



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 14th November 2025

Dear parents,

It was a pleasure to spend yesterday evening at church with Year Three, who very reverently made their First Confessions. My thanks to Father John from the Columbans, Father Dominic from St Augustine's, and Canon Sean from Our Lady of Lourdes for their help. Year Three behaved impeccably and it was both a beautiful and spiritual occasion.

Golden Book

Reception: Vincent Gleasure for being such a super star this week! Vincent is very eager to participate in activities and putting his hand up to share his fantastic ideas. He has been very responsible around the classroom, making good choices and supporting his peers too. Well done, Vincent!

Year One: Malakai Moulton-Melbourne has impressed us every week since the beginning of Year One. He is bursting with enthusiasm and is always eager to learn new information. This week, he wrote a fabulous prayer that even Mr Clinton was impressed with. Malakai has also been working hard to learn the words to all of the Nativity songs, which is a fantastic start to our rehearsals. You're a star, Malakai!

Year Two: We are so incredibly proud of Mia Berwick this week for her amazing progress in Maths. She has

shown real determination, resilience and hard work, tackling tricky challenges with a positive attitude. Her growing timetable knowledge has truly impressed all the adults working in Year Two. Mia always listens carefully and follows instructions, which has helped her make brilliant progress. Well done, Mia - we are SO proud of you!

Year Three: Theresa Joseph for being such an asset to the class. She is consistently setting a good example for those around her. She puts 100% effort into everything she does, whether that is during a lesson or helping out in the classroom. Her work is exemplary and always of the highest standard. Thank you, Theresa, for always putting a smile on our faces!

Year Four: Ethan Hughes has had a great start to this half term. He is finding his love for writing and he has been proud of the amount of work that he has written. He has produced some fantastic work around our non-fiction topic examining newspaper articles. During RE this week, he shared some beautiful reflections on the artwork inspired by the Baptism of Jesus, really considering the symbolism that the artist was trying to reveal. Well done, Ethan!

Year Five: Lola Hardiman is a sensible and hard-working member of the class she just loves learning. This week, she has worked steadily to improve her mental maths skills, which has impacted on her confidence as she is now more

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eager to complete her Maths work independently. Lola is a happy, smiley pupil who is keen to do her best even when she finds the subject tricky or her confidence is low. Somehow, she finds the strength and determination to put 100% into her work which is just brilliant. Keep up the hard work, Lola - we have noticed a real difference this new confidence is having on all aspects of your work.

Year Six: Morgan Keogh has been a superstar this week, just as she is every week. Whether she is in class, or at home, or walking to the library, or helping out around school, she can always be relied upon to try her best. She has a great attitude towards learning which means she is really flourishing in everything she turns her hands to. Her work is always neatly presented, to a high standard and she puts 100% effort in all the work she completes. Morgan, keep on impressing everyone with your conduct – you are a wonderful pupil to have around.

Safeguarding at St Ambrose Barlow

By now, I am sure you have heard the shocking news about Our Lady of the Wayside going into partial lockdown after an intruder was spotted near the site. This has understandably caused some concern for our own parents who have raised the issue with me. Please be assured that our safeguarding approach to the site is robust and that children are totally safe in school.

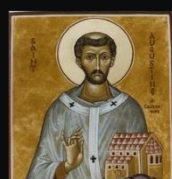
In response, it was discussed with our staff whether we continue to keep the pedestrian gate open from 7:30 until

9am, in the morning and from 3:20 until 5:30 in the evening, or whether we adapt our policy so each visitor has to buzz in. We decided that since staff are on site at the time, and all entrances to the school are monitored and manned, that there is no inherent danger in keeping the gate open – even if an intruder were to access the site, our staff are on hand to challenge and respond to this. No stranger can ever gain access to the school or approach a child.

In the evening, the pedestrian gate will remain open but the gates to the playground will now be padlocked from 3:40 after parents have left the site. This means that any unknown visitor to the site has no option but to come via the main door in the hall or the office, and is recorded on our CCTV cameras while doing so. I will say that in my five years as Headteacher here, we have paid for three external safeguarding audits to assess our practice, and have undergone two separate inspections – one Ofsted and one from the Diocese – and our measures have always been praised. Children are totally safe at school but, as ever, I welcome your feedback. Please come and speak to me if you are still concerned.

Learn from the Saints

A very meaningful quote from St Augustine of Hippo (who is one of my favourite saints).

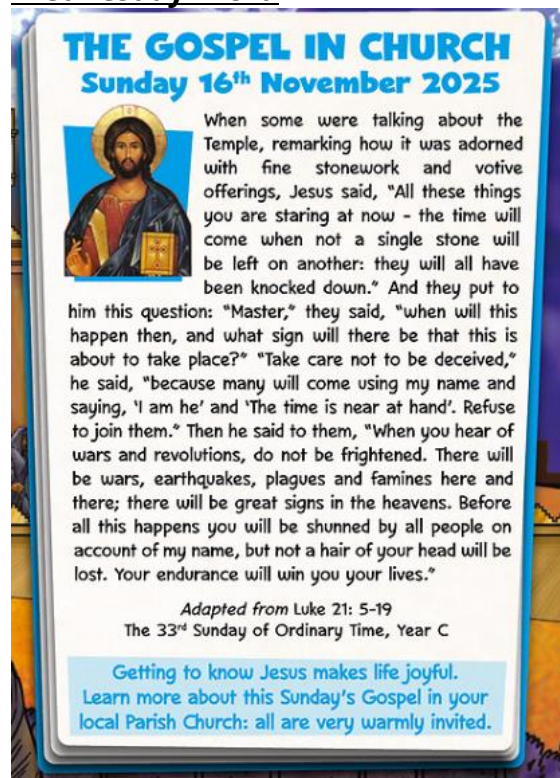


Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.

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A great sentiment for our children to keep in mind during the next five weeks of school.

Wednesday Word



Cake Sale

Wow! The Eco-Council and Gardening Club (and the associated staff) did a wonderful job after Mass last Sunday. Over £460 was raised for the garden pond liner and entrance. By the time I got to the stall, the vast majority of cakes and samosas had been polished off. A lovely start to a Sunday, I am sure you can agree.

Eco-Council

In November, the Eco-Council have signed up to 'cut our carbon'. See more on the CYC website. This means that they have pledged to try and undertake six challenges which will help us to cut our carbon. Eco council members will come around to classes and ask how

many children have done one or more of these challenges: this will mean we can calculate how much carbon we have saved.

The challenges are:

'Cool It.'

Lower your washing machine to 30°C for three washes across the month.

'Ditch The Drive.'

Make 3 journeys active across the month.

'Veggie Vibes.'

Make 3 evening meals plant based across the month.

'Meal Plan-et.'

Meal plan to reduce food waste for one week.

'Have a Device-Free Day.'

Have a 'device-free' day – 24 hours without a tablet or phone.

Anti-Bullying Week

This was launched on Monday with our Gospel assembly and our odd socks day, and children have kept in mind the structures that help to dismantle bullying – often it isn't about the victim and the perpetrator, but the silent bystanders who often see something unfair but don't do the right thing and address it. The theme was using our power for good, and all children know what to do when they see something that they feel is not fair or right.

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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.

Year Five and Six residential meeting

Thanks to all who attended this last Monday. The initial payment for Paris can be made via MCAS now, to secure your place. As for the timings and costing of the UK based trip, the STOC MAC are likely to fund the residential for Year Six each year, which may negate the need for an extra one in addition to Paris to be organised. I will share more details about this in due course, but come and see me if this causes you any issues.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Nova in Year Two who was seven on Monday and Ibrahim in Reception is five today! Happy birthday! Tomorrow, Tommy in Year Four turns nine, and on Sunday Oliver in Reception turns five.



Happy birthday also to Mrs Bresnen, who is yet another year older today. She is slowly but surely catching me up...

November dates for your diary

Mon 17th Nov: Reception Phonics meeting 5pm

Fri 21st Nov: Year Five Class Assembly

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

Mon 24th Nov: KS1 PTA Christmas Disco

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

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! I hope the weather is not too severe after the storm warning today. Stay safe.

God bless,

Mr Clinton