



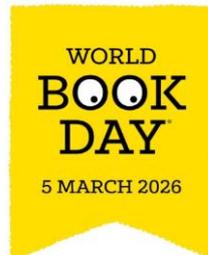
St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 6th March 2026

each week for any new or additional dates.

Dear parents,

I am writing this introduction on World Book Day and I can hear a beautiful butterfly next door delivering an online quiz to all of children. Thank you to Mrs Healy for hosting the quiz and for all the considerable organisation that goes into making World Book Day such a success. Thank you, also, to the parents and the children for fully embracing the fancy dress: we have had Harry Potters, characters from the 'Wizard of Oz', a Rasta Mouse, Propsero from 'The Tempest', Mr Bump, Medusa, Juliet, Bananas in Pyjamas, Dr Seuss' Things One and Two, Cats in Hats, James Bonds, Lizzy McGuires, Three Little Pigs, many Mary Poppins, Willy Wonkas and many more besides. Thanks also to the staff for their efforts in dressing up: this Very Hungry Caterpillar has feasted on watermelon and plums and cakes and pickles to his heart's content. It speaks volumes about the culture here in school that every single child and adult participated fully.



Now we have started the second part of Spring term, I have included diary dates up until the end of the year. Please make a note on your own calendars of any important dates and check back

Learn from the Saints



"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

Golden Book

Reception: Aryan Patel for his beautiful handwriting and effort in Phonics this week! Aryan has tried so hard with his letter formation and has impressed us with his decoding and blending skills too. He has really progressed this half term and should be very proud of himself!

Year One: Ayra Kamasani is a star! She has worked incredibly hard on her sentence structure, and she is now using capital letters and full stops consistently throughout her work, which is wonderful to see. She has also developed an impressive range of adjectives and is able to use them appropriately in her writing. In Maths, Ayra is becoming increasingly independent when answering reasoning questions, showing growing confidence in using critical thinking to

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we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

explain her ideas. She approaches every task with a smile, and it is a joy to see her confidence grow each day.

Year Two: This week, we want to celebrate Caiden Lee who has been working incredibly hard and showing a fantastic attitude towards his learning. Caiden has really been making an effort to contribute more during class discussions, sharing his ideas with growing confidence. What stands out most is his resilience — he is not afraid to make a mistake, and he keeps trying even when things feel challenging. We are so proud of the positive attitude he shows every single day! Well done, Caiden!

Year Three: Nancy Herron for being such a fabulous member of our class. Nancy is always smiling and wanting to do her best. She's a lovely friend to everybody and extremely helpful to her peers. Nancy often goes to help those who need it during lessons without being asked to. Her hand is always up, ready to contribute her thoughts and ideas and her work is a joy to mark! Well done, Nancy!

Year Four: Ethan Uchenna has been working so hard recently on his writing, pushing himself to use sentence tricks and using the texts to inspire his writing. It has been wonderful to see his develop this half term so far and his writing will only improve more with this effort. Ethan, keep up this wonderful effort!

Year Five: Oliver Ellard has demonstrated that he has a huge heart! Oliver is a caring and loving member of the class who has gone above and beyond this week to make World Book Day really special for his class peers.

Not only did Oliver work with another pupil to devise, plan and prepare a pirate treasure hunt for the class to enjoy outdoors, he also bought in treats or treasure for them to find because he has given these up for Lent. The class really enjoyed the treasure hunt and Mrs McGrory has to admit it beat her own 'fact or fiction' quiz hands down. Well done, Oliver - you are a thoughtful and caring pupil who also looked very daring and brave as a pirate.

Year Six: All staff who work with Alfonso Sanjay are impressed with his constant hard-working attitude. He tries his best in all lessons and has made good progress since joining us. Alfonso is conscientious and a great friend to many. Keep up the great work, Alfonso!

Plastic-free break times.

Eco council undertook a 'trash mob' and discovered that a lot of the rubbish in our school grounds is plastic. Not only is the plastic harmful to the environment, it makes our grounds look untidy. Therefore, they are proposing that pupils do not bring in snacks or tuck in plastic wrappers but instead use a reusable pot or container or bring fruit instead as the peel or cores from fruit can be composted in our compost bin. This way we are helping to keep our school environment tidy but we are also helping to save our planet.

Mrs Corrigan

Mrs Corrigan emailed all parents on Wednesday, her last day, and I have replicated her kind words on the next page.

Dear parents,

As I sit here on my final day, my heart is overflowing with love and gratitude. Thank you all so much, for the thoughtful gifts and the beautiful messages — I will treasure them always. Your kindness has truly touched me. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as your office manager for the past four and a half years. Being part of this school community has meant more to me than I can ever fully put into words. Watching the children grow into their wonderful, unique selves has been such a joy and a blessing. From seeing them proudly write their names for the first time, performing their first nativity, reading in Mass, sports days, birthdays, overcoming fears, finding their voices, and celebrating all those big and small milestones — every single moment has been special, even the First Aid/Medicine moments! Thank you for trusting me to be part of those precious years. This school will always hold a very special place in my heart, mainly due to the wonderful pupils, past and present. I will miss the smiles and hearing the laughter of each and every one of the children, more than you know. They are all uniquely wonderful. You are in safe hands with Miss Brown and I have no doubt she will be incredible in her new role. All that is left for me to say is Thank you, from the very bottom of my heart. I wish you and your families, every happiness and all the very best for the future. May God watch over you all.

Mrs Corrigan xx

School Fund

You will notice a new request for School Fund on your MCAS account. It will appear under 'Products'. As a school, we are requesting £25.00 per pupil to enable us to purchase the added extras that our pupils both deserve and cherish. Schools operate from September until July, for 39 weeks of the year. The contribution we are asking for equates to 64p per week! If only everything in life worked out at such value for money! I would ask you to consider this contribution and the invaluable difference it makes to resources we have in school.

Parent Consultations

These are up and running and bookable via MCAS. If you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Brown in the office. This is a wonderful opportunity to view your child's work and celebrate all their efforts. Both Mrs Bresnen and I will be present on both days should any parent wish to discuss any other matter with us – no appointment needed.

Sublime Science

We had a wonderful day on Wednesday with 'Atomic Alan' who led a whole school assembly about sound and smoke and then allowed the children to take part in each of their seven practical workshops, before ending the day with firing rockets into the sky from the playground. It was incredible! Thank you to Mrs Currington, last year's PTA chair, for organising. It was a splendid use of funds and the children hugely benefitted.

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 8th March 2026

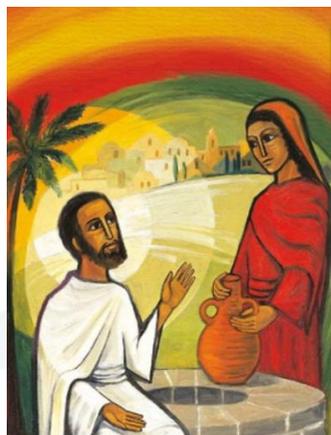


Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat straight down at Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." She was taken by surprise because Jews and Samaritans rarely spoke to each other. She replied, "What? You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans don't have anything to do with each other?" Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: 'Give me a drink,' you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket, sir," she answered, "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water?" Jesus replied: "Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life." "Sir," said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

Adapted from John 4:5-15.19-26.39-42
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, 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.

This Gospel makes a lot more sense when you ask yourself why, on such a hot day, the Samaritan woman is visiting the well at the height of the heat, when everyone else in the community would have gone in the morning when it was cooler. The answer is because she is going when there is nobody else there: she is a pariah in her own community. The conversation they share and the kindness that Jesus shows her changes her life and serves as an example to us all.



Uniform

After Easter, children can once again wear their summer uniform. For boys, this is a pale blue polo shirt (with school logo) or short-sleeved school shirt and school tie. Girls can wear a checked or striped blue and white dress or grey school skirt/trousers, or a pale blue polo shirt or short-sleeved open neck school blouse (with school logo). All items of uniform are stocked by Monkhouse

(<https://www.monkhouse.com/school/st-ambrose-barlow-catholic-primary-school-hall-green-urn-103465>)

in Mell Square, Solihull or Concept Schoolwear

(<https://conceptschoolorwear.com>) on the Stratford Road, Shirley. Please ensure footwear remains suitable so this precludes sandals, which can cause a hazard in school.

Puppet Show at Hall Green Library

Long Nose Puppet Theatre Presents
Flyaway Katie

A puppet show for children ages 2-7 years old, based on the book Flyaway Katie by Polly Dunbar.
Katie is all alone and feeling grey. The birds in the picture on her wall look so colourful-if only Katie could be as bright as them, who knows what might happen?

Come and meet 'Flyaway Katie' at Hall Green Library

Tuesday 10th March
11am-11.50am & 2.15pm-3.05pm
(Please arrive 10mins before performance starts)

No booking required. Places may be limited.
Parents/carers must stay and supervise their child at all times.

Scan the QR code to find your local Birmingham library



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Our Reception children have been invited to attend this puppet show on Tuesday morning at 11am, and our Year One children will attend that afternoon. Should any of our parents with younger children be interested, contact the library directly.

Keyboard concert

Madam Grange will host our termly choir and keyboard concert on 19th March at 2:15pm. All are welcome to attend. As you know, this is a real highlight of our musical provision here in school and I love to show the children's talents off!

First Holy Communion Mass

We have now confirmed final numbers with the parish and, as such, all children can make their First Holy Communion together at 10am on Saturday 9th May. Each child will have one bench for their family. All are welcome to join with the school and parish to celebrate this important milestone in our children's journey of faith.

Going Forth Mass

The Going Forth Mass for our children will be twinned with the Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday 7th June. After Mass, children will process up from church to the school with the Blessed Sacrament and eat their communion breakfast in the school hall.

Transition Day and secondary places

Our children have now learnt their secondary school destinations. We will do transitional work here at school in Summer Term. Please be aware that Birmingham's transition Day will be on

Wednesday 1st July and this is when children will visit their new schools. I hope Solihull follow suit! Regardless, in school this is when our children will meet their new teachers for the next academic year.

KS2 SATs

These will begin on Monday 11th March with a Spelling and SPAG paper. On Tuesday, children will have their Reading paper. On Wednesday and Thursday, children will complete their arithmetic paper and their two reasoning papers. As I say to the children, these are not Year Six tests: these are a benchmark to see what knowledge the children have retained over their whole journey in Key Stage Two and are more a measure of the school's curriculum and focus on retention. There is nothing to panic about. I have full confidence in both the children and the journey they have had in the past four years and, indeed, their seven year journey that encompasses Reception and Key Stage One also.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Francis in Year Six who was eleven on Monday.

On Tuesday, Tayla-Mae in Year Four was nine.

On Thursday, Henry Doran in Year Four

was nine (and the class

were gifted some beautiful stickers to show ownership of their books, as was the author of this newsletter) and on Sunday, Emily in Year Six turns eleven. Happy birthday to all!



March dates for your diary

Tues 10th March: Year Four trip to Tamworth Castle: return to school approx. 4pm

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 after-school club

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

Fri 24th April: Fire service to visit Year Four for 'Sparks' workshop

May dates for your diary

Mon 4th May: School closed for Bank Holiday

Thurs 7th May: School closed for voting – staff INSET

Fri 8th May: Year One Class Assembly 9am

Sat 9th May: First Holy Communion Mass 10am

Fri 15th May: May Procession 2pm from parish church to school

Fri 22nd May: Break up at 3:30 for half term

June dates for your diary

Sun 7th June: Going Forth Mass / Corpus Christi Procession

Fri 12th June: Whole School Mass for feast of Sacred Heart

Tues 16th June: KS1 Sports Day 1:30pm

Wed 17th June: Class photos

Fri 19th June: Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

Tues 23rd June: Year Six to Blackwell Court

Thurs 25th June: Family Mass for leaving families

Sat 27th June: SAB PTA Summer Fete 12-3pm

July dates for your diary

Wed 1st July: Transition Day

Fri 3rd July: Reception Class Assembly

Thurs 9th July: Year Six at B'ham
Central Mosque

Fri 10th July: Reports out to parents

Thurs 16th July: Year Six Leavers'
Assembly

Fri 17th July: Leavers' Mass

And so ends a very long, bumper edition of this week's newsletter. I had a conversation with someone on Monday - not a member of the school community but someone who works in the higher echelons of Catholic education across many schools in the country – who said that it is clear from the weekly communication what a lovely community this school is. Yesterday, someone else said it was obvious from our social media how much the children love their days at school. No higher praise can be given than this. Thank you, parents, for all you do to support us.



Mr Clinton