



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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

Friday 28th November 2025

Dear parents,

This weekend, we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent. For the next three weeks in school, our liturgical preparation takes centre stage. Children will start every day with a *'Walk With Me'* assembly with a reflection about how this season prepares us both for Christ's birth 2000 years ago, as well as Christ's return (at whatever point this may be). And, of course, Nativity practises and carol service rehearsals make the next three weeks a joy to be present in school for, as the sound of singing fills all spaces and every moment.

Next week, we have our Key Stage Two Reconciliation service on Thursday afternoon, and then we host our parents for Reception's Nativity on Friday at 2pm.

Finally, thank you to the PTA who have sent every child in the school out today with a chocolate Advent calendar. Delicious and hugely appreciated!

Golden Book

Reception: Ibrahim Khan for being such a super star in our rehearsals for our Nativity! He has learnt all of his lines so quickly and says them with such confidence and enthusiasm. Ibrahim enjoys singing the songs and shows off

his brilliant dancing too! This week, Ibrahim has also produced some beautiful art work in RE; drawing a lovely picture of The Presentation of Jesus. Keep up the hard work, Ibrahim!

Year One: What an amazing week Flynn Drury has had! Your teachers in Year One are so proud of how hard you've been working. You are doing brilliantly with your Phase 5 sounds and are trying so hard to use capital letters and full stops in your writing. You give 100% in everything you do and always check your work carefully. Your happy personality fills the classroom, and you are an absolute joy to have in the class.

Year Two: Arlo Tranter has been a star this week! Arlo is such a hardworking and enthusiastic learner, always up for a challenge and eager to do more. Arlo puts in so much effort and approaches each and every task with a positive attitude! Arlo has also done an amazing job at learning all his lines for our Nativity. He is always so helpful class and can always get on with his work independently. Well done!

Year Three: Iyzah Hussain for really impressing her teachers this week with the presentation in her books. Iyzah's handwriting has come on in leaps and bounds. She has also shown a significant improvement within her reading group and this week has shown that she can count in her 3s, 4s, and 8 times tables! Well done, Iyzah.

Year Four: Aibhlinn Brady has produced some wonderful work the last

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few weeks. Her RE work around the Transfiguration and the Baptism of Jesus has been thoughtful and considered and her letters of persuasion in Literacy have been a joy to read. Keep up the excellent work!

Year Five: Mila Caine is a dream to teach. She is a great listener and a deep thinker, she asks for support when she finds new concepts tricky and is making good progress with her mental maths, a subject she finds very difficult. Her perseverance and determination to improve is admirable and I am hoping these qualities spread through the class (we could all do with a little sticking power when we find things too hard). Mrs McGrory has commented on how delighted that Mila is now coming out of her shell - showing that she is such a creative and imaginative individual!

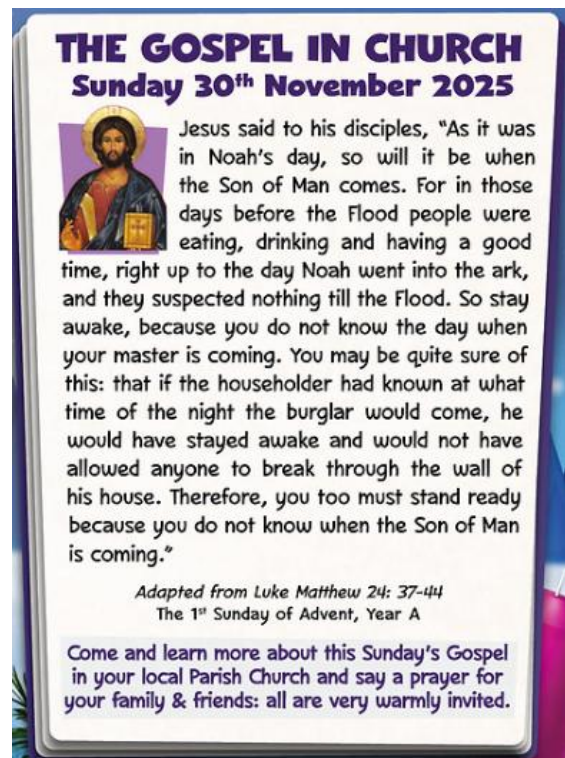
Year Six: Since returning from half term, Ellie-Mae Taylor has been busy impressing all staff who have worked with her. She is attentive and keen to contribute in lessons. The standard of her work continues to go from strength to strength as she shows off what she is truly capable of... great things!!! Keep up the fabulous work. Ellie-Mae!

Wednesday Word

"Stay awake, because you do not know when your master is coming."

Advent is a time of preparation but also a season of hope: a time to think deeply on Jesus's return at the end of time. We make a point of saying to the children that it is not Christmas yet, but with adverts on television and Mariah Carey on the radio, it is sometimes easy to forget this. The Gospel at Mass on

Sunday helps us to return to the importance theme of waiting and preparing.



Advent charities

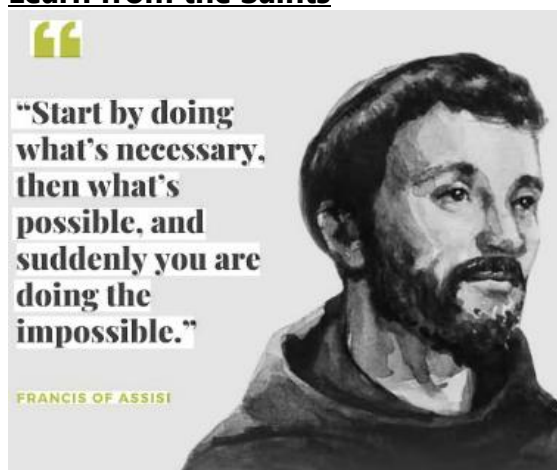
Hand in hand with our Advent preparation comes our charity fundraising. This year, we are trying to keep it simple. Any cash donations (made from mince pie sales and Carol Service contributions) will be donated to Marie Curie Hospice in memory of Mrs Drewry's father, Alan, who passed away at the start of this academic year.

Additionally, on 12th December, we will hand over any non-perishable food items - including dried foods (such as pasta and rice), sauces, tinned foods, biscuits, crisps and any suitable Christmas food items - for distribution across one of *Father Hudson's Caritas* many projects before Christmas – our chosen venue being Tabor Living. Our

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collective social action makes a real difference to so many people and demonstrates the impact of our pupils' collective hunger for justice. Any donations will be passed to Tabor Living, which is by St. Catherine of Siena Church on the Bristol Road as you exit or enter the city centre. Tabor Living provides accommodation and support for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. You can start sending in any food donations from next week, and they can form part of our Christmas displays in each classroom, underneath the Christmas tree. Fittingly, see the next item for some inspiring word from St Francis.

Learn from the Saints



Reception Nativity

Who would have thought that it was just 12 weeks ago when Reception started our school? You certainly won't, when you see them singing and dancing and retelling the Christmas story with confidence and eloquence and volume! The Nativity begins at 2pm. Come any time after half past one to get a good seat, armed with plenty of loose change to buy a mince pie and

a hot drink from our Mini-Vinnies and prefects.

PTA Disco

Many thanks to the PTA who ran the disco for Reception and KS1 on Monday. This Monday, they host the same for Key Stage Two and all children from Years Three to Six are welcome to wear their own clothes (whether they attend or not).

Girls Rugby

Please see the following flyer from Old Yardleians Vixens rugby. If you are interested in your daughter playing, please attend on Wednesday at 6:45 or Sunday at 12:30 at Old yard RFC, B90 1PW.

The Vixens can offer the following:

- Excellent opportunities to make friends, have fun and exercise

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- A family/community of over 40 girls currently playing rugby, from age 10 through to 18
- Regular fixtures and training
- Opportunities to trial for county representation

Operation Encompass

Please be aware the school receives a notification from the Police for all instances of domestic violence.

From 1st December 2025, notifications will include additional contextual information and will include:

- Personal details of the child/ren
- Address details
- Time and date of the incident
- Crime reference number
- Offence Title
- **Summary of the incident**
- **Risk rating**
- Role of the child – Victim, Suspect or Additional

If you have any concerns, speak to a school Safeguarding Lead, any member of SLT, the police, or seek advice from Birmingham Children's Trust. The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to access support or raise concerns about a child. Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm

Telephone: **0121 303 1888**

Emergency out-of-hours

Telephone: **0121 675 4806**

Hall Green Library

Library visits will resume in January. See diary dates for which class will visit on which day once they have been confirmed.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Tianna in Year Three who was eight on Tuesday and happy birthday to Arla in Year Three who was nine on Wednesday! Happy birthday, both!



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

January dates for your diary

Mon 5th Jan: Children return to school; please note, this day is NO LONGER an INSET

Wed 7th Jan: Whole school Mass for Spring Term 9:30am at church

Thurs 15th Jan: PTA 'Sublime Science' workshop for all children;
Year Six parent and children meeting 6pm in School Hall

Fri 16th Jan: Year Six @ St Chad's Cathedral (more details to follow);
Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm

Sun 18th Jan: Year Six to lead Sunday Mass 10am

Fri 23rd Jan: 2pm Year Six Confirmation Sponsor Workshop;
7pm Confirmation

Fri 30th Jan: Year Four Class Assembly

February dates for your diary

Fri 6th Feb: Year Three Class Assembly 9am;

Year Six Class Mass 2:30pm

Thurs 12th Feb: Break up at 3:30 (club operating as normal)

Fri 13th Feb: School closed for INSET

Mon 23rd Feb: School re-opens for all children

March dates for your diary

Sun 1st March: Year Three 'Friendship' Mass

Thurs 5th March: World Book Day

Thurs 12th March: Year Five @ Black Country Museum

Fri 13th March: Year One Class Mass

Wed 18th March: KS2 Reconciliation Service

Fri 20th March: Year Two Class Mass

Tues 24th March: Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE Workshop 9am

Wed 25th March: Whole School Mass for the Annunciation 9:30am

Sun 29th March: Year Three children to lead Palm Sunday procession at 10am Mass

Enjoy the weekend and the start of Advent. See you all on Monday for the final three weeks of school. God bless,



Mr Clinton