once we have confirmation of numbers and we know the trip is financially viable. It is likely to cost approximately £700 (and almost certainly a little less than this) but the prices for 2027 are actually yet to be confirmed. This will include a trip to Disneyland and travel via the Eurotunnel, as well as accommodation with the chateau itself, and the invariable McDonalds on the return journey! If your child is currently in Year Four or Five, then please fill in the expression of interest form that has been sent so we can gauge potential numbers, and allocate staff accordingly. No deposits are being asked for yet - this is just to get an idea of numbers. A meeting will follow regardless of the outcome to explore options in more detail. There will also be an option for a shorter, cheaper, UK based residential. Your child can attend either, both, or neither.

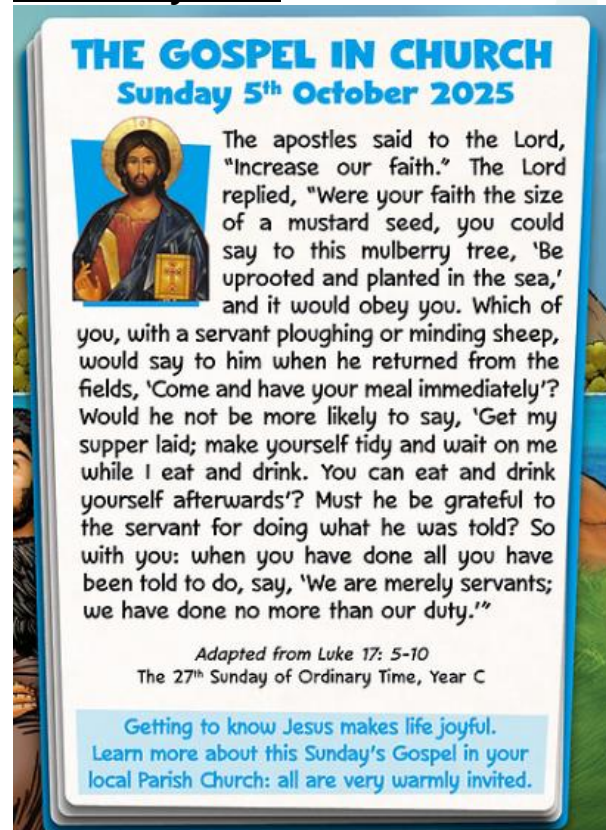
If the trip to Paris goes ahead, we are likely to ask for a non-refundable deposit of £100 before the end of the year to secure the place, and then ten payments of £50 over the course of the 2026 calendar year, before one final payment of £100 in 2027.

Open Sessions for 2026 Reception Prospective Parents

We are holding two open afternoons for parents of Reception-aged children who would like to start in September 2026. These will take place on Monday

6th and Wednesday 8th October, at 2pm until 3pm. I will introduce our vision of Catholic education, Miss Hodgkins will talk about life in Reception, and the Head Boy and Girl and prefects and will conduct their tour. All are welcome!

Wednesday Word



Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Tobias in Year Four who celebrated his ninth birthday on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday, Karina in

Reception celebrated turning five. Yesterday, Helena in Year Five turned ten and on Sunday, Kieron in Year Five also turns ten, while Bella in Year Four turns nine. Happy birthday to all!



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October dates for your diary

Fri 3rd Oct: Year Two Class Mass 2:30pm

Mon 6th Oct: Poetry day;

Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents 2pm

Wed 8th Oct: Open Afternoon for prospective Reception parents 2pm

Thurs 9th Oct: Year Five (and Year Six) at Hall Green Library 2pm

Mon 13th Oct: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

Wed 15th Oct: Harvest Mass, 2pm; Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20

Thurs 16th Oct: Year Four at Hall Green Library 2pm

Fri 17th Oct: Year Six Class Assembly

Thurs 23rd Oct: PTA AGM 9am;

Year Three at Hall Green Library 2pm

Fri 24th Oct: Break up for half-term

November dates for your diary

Mon 3rd Nov: Children return to school

Tues 6th Nov: Year Six and Year Two at Hall Green Library 2pm

Fri 7th Nov: Year Four Class Mass 2:30pm

Sun 9th Nov: Year Three 'Forgiveness' Mass

Thurs 13th Nov: Year Three First Confessions 6pm

Fri 21st Nov: Year Five Class Assembly

Thurs 27th Nov: Keyboard and choir concert 2:15pm

Sun 23rd Nov: Year Six to lead parish Mass 10am

December dates for your diary

Thurs 4th Dec: KS2 Advent Reconciliation Service

Fri 5th Dec: Reception Nativity 2pm

Mon 8th Dec: Whole School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tues 9th Dec: KS1 @ Mac: 'The Owl Who Came For Christmas'

Wed 10th Dec: KS2 @ Rep: 'Sherlock Holmes'

Thurs 11th Dec: KS1 Nativity Year One parents

Fri 12th Dec: KS1 Nativity Year Two parents

Tues 16th Dec: KS2 Carol Service 7pm

Wed 17th Dec: Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumpers

Thurs 18th Dec: KS1/2 Christmas parties (pm)

Fri 19th Dec: Whole School Mass 9:30am; Break up at 2pm: no after-school club

Enjoy the weekend. God bless,



Mr Clinton