



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 27th February 2026

Dear parents,

This Sunday, in the church's calendar, we celebrate the Transfiguration, where Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. Sunday's 10am Mass will be celebrated by Father John and led by our Year Three children in what is their penultimate preparation Mass for their First Holy Communion.

It has been a wonderful first week back. Our Lenten preparation is well underway with assemblies and daily online reflections. We look forward to greeting you in a few weeks of time for our second parent consultations, where you can join with us in celebrating your children's work, their books and displays, and their individual progress.

Golden Book

Reception: Nolan Farrell for being an excellent example of everything we want from a pupil at St Ambrose Barlow! Nolan always shows such a positive attitude towards his learning and listens carefully during every lesson. He always wants to participate in activities and is eager to learn new things. Nolan has worked very hard in Phonics this week and has impressed us all with his beautiful handwriting and letter formation.

Year One: Patrick O'Loughlin is hardworking, happy, and polite. He

consistently gives his best effort. He has worked incredibly hard to apply his phonics knowledge when reading and writing, showing great determination and progress. Patrick has also put a lot of effort into practising his pre-cursive handwriting, carefully focusing on forming his letters correctly and ensuring they are the right size. He is a fabulous role model to his peers, always demonstrating wonderful manners and treating everyone around him with kindness and respect. Fantastic work, Patrick!

Year Two: Áine Reidy-Markey has come back after half term with a fantastic attitude towards her learning, she has been trying incredibly hard this week to impress all the adults in Year Two. Áine has made a brilliant start to our new fractions unit in maths, showing real focus and determination. Áine has also been working hard to make good choices and she is a wonderful helpful around the classroom. We're really proud of the positive attitude Aine is showing. Keep it up, well done!

Year Three: Georgia Wood for consistently setting such a good example for her peers. Georgia gets on with her work quietly and independently, no matter what the lesson. She is always first ready after tidying up and is extremely helpful. Georgia is making lots of good progress in all areas of the curriculum and that is a testament to how hard she

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

is working. Thank you Georgia for being so wonderful!

Year Four: Bella Mills has had a fantastic start to this half term. She has got stuck into her writing in Literacy this week by expanding her vocabulary and use of sentence tricks to develop her ideas. She is a model of behaviour in the classroom, always willing to get stuck into the next lesson. Well done, Bella!

Year Five: Conall Corrigan has started this half term in such a positive frame of mind! Not only is he working conscientiously and quietly, he is also answering questions more readily in class and completing work independently. He is a polite, well-mannered member of the class who is always ready to help pupils and adults. He has a wonderful sense of humour and is a caring and compassionate pupil. We love having him as part of our class, keep up with the hard work we have seen the difference your positive attitude is having. Keep it up!

Year Six: Kadey-Mae Hudson is applying herself in all lessons, giving everything a really good go and asking if unsure. This is everything we could ask of Kadey-Mae! Not only is she working hard to show off her full potential, she is doing it with a smile on her face which is simply contagious. Keep up the excellent work, Kadey-Mae!

Goodbye to Mrs Corrigan...

On Wednesday, we say goodbye to Mrs Corrigan, who has been our office manager for the past four and a half years. Mrs Corrigan started the school at the same time as me in September 2021 and has done a myriad of roles

during that time, coordinating admissions, looking after the registers, paying suppliers, booking coaches, sourcing suitable curriculum trips, ordering resources, keeping an eye on attendance, being a welcoming first face to visitors, and much more in addition. She has gone above and beyond on many occasions and there have been times when I could not have done my job without her. I am sure you will join me in wishing her the very best.

And hello to...

On Monday, Miss Brown joins the school as our new office manager after being appointed by the Governing Body last month. Miss Brown comes with a wealth of experience, having worked in Holy Trinity – one of our sister schools in the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC – as well as having enjoyed a pastoral role in another local secondary school. I am delighted to have her with us. There will be two days of transition as Mrs Corrigan hands over - please bear with us during this time.

The Governing Body also appointed a new administrative assistant this week who will work with Miss Brown in the office. Miss O'Halloran-Millar, again, comes with many skills that will be of benefit to us, having worked for both Childline and the NSPCC in her former roles. That safeguarding knowledge will really contribute to our culture here at St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School. I know you will make Miss Brown and Miss O'Halloran-Millar feel extremely welcome in our special school community.

Sublime Science

This coming Wednesday, the PTA have funded a whole day of Science workshops for our children. The day will start with a practical demonstration and then each class will join hands-on activities and experiments before we come together at the end of the day to celebrate what we have learnt.

Learn from the Saints

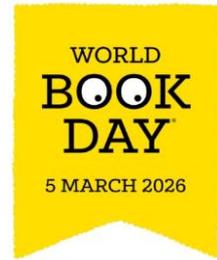
One of my favourite times of the year is speaking to Year Six before their Confirmation, talking about the saints they have studied. We always come back to the quotation below from St Augustine, which tells us that saints are not superheroes but ordinary people, who may have made mistakes in their past, who strive to be better for the future – just like us!

*There is no
saint without
a past, no
sinner without
a future.*

ST. AUGUSTINE

World Book Day

This Thursday is World Book Day, which has been coordinated by Mrs Healy. Children can attend school dressed as their favourite book



character or, should their imagination fail, can come dressed in their pyjamas instead, much like the family of elephants in Jill Murphy's '*A Quiet Night In*'.

The staff are dressing as a variety of different foods – apples, pears, plums, strawberries, oranges, chocolate cakes, ice cream cones, pickles, cheese, salami, cherry pie and watermelon. One lucky staff member will be a Very Hungry Caterpillar and one fortunate teacher gets to be a beautiful butterfly. Come and join in the fun!

Vacancies

St Chad's Cathedral is advertising for a Cathedral Manager, which is a senior leadership role that will be responsible for the day-to-day operational and administrative management of the Cathedral and its wider site. The role is full time, permanent, and the salary is £42-48,000 per annum depending on experience. The deadline for applications is Friday 13th March.

For further information, please see the Archdiocese website:

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs>

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Ailbhe in Year Five who was ten on Monday and happy birthday to Aurora, also in Year Five, who is ten today! Tomorrow, Penelope in Year One turns six. Happy birthday to you three girls!



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

Tues 17th March: Children wear green for St Patrick's Day (£1 donation to Father Hudson's)

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

The end of our first week back. Four weeks and four days to go until we break up for Easter! I will end this letter in the same way I started: please join us for Mass this Sunday at 10am. See you there!

Mr Clinton