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

Friday 27th March 2026

Dear parents,



Other schools may be breaking up for their Easter break today but not us! Instead, we remain in school for four days next week, taking us through Holy Week to Maundy Thursday. The work the children produce during Holy Week is superb and honestly cannot be replicated at any other time in the calendar. The school will be such a quiet, reflective and spiritual place next week. And then, finally, we celebrate Easter and have our two week break. Rest and recuperate – Summer Term is a busy one!

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Zachery Ip for being such a super star and making wonderful progress this half term! Zachery is becoming more engaged during lessons and shows such enthusiasm to learn new things. He is building relationships with his peers a responding well to instructions and routines. We are all very proud of you, Zachery!

**Year One:** Millie Mynett has made wonderful progress this year, and all of the adults in Year One are incredibly proud of her growing resilience and confidence. She has been working diligently on her pre-cursive handwriting and is increasingly mindful of presenting her work neatly and carefully. In phonics, Millie continues to make good progress and is working hard to identify split digraphs in words, reading them with increasing accuracy. She is also a wonderful friend to everyone, consistently showing kindness and respect towards her peers. Well done, Millie!

**Year Two:** Today we want to celebrate a true superstar in our class, Nancy Hall! She listens so carefully, is always attentive, and takes feedback on board with such maturity. She shows the right attitude in everything she does and demonstrates all the qualities we hope to see in a child belonging to St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School. Nancy has such a positive attitude towards her learning, and her dedication is admirable. She always impresses the adults in Year Two with her mathematical knowledge. We have been learning about money this week, and Nancy has listened brilliantly. She has been able to add pounds and pence together, as well as figure out how much change is left over. Well done, Nancy!

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

**Year Three:** Daniel Luckman for always having the biggest smile on his face. Daniel has been improving his work ethic and has produced some excellent pieces of work recently. He has also stood out in our class assembly practice by learning all of his lines and delivering them so eloquently. Keep working hard, Daniel!

**Year Four:** Gemma Ip is a fantastic asset to Year Four. She is kind, patient and very keen to help others in her class enjoy learning as much as she does. She always puts all of her effort into her work and this care and attention shines through in every subject. Well done, Gemma!

**Year Five:** Enda deserves to be in the Golden book. However, we could honestly say that he really could be in the Golden Book every week because he is a caring, considerate and friendly pupil. No matter what the task or activity he is set, he does it with 100% determination and perseverance. He tackles any work or challenge with 200% enthusiasm. He is a 'happy go lucky' pupil who will undertake any job readily and is always happy to help others inside and outside of the classroom. He has a caring soul and he is very creative often sharing his skills with others. He really does bring a smile to Mrs McGrory's face each day! We could all benefit from having an Enda in our class!

**Year Six:** Chloe Partridge for having such a fantastic work ethic which is really showing in all areas of her work. She is focused, determined and is eager to do well. With this attitude, Chloe is going to achieve great things. She has a fabulous sense of humour, really

makes her friends laugh as well as staff! Chloe is a great friend and a super role model for both her peers and younger children. Keep up the excellent work Chloe!

### Learn from the Saints

WE MUST UNDERSTAND THEN, THAT  
EVEN THOUGH GOD DOESN'T ALWAYS  
GIVE US WHAT WE WANT, HE  
ALWAYS GIVES US WHAT WE NEED  
FOR OUR SALVATION.

**st augustine**

### Easter Egg raffle

My thanks to the PTA for sourcing numerous Easter Eggs to gift to the children next week. In addition to this, the Mini-Vinnies will be holding a Easter Eggs raffle. Children can buy tickets throughout the four days and this will be drawn during Thursday's assembly. 50p a ticket or £1 for a strip – what a bargain! You have to be in it to win it! Proceeds to Mary's Meals, one of Father Paul's favourite charities! ☺



### Healthy snacks

Ok, I know I am following on from talking about Easter Eggs and chocolate with a message about healthy snacks but bear with me! A reminder that we are telling the children that they should not be taking food like crisps or chocolate bars from their lunchbox to eat at break time but rather have a separate and specific snack. Fruit is ideal! Not only is this healthier but it also aids our

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sustainability action plan to cut down on plastic. Your support in this endeavour is greatly appreciated.

### **Year Four violin**

I had the great pleasure of being invited up to the Year Four classroom on Thursday for an impromptu concert. The children's violin playing and sense of rhythm and singing blew me and Mrs Bresnen away! I am delighted by all that Mrs Brookes, the violin teacher, has taught. As soon as we have a date for a summer concert, I will share it with you. These performers need an audience!

### **Trips**

A busy few weeks with trips! Year Two have been to Selly Manor to complement their learning in History and, likewise, Year Five have been to the Black Country Museum to see how the Victorians lived and how the Industrial Revolution changed the lives of working people. This week, Year Three have been to Compton Verney to study the Stone Age and Year Six spent yesterday in Stratford as part of Shakespeare Week.

### **Other Faiths Week /**

#### **Places of Worship**

More trips have been organised for Summer Term, this time with the focus on what faiths are in our local community. See below for details:

- On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Reception children will walk to our local parish church for a tour of all the artefacts and statues that they do not often get chance to see when at Mass.

- Year One will visit a different Catholic Church, Olton Friary, for a behind the scenes tour! Date to be confirmed but the visit will take place the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Year Two visit the Church of the Ascension, a church with a different Christian tradition to our own.
- On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Mass, Year Three goes to the Hindu Mandir to learn about the Hindu faith.
- On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May, Year Four visit the Jewish Synagogue in the centre of Birmingham to learn about Judaism. There is a £10 donation for this trip payable via MCAS to cover the cost of transport and provision.
- On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Year Five go to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick to learn more about the Sikh religion. There is a £10 donation for this trip payable via MCAS to cover the cost of transport and provision.
- On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, Year Six will visit the Birmingham Central Mosque to learn about Islam. There is a £10 donation for this trip payable via MCAS to cover the cost of transport and provision.

### **Swimming in Summer Term**

A busy term for Year Six when they return after Easter. Not only do they have their transition and their SATs, they also start their swimming sessions, which take place each Wednesday at Fox Hollies. All children will require

swimming kit, goggles, a swimming hat and a towel.

### **PE**

We are so proud of our uniform here at school. Both this Monday and last, we celebrate in assembly how smart the children look in their shirt and tie and jumper. It is for this reason that we ask children to wear full uniform each and every day, and then get changed for PE before getting changed back into their uniform at the end of the day. I know other schools wear PE kit on the day of their curriculum PE but, for us, that would mean that a child could conceivably be wearing PE kit on two or three days each week.

Next term, we are altering our provision a bit. You will know that if your child has attended dance on Thursday after school that we have been looking at other providers. We have found a provider who has been both externally and internally quality-assured to deliver both curriculum PE to our children on Tuesday afternoons and run a dance club after school for Reception and Key Stage One also. More details to follow but this is an exciting development.

A similar approach will be taken for karate. Josh, our karate teacher, will run a curriculum PE session and then extend an invitation for a free taste session for children who wish to attend the club that takes place each Tuesday morning.

### **Summer Uniform**

When children return after Easter, they can wear summer uniform.

### **Boys**

- *Grey school trousers (short or long)*
- *Pale blue polo shirt (with school logo) or short-sleeved school shirt and school tie*
- *Grey 'v' neck school pullover*
- *Plain grey or black socks*
- *Sensible black shoes*

### **Girls**

- *School uniform checked to striped dress or grey school skirt/trousers*
- *Pale blue polo shirt (with school logo) or short-sleeved open neck school blouse (with school logo)*
- *Grey 'v' neck school cardigan/pullover*
- *Plain grey or white socks*
- *Sensible black shoes*

### **Birthdays this week**

Happy birthday to Hannah

in Reception who was five on Monday and happy birthday also to Theo E in Year Three who was eight and

Alphonso in Year Six who was eleven on Monday too. On Wednesday, Ava in Year Six was eleven and Georgia in Year Three was eight also. Tomorrow, George Parkes in Year Five is ten and on Sunday, Seamus in Year Three is eight! Happy birthday to all these children!



### **March dates for your diary**

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

**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 after-school club

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

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April:** Children to wear own clothes for St George's Day for a £1 donation

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup> April:** Fire service to visit Year Four for 'Sparks' workshop

#### **May dates for your diary**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for Bank Holiday

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> May:** School closed for voting – staff INSET

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> May:** Year One Class Assembly 9am

**Sat 9<sup>th</sup> May:** First Holy Communion Mass 10am

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> May:** KS2 SATs begin

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May:** May Procession 2pm from parish church to school - TBC

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Other Faiths Week / Places of Worship trips

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> May:** Break up at 3:30 for half term

#### **June dates for your diary**

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup> June:** Going Forth Mass / Corpus Christi Procession

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> June:** Whole School Mass for feast of Sacred Heart

**Mon 15<sup>th</sup> June:** KS2 Sports Day - TBC

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> June:** KS1 Sports Day 1:30pm

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> June:** Class photos

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** Year Six to Blackwell Court

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Family Mass for leaving families

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June:** SAB PTA Summer Fete 12-3pm

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June:** St Teresa of Calcutta Sports Day @ Alexander Stadium

#### **July dates for your diary**

**Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July:** Transition Day

**Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** Reception Class Assembly

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six at B'ham Central Mosque

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Reports out to parents

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers' Assembly

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> July:** Leavers' Mass

Please join the children and staff at Mass this Sunday where we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the crowds waved palms and sang 'Hosanna'. Children of Year Three are especially welcome, as they then recount these events in their Holy Week assembly on Monday. All are welcome.



Mr Clinton