



St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

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Friday 6th February 2026

Dear parents,

This will be the last newsletter before we break for half-term, as next Friday is an INSET day, where the staff of this school will gather with the staff of eleven other Catholic schools, to talk about how Catholic Social Teaching influences our curriculum. Our particular workshop that we are presenting, focuses on stewardship and sustainability. We do so much as a school with our eco-council, our drive to cut carbon, our gardening club, working towards our Live Simply award, our recognised bumblebee conservation work, attending eco-retreats, litter picking in the local area, etc. Mrs McGrory leads so much of this work and is brilliant in everything she does, so I wish to start this newsletter by drawing attention to her dedication and praising her for devotion to our school and our children.

Thank you for all you do, Ms McGrory.

Today, we have had Year Three lead a wonderful assembly this morning. In fact, all week I have heard them practising their songs and I remarked on Wednesday that they could well be the best singers in the school. No mean feat! We have ended the day with Year Six's class Mass – newly confirmed and strong in the spirit!

Golden Book

Reception: Billy-Evan Andrews for always being a star pupil! Billy is always making sure that he is doing the right thing and making good choices. He is always so polite and respectful towards his peers and the staff around the school. This week, Billy has also worked very hard on his number work and recognising and representing numbers to 10. Well done, Billy!

Year One: Alfie Holmes is a highly engaged and enthusiastic member of the class. He contributes thoughtfully to discussions, sharing his ideas and opinions with confidence and genuine curiosity. His passion for learning is clear, especially in the way he independently chooses books from the class library to deepen his understanding of our topics. Alfie's handwriting has improved brilliantly this term, and he is beginning to apply his cursive style consistently in his written work. His reading is also a real strength; he reads with excellent fluency and uses expressive prosody to bring characters to life.

Year Two: Bella Davies a perfect example of what we want from a pupil at this school who is so eager to learn! She always sets a fantastic example to her peers, listens carefully and always works to the best of her ability. Bella's confidence is growing day by day and it is so lovely to see! It is impossible to pick one thing that Bella has impressed

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us this week as she shows consistency every day in every way in every subject! Well done, Bella!

Year Three: Isaac Fiaz-McNally - For giving 110% during our class assembly practices. He knows every word to the songs and acts out his line with great enthusiasm. Isaac has also been working really hard in class, listening well and completing his work independently.

Year Four: Elsie Hall has been a superstar in Maths the last few weeks. She has impressed with her focus on developing her fluency in her times tables and applying this to two and three digit multiplication and division. Marvellous work - keep it up!

Year Five: Many adults have commented on just how mature and sensible Andreas Kartsios has become and it is not just Mrs McGrory who has noticed some wonderful learning attitudes and behaviours. Andreas has shown he is really prepared for lessons and is ready and eager to do his best. He has shown his caring and nurturing side to his personality when sharing and taking turns in activities. He is also unfailingly polite and well-mannered in class. We are all really proud of the young man you are becoming and for showing others how you are getting ready to face the challenges of Year Six already. What an achievement! Keep it up, Andreas - we are really impressed with how brightly you have shined this week!

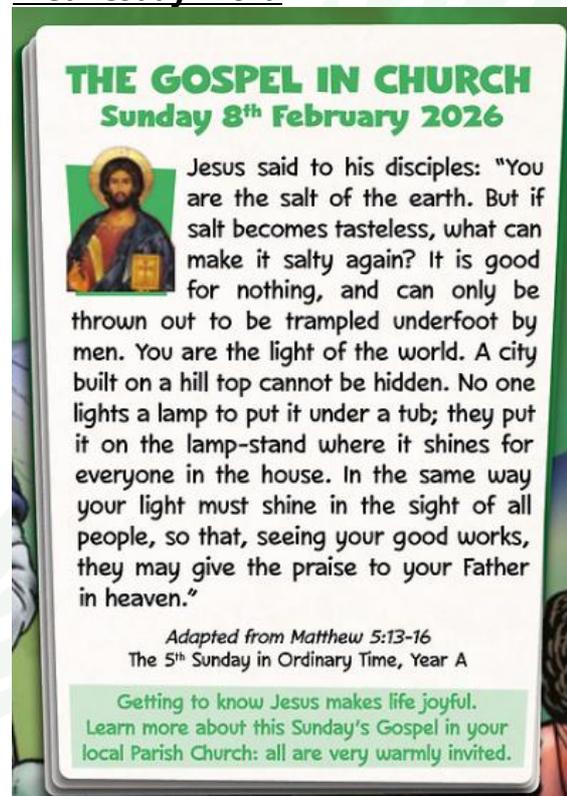
Year Six: It is a delight to teach Poppy Nixon. She is determined, thorough and focused in everything she does. Poppy's work is always presented to the highest standard, with her taking time and care

with every task. She is a friendly and polite member of Year Six, an excellent role model for the rest of the school and a fabulous eco-council rep where she again inspires others too. Keep up the excellent work, Poppy; we are all so proud of what you have already achieved and we look forward what the rest of the year has to hold!

Office Manager

Interviews took place on Monday and we had two extremely strong and credible candidates. A successful appointment was made and our new office manager will start on Monday 2nd March, which gives time for a suitable handover before Mrs Corrigan leaves on Wednesday 4th March. Please bear with us during this time of transition.

Wednesday Word



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 8th February 2026

 Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of all people, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven."

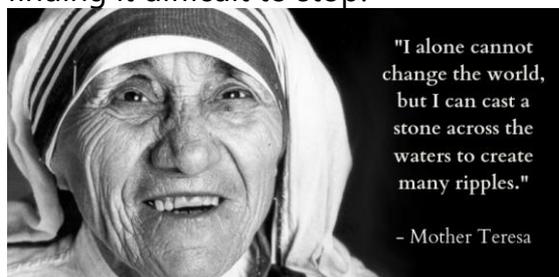
Adapted from Matthew 5:13-16
The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

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Learn from the Saints

Now I have started sharing the wise words of St Teresa of Calcutta, I am finding it difficult to stop!



"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Daniel in Year Three who was eight on Monday. On the same day, Harry in Year Two celebrated his seventh birthday.



On Wednesday, Ella in Year Three turned eight (nice tiara!) and on Thursday, our Head Boy Zane turned eleven. Today, Dermot in Year Five enjoyed celebrating his tenth birthday and, tomorrow, Anora in Year Eight will celebrate her eighth birthday. Happy birthday to all!

A reminder that on birthdays, children can wear their own clothes. If sweets are being sent in to share with the class, parents themselves must have checked what allergies children may suffer from. This is not the responsibility of staff. A far better idea is, as some other parents do, to make a donation to the food bank on the children's behalf. Or buy an item from CAFOD world gifts. Year One had the great privilege in last

week's Gifts from God assembly of being donated a donkey, which is being sponsored on their behalf.

February dates for your diary

Fri 13th Feb: School closed for INSET

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

Thurs 26th Feb: Year Two Class Trip Selly Manor

Thurs 26th Feb: Year Three to visit Hall Green Library @2pm

March dates for your diary

Sun 1st March: Year Three 'Friendship' Mass

Thurs 5th March: World Book Day

Tues 10th March: Year Four trip to Tamworth Castle, Return to school 3:50pm

Thurs 12th March: Year Five @ Black Country Museum return to school 4:30pm;

Year Two to visit Hall Green library 2pm

Fri 13th March: Year One Class Mass

Mon 16th March: Parent Consultations @ 3:40 -6:20

Wed 18th March: KS2 Reconciliation Service; Parent Consultations @ 3:40 - 6:20

Thurs 19th March: Year Four to visit Hall Green library 2pm

Fri 20th March: Year Two Class Assembly 9am

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

NO AFTERSCHOOL TENNIS THIS DAY

Thurs 26th March: Year Five to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm

Thurs 26th March: Year Six Trip to Shakespeare Theatre

Thurs 26th March: Year Three Compton Verney School Trip

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 good weekend. See you on Monday for our final four days before the half-term break. When we returned on Monday 23rd February, we will be in the season of Lent.



Mr Clinton