



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 24th April 2026

Dear parents,

Welcome back after what seems a mammoth break for Easter. The children have returned ready to work and it has been a pleasure to see them so happy and settled in the classroom.

Golden Book

Reception: Jai Bhachu for always giving 100% in everything that he does! Jai always shows great enthusiasm and curiosity towards his learning. When completing every piece of work, Jai ensures that he tries his very best and does so with a smile on his face. This week, Jai has produced lots of wonderful written work, showing off his phonics skills and correct letter formation too. Well done, Jai!

Year One: Linda Hajas is determined to complete every task she is given. She has worked very hard to ensure her pre-cursive handwriting is neatly sized and beautifully presented. Linda is also growing in confidence when answering reasoning questions in Maths, where she is beginning to explore different answers and carefully check her work for mistakes. We are super impressed with your hard work, Linda - keep it up!

Year Two: Faaris Ahmed has come back after the holidays with a brilliant attitude towards his learning. Faaris has produced fantastic Literacy work this week, especially when exploring

emotive language and using inference to understand how someone is feeling and why. Faaris has also been working incredibly hard outside the classroom with other teachers, showing the same enthusiasm and determination wherever they go. His willingness to have a go has been wonderful to see and long may it continue too. Well done, Faaris!

Year Three: Mia Bhachu for being such a wonderful member of our class. Mia always gives the best of herself to every situation. She is so kind and helpful to everybody around her which makes her the perfect role model to others. She has a wonderful imagination making her creative writing a joy to read. Thank you for always putting a smile on our faces, Mia!

Year Four: Ethan Hughes has started Summer term brilliantly. He has produced some wonderful work in Literacy this week inspired by 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' and has used some sentences tricks to up-level his writing. His attitude to learning and his resilience this week is what has shone through every lesson. Ethan wants to produce his best work every time he picks up his pen. Keep it up Ethan!

Year Five: James McColgan makes the grade this week. Mrs McGrory said that if she could sum up in three words what James is like, She would say he is happy, eager and ...sensible. This is because Mrs McG always asks for someone sensible to undertake jobs

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and tasks and this pupil always puts himself forward. Not only has James proved himself reliable and trustworthy this week, he has also made a great start to the term and shown a 'can do' attitude towards his work this week, really reflecting on how he can further improve his work. He is also a team player helping others in PE and supporting them if they need guidance, it isn't always about winning, but this week, James, you are a worthy winner.

Year Six: Mia Nelson has returned to school eager and ready to learn. Her participation in lessons is highly valued and her answers are always well thought out. Mia's presentation is of a very high standard and she applies herself well to any task. She is highly thought out throughout school: by staff, her class peers and younger children in her role as prefect. Keep up the excellent work Mia and you will reap the rewards!

Wednesday Word

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH **Sunday 26th April 2026**



Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock. When the shepherd has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger, but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers." The disciples failed to understand what Jesus meant. So Jesus spoke to them again: "I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: they will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. But I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

This Gospel, in a manner of speaking, also sums up our whole approach of

Catholic education. The purpose of Catholic education is to educate all children in every sense: not just academic, but social and emotional and personal and spiritually too. This extends from the classroom to the playground, to the opportunities we provide for the children, to the way we celebrate good behaviour and try to address when children fall short, to our view of attendance to the support we give to families who may ever need or ask for it. Everything we do is to enable children to reach their full potential and live life to the full.

Sponsored Walk

This takes place next Friday. I have tasked the Mini-Vinnies with designing the sponsorship form and this has been sent out today. If every child raised even just £1, that's £210 heading to CAFOD. However, if every child raised just £5, we are looking at £1000! And if some children (as I know they will) go above and beyond, then we are making a very real and tangible difference to our brothers and sisters in the global community. The walk itself will be lovely – the sun will shine, the skies will be blue, and children can wear whatever they are comfortable in - no uniform necessary.

Catholic Life and Catholic Social Teaching

Following on from our Advent fundraising, we have donated over £500 to **Marie Curie Hospice**, which has done such wonderful work for our community, both with Mrs Drewry's father and with Vinnie and Delilah's grandfather, who was in their care until

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his passing yesterday. Following on from our PTA inspired Easter raffle, we have donated £370 to **Mary's Meals**, one of Father Paul's favourite charities. After our own clothes day for St Patrick's Day, we managed to raise £210 for **Father Hudson's Caritas**, the charity chosen by the Archdiocese of Birmingham to support, and a cause that Year Three know all about after their RE lessons. After yesterday's St George's Day non-uniform day, we raised a further amount (yet to be confirmed, but I will be able to do next week) for **St Chad's Sanctuary**, supporting the plight of asylum seekers and migrants seeking safety.

School dinners

The price for a daily school dinner is now £2-80, in line with Cityserve increasing their costs. However, believe me when I say that Andrew, our chef, is incredible. I know this because yesterday I ate with Year Six and enjoyed hot dogs, wedges, cake and custard while also discussing how much they are currently enjoying all their Maths revision! Seriously.

May Procession

Due to an unavoidable diary date clash, the May Procession will now take place on Wednesday 20th May. We will start at church and end up at school.

KS2 Sports Day

This is now confirmed for Monday 15th June with the same format as last year – children come into school in their house colours, walk down to Moseley Cricket Club after registration and stay until approximately 2pm. They will

need a packed lunch and all parents are invited to watch and stay as little or as long as they like. Pray for good weather!

Phonics Workshop

The theatrical Mrs Hunt will keep you all engaged as you attend the Year One Parents Phonics workshop this coming Thursday at 5:30pm. It is essential to know the format of the screening check and how best to support your child.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Adam in Year Four who was nine on Monday. On Tuesday, Oliver in Year Five was ten and Ellie-Mae in Year Six turned eleven. On Wednesday, Mia in Year Six was eleven also. Lawson in Year Four will be nine on Saturday. On Sunday, we have a bumper day: Elsie in Year Four is nine, Nancy in Year Three is eight and Alesha in Year Six turns eleven. Happy birthday to all!

April dates for your diary

Thurs 30th April: Year Four children to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm;
Year One Parents Phonics workshop 5:30pm

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

Mon 11th May: KS2 SATs begin

Thurs 14th May: Year Five children to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm

Mon 18th May: Year Four visit the Synagogue

Wed 20th May: Reception walk down to St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Church; May Procession 2pm from parish church to school

Thurs 21st May: Year Two visit Church of the Ascension;

Year Three visit the Hindu Mandir;

Year Six children to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm

Fri 22nd May: Year Five visit the Sikh Gurdwara;

Break up at 3:30 for half term

June dates for your diary

Mon 1st June: Children return to school

Wed 3rd June: Year One at Twycross Zoo

Thurs 4th May: Year Two children to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm

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

Thurs 11th June: Year Three children to visit Hall Green library @ 2pm

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

Mon 15th June: KS2 Sports Day

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: Year Four violin performance 9am;

Family Mass for leaving families 5pm

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

Mon 29th June: St Teresa of Calcutta Sports Day @ Alexander Stadium

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

Have a wonderful weekend. See you on Monday.

God bless,



Mr Clinton