



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear parents,

Fifteen long weeks since September but we made it! I want to wish all our children, our parents and our staff a happy, a holy, and a peaceful Christmas! Thank you for all your kind words, your cards, and your gifts. None were necessary but all were appreciated.



### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Annliya has truly come out of her shell this term. Every day, she has become more confident and engages with her peers and teachers in such a polite manner. She is always so kind and thoughtful around the classroom

too. Annliya tries very hard with her work and is developing in independence too. Well done, Annliya!

**Year One:** Wow, Aubrey! What an amazing term you've had! Your confidence has soared, and your resilience has grown in leaps and bounds! It's been wonderful to see you tackle every task with such a big smile. You worked so hard to learn all the Nativity songs and delivered your line with confidence and a touch of wit. Your writing has also improved with use of capital letters and full stops. Well done Aubrey - super work this term!

**Year Two:** Delilah has had not only have a great week, but a fantastic Autumn Term in Year Two. Delilah always works hard, listens carefully, and shows a positive attitude towards her learning! Delilah has especially impressed all the adults in Year Two with her Maths during this term. She is such a fountain of knowledge. Well done, Delilah!

**Year Three:** Freya for being a wonderful member of the class. Freya tries her hardest in everything that she does and always has a huge smile on her face as she does so. Freya also did her teachers proud with an incredibly eloquent reading during the KS2 Carol Service.

**Year Four:** Gracie is a joy to have in the classroom. She puts her heart into every piece of work that she produces, which is always beautifully presented. She is kind, thoughtful and very, very helpful.

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

We are all looking forward to seeing the work that you will produce next term!

**Year Five:** Roy has worked really hard in the past few weeks to design and sew his mobile phone case. He has sat independently and sewed it together not stopping until he completed it as... \*spoiler alert\* it is a present for his Dad. He also really enjoyed his trip to the theatre this year and has worked well to complete activities each day even when he has found it a struggle sometimes. Everyone is so proud of his achievements this year. Roy. You make us smile every day - keep being you.

**Year Six:** Staff in Year Six continue to be impressed by Maeve daily. This week alone we have seen Maeve turn her hand to public speaking in assembly, talking eloquently and confidently on both the radio and TV, help Reception to make good choices, use their manners and being a superb role model. Maeve is polite, kind and extremely caring. During Christmas parties, it was noted that Maeve enjoyed herself but also took the time to check in on others to ensure they also were having a good time. This is exactly why Maeve is a fabulous Head Girl. She demonstrates the values and virtues of our school brilliantly and is everything and more that we could wish for from a St Ambrose Barlow pupil.

### **Values and Virtues**

This half-term, we have been focusing on 'Learned and Wise'. The following pupils have stood out to staff during the latter part of Autumn Term and were celebrated during today's assembly.

***Reception:*** Vincent Gleasure

***Year One:*** Penelope Kelly

***Year Two:*** Roisin McAuley

***Year Three:*** Lennon Mooney

***Year Four:*** Tobias Ahmed

***Year Five:*** Ambrose Griffin

***Year Six:*** Alesha Perry

### **Mass times**

As Edward Newton said during his bidding prayer at today's Mass, Father Paul loved this time of year. Nothing would make Father Paul happier than looking down from heaven at our children at Mass. The Christmas Mass times are below:

***Wed 24th December 5:00pm:***

*Children's Christmas Eve Mass.*

***Wed 24th December 8:00pm:***

*Christmas Eve Mass*

***Thurs 25th December 10:00am:***

*Christmas Day Mass*

### **Radio WM**

You may have heard from some of our children yesterday and today on Sarah Julian's Radio WM breakfast. James and Ava McColgan, Francis Fitzpatrick, Amelie Robinson, Maeve and Sebastian Henvey all did the school proud with their eloquence. Both they and some former staff – Mrs Thompson, Mrs Spencer and Mrs Tucker – may also be making an appearance on *Midlands Today* tonight at 6:30pm. Tune in!

### **Key Stage Two Carol Service**

Thanks to all who attended this on Tuesday to make it such a success? The children were remarkable and deserved all the praise that came their way. They also deserved their extra break and hot chocolate yesterday!

### **Advent charities**

Thank you to all the parents who donated so generously to our collection for Marie Curie Hospice. A total of £525.95 was raised and the Mini-Vinnies will present this in January.

### **January INSET**

You will see that the INSET that was originally planned for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

*"The greatest male saint who ever lived was not a deacon, not a priest, not a bishop, not a Pope, not a hermit, not a monk." Anon.*



### **Birthdays this week**

Happy birthday to Ella in Year One who was six on Monday, closely followed by Theresa in Year Three who was eight on Tuesday. Yesterday, Zizi in Year One turned six and Alex in Year Five turned ten. Tomorrow, Nancy in Year Two

turns seven and Ezra in Year Four turns nine. On Sunday, Annabelle in Year Six enjoys her eleventh birthday. Happy birthday, all!

Happy birthday to all who celebrate over the festive period: Niall in Year Six turns eleven; Rico and John in Year Five turn ten; Millie in Year Four turns nine; Lennon and Chris in Year Three turn eight; Faaris and Amelia and Zinedine in Year Two turn seven; Alfie, Ailbe and Evelyn in Year One turn six, and Essa in Reception turns five! Happy birthday all!

### **January dates for your diary**

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

**Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Whole school Mass for Epiphany 9:30am at church

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

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

**Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six to lead Sunday Mass 10am

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan:** 2pm Year Six Confirmation Sponsor Workshop;  
7pm Confirmation

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Four Class Assembly

### **February dates for your diary**

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Three Class Assembly 9am;

Year Six Class Mass 2:30pm

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Break up at 3:30 (club operating as normal)

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Feb:** School closed for INSET

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb:** School re-opens for all children

**March dates for your diary**

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Year Three 'Friendship' Mass

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Five @ Black Country Museum

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> March:** Year One Class Mass

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> March:** KS2 Reconciliation Service

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Two Class Mass

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> March:** Shakespeare Week

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three First Holy Communion INSPIRE Workshop 9am

**Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March:** Whole School Mass for the Annunciation 9:30am

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three children to lead Palm Sunday procession at 10am Mass

**Mon 30<sup>th</sup> March:** Year Three 'Palm Sunday' Holy Week assembly

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> March:** Year Four 'Last Supper' Holy Week Assembly

**April dates for your diary**

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April:** Year Five 'Gethsemane' Holy Week Assembly

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

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup> April:** children return to school for Summer Term

**Term dates for 2026-27**

Please make a note of the term dates for 2026-27.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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)

God bless you all over Christmas!

All that remains is to wish good luck to former pupil Karen Carney in this Saturday's final of Strictly Come Dancing! You may have seen on our Instagram feed how we've been celebrating her success all week. Good luck, Kazza! Not bad for a Bluenose.



Mr Clinton