



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 5th December 2025

Dear parents,

Even though we have only celebrated the first Sunday of Advent so far, it feels like we are very firmly immersed in the season. That is life in primary schools in the run up to Christmas! We have ended the week on a real high note, with Reception's remarkable Nativity performance. There is something very special about hearing thirty four and five year olds singing their little hearts out! My thank to Miss Hodgkins and Mrs Robinson for all they have done in the past four weeks (indeed, the past four months) in getting our children ready.

Next week is busy. We start the week with a whole school Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Then our choir visit Holy Souls Church to join with other schools in the Mac to sing. Our Key Stage One children perform their Nativities on Thursday and Friday, which promise to be fabulous. Please remember your tickets and come laden with cash for our Advent charities. We also have our Key Stage One trip to the Mac on Tuesday, and our Key Stage Two trip to the theatre on Wednesday.

Golden Book

Reception: Ruairi Griffin for always trying his very best in every lesson and

showing excellent determination! He is starting to listen carefully, follow instructions and share his ideas with the rest of the class. Ruairi is always so well-mannered and shows great kindness to his peers in the classroom. He always makes good choices and he tries to encourage others to do the same. You are a super star, Ruairi!

Year One: Lily Keating is a star! She gives every task 100% effort and approaches all her work with a positive attitude and a big smile. Lily has been particularly impressive with the delivery of her Nativity line—performed with brilliant expression and just the right amount of sass! In Literacy last week, Lily wrote an outstanding non-chronological report all about giraffes. She shared all the new information she learned and presented it in fabulous, well-crafted sentences, using capital letters and full stops accurately. Super work, Lily!

Year Two: Ariella Farrell is a perfect example of what we want from a pupil at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School. She always sets a fantastic example to her peers, listens carefully and always works to the best of her ability. Ariella's confidence is growing day by day and it is so lovely to see! We are especially proud of her amazing effort and achievements in her assessments this week too. Well done, Ariella!

Year Three: It is safe to say that Theo Edwards has worked his socks off this

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week! In fact, he's made incredible progress since we started back after October half term and this hard work has resulted in fantastic results in his Maths assessments. Theo's writing is also coming on wonderfully and is a pleasure to read. His thoughts and ideas are always so imaginative! Well done, Theo!

Year Four: Arlo Williams has shown wonderful enthusiasm and resilience in lessons in the last few weeks. His hand is always one of the first up during Maths lessons and has been more confident in sharing his reflections during RE lessons. Keep this up, Arlo!

Year Five: George Parkes has worked really steadily throughout the year and his assessment results reflect this. He is working so hard in all subjects. George has really impressed his teachers this week especially during the Carol service rehearsal where he was spotted concentrating well and participating all the time. He is always very well-mannered and is a kind, caring member of the class. Mrs McGrory is so pleased to see George ploughing all of his energy into his work, striving to achieve his best and working well to improve his results especially when it is sometimes a little challenging. Well done, George - you have shone brightly this week, now the challenge is to continue to show us what you are really capable of.

Year Six: Every day, without fail, Layton Parsons brings a smile to his teacher's faces. He knows exactly how to impress them and recently has really stepped up his game showing everyone just how capable he really is. We are all extremely excited to see what the rest of this year holds for Layton. This week

alone he has represented the school in the football team, produced high standard pieces of work and read with confidence to open our penitential service. Layton, keep up the fantastic work!

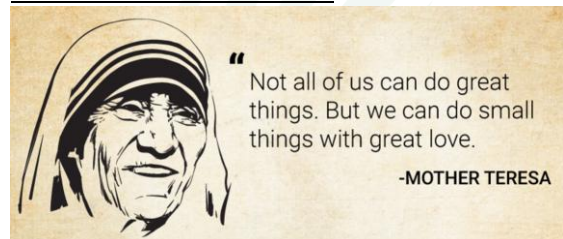
Advent charities

Any cash donations from after the Nativities, or from the sale of mince pies, will go to Marie Curie hospice. Please keep your non-perishable food offerings coming in, and these will be passed to Tabor Living, which provides accommodation and support for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Finally, see below for another request.

A plea for stamps

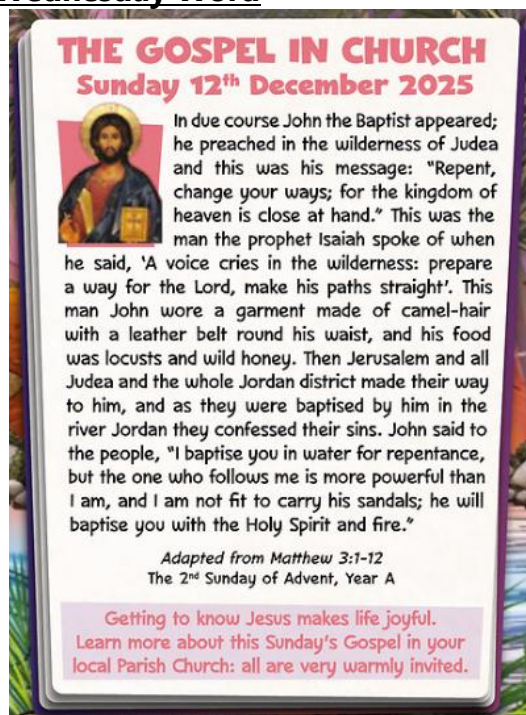
We are putting out a plea for any used stamps to be collected over the festive period and then handed into the school office. We then send these off to the Lily Mae foundation – a charity that helps families who have lost a child.

Learn from the Saints



You only have to ask our pupils how they can live out their vocation and they quote St Teresa of Calcutta – that all it takes to do something small and do it with love. Our children do this daily – they are all saints in the making!

Wednesday Word



"Repent, change your ways; the kingdom of heaven is close at hand."

As our children will tell you, there are two distinct foci for Advent – the obvious one is looking back 2000 years ago to Jesus's birth. The other focus, however, is to look at our lives now and make little changes in our life to help prepare our hearts. As part of our Advent preparation, the children of Key Stage Two received the Sacrament of Reconciliation yesterday. Thanks to Father John Collins, Father Prem (from St Dunstan's), Father Biju (from Olton Friary) and Father Andrew (from Our Lady of the Wayside) for sharing in this celebration of God's love with us.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Flynn in Year One who was six on Monday and happy birthday to Alyza in Year Two who was seven on



Wednesday! Happy birthday to Marisha in Year Four who is nine today!

December dates for your diary

Mon 8th Dec: Whole School Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception – parents are welcome to join us for the walk!

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

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

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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

See you all on Monday for our whole
school Mass to kick-start the final two
weeks of school. God bless,



Mr Clinton