



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 7th November 2025

Dear parents,

It was a delight to greet the children back on Monday morning. I told them in Monday's Gospel assembly that, when asked by a friend if I were looking forward to returning to work, I replied that I have the best job ever because I am the headteacher of such a wonderful school with such kind, polite children. I meant every word – the children make my job very easy.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we welcomed Reception parents into two workshops for an opportunity for them to work with their children's gross and fine motor skills. It was hugely enjoyable to all involved – my thanks to Miss Hodgkins for running the workshop. Hopefully, you are now in a better position to know how to support your child's development at home.

We have ended this week with a beautiful class Mass celebrated by Father John and led by Year Four. Fabulous singing throughout. Why not join us on Sunday at 10am Mass with Year Three for more of the same, with Father Ed O'Connell from the Columban Fathers leading the Mass. This is also an opportunity to buy a cake afterwards and raise some funds for school. More on that later.

Golden Book

Reception: Kobi Kelly for settling into life at St Ambrose Barlow so well and making such amazing progress! I am delighted with Kobi's attitude towards his learning and his increasing independence when completing his work. He is always willing to help around the classroom and support his peers too. Keep up the hard work, Kobi!

Year One: Elijah Fishley has had a fantastic start to this half term! He has worked extremely hard to impress all of the adults in Year One and has shown great teamwork skills when collaborating with his peers. Elijah has made thoughtful choices that help him communicate his needs clearly within the classroom. He always demonstrates excellent manners and is a kind and supportive friend to everyone. Super work, Elijah!

Year Two: Hayley Sin has come back after half term with a brilliant attitude towards her learning. She's shown wonderful independence, listens carefully and get straight on with her work. Her handwriting is always so neatly presented, and she takes real pride in keeping her work neat. She always gives her best in everything she does. Well done, Hayley – you are a fantastic role model for others!

Year Three: Remy Augustus for having a great work ethic this week. Remy has worked hard to produce some great pieces of work. These include a fabulous letter to the *Alien Egg*

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Research Company about a mysterious egg found on our school grounds and some wonderful Maths work where he was multiplying by 3.

Year Four: Erin Jackson is always looking to make the right choice and push her knowledge and understanding in subjects. Others in the class look to her to see the choices that she has made and to follow her example. She has been challenging herself to improve her Maths fluency recently and this is showing in her work. Keep it up, Erin!

Year Five: Amelie Robinson is many things: kind, polite, always calm, easy going, and a gentle soul who just gets on with her work without a fuss. She is a brilliant personal assistant in class and is always eager and keen to help out. She just oozes enthusiasm and is a fantastic role model to others. I am so pleased to have her on the Eco-Council as well as in the Gardening club as she is a 'do-er' and Mrs McGrory loves a person who gets stuff done! Amelie, you are an amazing person, keep being you because you are brilliant!

Year Six: There is a real sense of consistency in Year Six this week as all three members of staff working with the children have picked the same child. Abel Smith has stood out for applying himself so well. His double-page spread in RE on Thursday was outstanding, and we don't use that word lightly. We won't mention his disco dancing in PE, but that was a treat too...

Unity Prayer

Year Five and Six has the pleasure of hosting Jane Crouch who came to

speak to them all about faith, about the importance of showing a love for Mary, and about praying the Rosary during November to save souls. She taught them the Unity Prayer, which I have copied below:

*My Adorable Jesus,
May our feet journey together.
May our hands gather in unity.
May our hearts beat in unison.
May our souls be in harmony.
May our thought be as one.
May our ears listen to the silence
together.
May our glances profoundly penetrate
each other.
May our lips pray together to gain
mercy from the Eternal Father.
Amen.*

Attendance

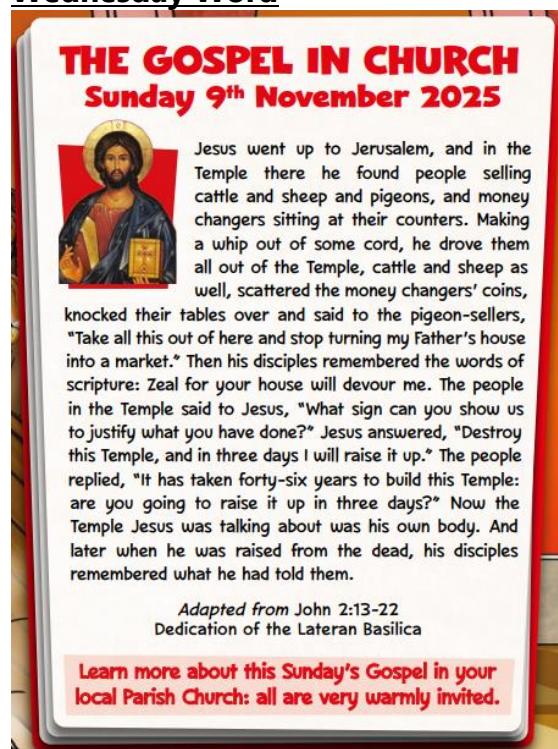
Please be aware of the communication below from the Department of Education, who are (rightly) focusing on absence of pupils in schools. Thankfully, our headline attendance figures are healthy – 96.9% of our pupils are in school every day - but there is still no room for complacency.

"All state funded schools must consider whether a penalty notice for absence is appropriate in each individual case where one of their pupils reaches the national threshold for considering a penalty notice... The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. This can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6

sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term)."

In essence, this means that any ten unauthorised sessions (including arrival after the register has closed) can result in a fine, in much the same way that a term-time holiday does.

Wednesday Word



Our wonderful Year Three are leading this Sunday's Mass at 10am so please make every effort to attend. Also, our equally fantastic Eco-Council are selling cakes afterwards to raise money for some exciting plans for our prayer garden. Why not come to Mass,

pockets laden with loose change, and enjoy a cake afterwards? Thank you in advance to Mrs McGrory for making my favourite Rolo brownies.

Jubilee prayer garden

Thanks to the Eco-Council and associated staff for the work done on the front lawn for our Jubilee prayer garden. It is slowly taking shape. Thanks also to Mr Brookes, father of Miss Brookes, for the generous donation of our wooden arch to cover over the bench that Mrs Thompson bought when she retired, and thanks to Mr Hawkins for staining the arch to protect it in inclement weather. We have also received a quotation this morning for a new gate for the Father Paul Memorial Garden, which I hope will be used for the children to enter by in the drier summer months. Exciting times ahead!

Uniform and PE Kits

All children should now be in their full winter uniform of white shirt tie and tie. Polo shirts and other summer fare will return in Summer term, after Easter. All children should also have a full PE kit that stays in school for the half-term. Pumps/plimsolls can be worn when indoors and trainers when outside, along with a school jumper or PE zip-up top.

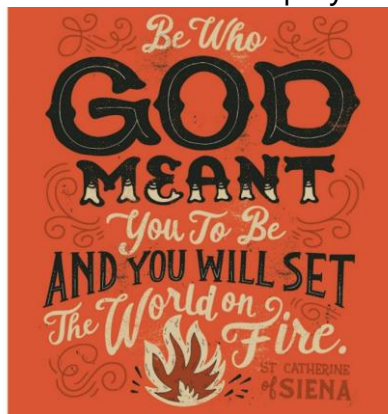
Learn from the Saints

In this week's Wednesday Word, you may have noticed a quotation from Pope St John Paul II. "Remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, look forward to the future with confidence." I am a huge fan

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of 'magpieing' ideas from other sources so will endeavour to include something similar in my own newsletters.

Here is a famous saying from St Catherine of Sienna that I always share with Year Six pupils when they start to prepare for their secondary transition: 'Be who God meant you to be and set the world on fire.' It is the same quote that adorns our bench in the prayer garden where we celebrate our Mass for the families who are leaving us each year.



Anti-Bullying Week

In addition to our KiVa (kindness) anti-bullying curriculum, we will also take part in next week's Anti-Bullying Week, which focuses on the theme 'power for good'. Children will have an assembly, a standalone lesson, some cross-curricular activities and also be invited to wear **odd socks** on Monday to celebrate our differences.



Domestic Abuse

Muslim Women's Network Helpline is a national specialist culturally sensitive and multi-lingual helpline that is confidential and non-judgmental, which offers information, support, guidance and referrals for those who

are suffering from or at risk of abuse or facing problems on a range of related and issues. Although the primary service users are Muslim women, the helpline also supports women of any faith or no faith. A very small number of service users also include men who are need support because they are victims of abuse.

Tel: 0800 999 5786

info@mwnhelpline.co.uk

<https://www.mwnuk.co.uk/mwn-helpline>

Online safety

In a recent publication, when asked about the key things that would make them feel safe online, young people replied that it would be helpful if parents knew the following and acted on it

1. Not waiting for a crisis before talking about the online world.
2. Not mentioning it once and thinking that is enough.
3. Not trying to scare children with 'the big talk' but instead talking little and often.
4. Not punishing children before listening to them and understanding their concerns.
5. Not pretending that these issues don't exist and that your child is not involved.
6. Not leaving children unsupervised online, in the same way that they wouldn't be alone in the park or the street. The same the same level of protection online should apply.

(Ideas taken from 'Young People's Advice about Talking to Your Child about Sexual Harassment' created by The Children's Commissioner)

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The overriding message is that it is never too early to begin discussions about being safe online and what to do if children see something that makes them feel uncomfortable.

PTA

My thanks to the PTA who have funded new blue blinds for the classrooms that were previously lacking at a cost of £2400. Come the summer, if the sun ever shines again, it won't be bothering us in class. Much appreciated!

Phonics meeting

Parents of Reception children are invited to a Phonics meeting at 5pm on Monday 17th November, led by Miss Hodgkins, about our approach to Phonics. Please make every effort to attend.

Parent workshops

We received a lovely email last night. It is replicated below:

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the wonderful motor skills workshop for Reception. It was such a joy to see my child and the others so engaged and having fun while developing their skills. The activities were well thought out and it was great to see how well they had settled into a more formal school setting."

"I'd love to see more workshops like this in the future. It's such a lovely way to help the children learn and grow while keeping things exciting and hands-on."

On that note, every class will hold a workshop in both Spring term and

Summer term – one focusing on Numeracy skills, the other on reading and writing. Dates will follow in the fullness of time, giving parents plenty of notice to request time off work.

Year Five and Six residential meeting

Parents are invited to a meeting – regardless of their choice of residential destination – on Monday 10th November at 4:30pm, where an overview of both trips will take place, any questions answered, and dates for payment plans will be shared. Should parents not be able to attend, information will be sent afterwards.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Gracie in Year Four who was nine on Tuesday and happy birthday to



Jasper, also in Year Four, who was nine on Wednesday. Happy birthday to Ambrose in Year Five, Logan in Year Four, and Esmae in Year Three who respectively turn ten, nine and eight on Sunday.

November dates for your diary

Sun 9th Nov: Year Three 'Forgiveness' Mass followed by Gardening Club cake sale

Mon 10th Nov: Year Five and Six Parent residential meeting 4:30pm

Thurs 13th Nov: Year Three First Confessions 6pm **at church**

Mon 17th Nov: Reception Phonics meeting 5pm

Fri 21st Nov: Year Five Class Assembly

Mon 24th Nov: KS1 PTA Christmas Disco

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

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

December dates for your diary

Mon 1st Dec: KS2 Christmas PTA Disco

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;

St Teresa of Calcutta MAC Carol Service @ Holy Souls Church 1:30pm start

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 2pm

Fri 12th Dec: KS1 Nativity Year Two parents 2pm

Tues 16th Dec: KS2 Carol Service 7pm

Wed 17th Dec: Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day

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

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

Have a relaxing weekend! We hope to see you on Sunday at Mass.

God bless,



Mr Clinton