



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

www.sab.bham.sch.uk

enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

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

Friday 12th December 2025

Dear parents,

I want to celebrate all the children from Key Stage One who have performed with such aplomb, and the staff who have worked tirelessly to get them to where they need to be! Sixty children aged 5-7 performing for sixty minutes is no mean feat! Well done to all involved - the performances were fantastic and the hard work has paid off. A special mention to Jimmy Gorman who jumped into the role of Joseph at short notice on Thursday morning to replace the sorely missed Alfie Holmes, missing due to illness.

We have now reached the final week of what has been a very long term – fifteen weeks in total: an academic year that started with Father Paul's funeral and ends next week as our liturgical focus changes. In the first half of Advent we count forwards to Jesus's second coming: first week, second week, and so on. On the 17th December, the second half of Advent begins, and the focus turns to the first Christmas Day. The prayers in church (and our assemblies in school) follow this countdown. Christmas is very close, and the excitement from the children is palpable. Come and join with us at Key Stage Two's Carol Service on Tuesday as part of your preparations.

Golden Book

Reception: Dhvani Patel for having such a positive attitude and excellent focus towards learning this week! She has developed great listening skills in the classroom and has tried her very best with her work too, showing great determination with her handwriting and counting. Dhvani has also been such a caring friend by helping and supporting her peers and always showing them kindness.

Year One: Ailbe is a ray of sunshine in our classroom. His cheerful nature brightens the day of everyone he meets. He consistently gives 100% effort in all areas of his learning and demonstrates a fantastic attitude towards every challenge. Ailbe has shone as a narrator in the Key Stage One nativity, delivering his lines with wonderful expression and clear volume. His enthusiasm and positivity make him a true star. Well done, you're a star!

Year Two: Jimmy Gorman is an absolute delight to have in the classroom—always curious, always eager to learn, and always wanting to know more. This week, we were especially impressed with him for stepping in as the role of Joseph at the very last minute for Key Stage One's Nativity. He showed incredible resilience, confidence, and bravery. Every member of staff has said how amazing he was. We truly cannot express how proud we are of him! Well done, Jimmy!

With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side,
we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

Year Three: Eliza O'Neill is a wonderful member of the class who is always impressing her teachers. In every lesson, we are given her best and she is applying everything she has learnt so far in Year Three to her work. Eliza has also stood out during the carol concert practices and her choir performances. She has learnt every word off by heart and sings beautifully! Keep being fabulous, Eliza!

Year Four: Finley Dewell is a wonderful asset to Year Four. He is helpful, enthusiastic and a kind member of the class who has sang his heart out during the carol concert practices this week. Every piece of work he produces reflects the care and consideration he focuses on his work. Well done, Finley!

Year Five: Ethan Burke is always polite and well-mannered and was a super ambassador for the school on Monday, when he represented the school at a Multi-sports tournament. He is a real team player and so caring and considerate towards his fellow team members often helping and encouraging them too. He is always helpful in and around the classroom and has a lovely sense of humour that we really do appreciate. Mrs McGrory is so proud to teach this young gentleman because that is exactly what he is: a real gentleman and an asset to Year Five! Well done, Ethan.

Year Six: Everyday, in every subject, Cynthia Chesterman works hard to impress staff working with her. Her enthusiasm in lessons is clear to see and her confidence continues to grow due to her consistent efforts. Cynthia also represented school twice this week, as part of the choir, showing everyone

how talented she is at singing. Keep up the excellent effort Cynthia and you will reap the rewards!

Key Stage Two Carol Service

All children will need to be dropped off at the parish centre from 6:15 on Tuesday, and all children present by 6:30. The Carol Service will begin at 7pm with our choir singing our procession into church. The Carol Service will last about 45 minutes. Please come and join us.

Advent charities

After the Reception nativity, the total raised was around £100. After Thursday's Nativity, it was almost double. It remains to be seen what the total will be after today's performance to the Year Two parents. We will be collecting donations at the end of Tuesday's Carol Service (never a concert to Father Paul) and all donations will be passed to Marie Curie hospice in memory of Mrs Drewry's father.

A plea for stamps

Please keep your stamps coming in. They will be passed to the Lily Mae foundation – a worthy charity that helps families who have lost a child, which we are always happy to support.

January INSET

You will see that the INSET that was originally planned for Monday 5th January has been cancelled – this is because it was moved to September so that school could close and staff could attend Father Paul's funeral.

All children should therefore return to school on Monday 5th January following the Christmas break. However, should this change in term dates mean that children are still returning from a pre-booked holiday, just let the office know and the absence will be authorised.

Learn from the Saints

"Let us love, since that is what our hearts were made for"

St Therese of Lisieux

On this note, thank you for all your non-perishable Advent offerings which have been passed to Tabor Living this week, to make the difference to so many of Birmingham's vulnerable people.

Wednesday Word

This week's Wednesday Word is a bumper issue that contains the Gospel and a reflection for the third week of Advent, next Sunday's Gospel for the 4th week of Advent, the first Sunday after the Nativity for 28th December, and the Gospel for Sunday 4th January, ready for our return to school.

Term dates for 2026-27

St Teresa of Calcutta Mac has shared a new policy with means that there is some consistence around term dates for the next academic year across all twelve schools. Please see the term dates for 2026-27 below.

Autumn Term 2026

INSET: Tuesday 1st September 2026

Term starts: Wednesday 2nd September 2026

INSET: Friday 23rd October

Half-term: Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026
Term ends: Friday 18th December 2026

Spring Term 2027

INSET: Monday 4th January 2027

Term starts: Tuesday 5th January 2027

INSET: Friday 12th February

Half-term: Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027

Term ends: Thursday 25th March 2027

(Please note, children are in school for Holy Week)

Summer Term 2027

Term starts: Monday 12th April 2027

INSET: Thursday 6th May 2027

Half-term: Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027

Term ends: Wednesday 21st July 2027

(One more INSET TBA)

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Francis in Year Four who was nine on Tuesday and happy birthday to Jude in Year One who was six on Wednesday. On Sunday, Joel in Year One turns six. Happy birthday to all!



December dates for your diary

Tues 16th Dec: KS2 Carol Service 7pm

Wed 17th Dec: Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day – own clothes for all!

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

Tues 6th Jan: Whole school Mass for Epiphany 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

Mon 23rd March: Shakespeare Week

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

Mon 30th March: Year Three 'Palm Sunday' Holy Week assembly

Tues 31st March: Year Four 'Last Supper' Holy Week Assembly

April dates for your diary

Wed 1st April: Year Five 'Gethsemane' Holy Week Assembly

Thurs 2nd April: Year Six 'Stations of the Cross' Holy Week Assembly;
Break up for Easter at 2pm – no club after-school

Mon 20th April: children return to school for Summer Term

Have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday for the last week of school – plenty going on: carol services, Christmas dinners, Christmas jumpers, Christmas parties, and a visit from a special visitor in red. God bless,



Mr Clinton