



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 8th May 2026

Dear parents,

I have just finished watching Year One's assembly and it was a fantastic start to the day and a wonderful end of the week. The children have so much personality and are brimming with confidence and eloquence and this is testament to the hard work of the staff and how fully the children have embraced the vision of the school. Such a fun assembly was just what the staff needed. We had some very upsetting news this morning about Clare Curtis, an exceptional teacher and former member of staff, who died yesterday. Words alone cannot convey the impact she had on this school and on the parish too. She was a teacher here for many years, as well as working in other Birmingham schools. She was a devoted mother and wife and gave so much of herself to the parish too, being a catechist, taking the Blessed Sacrament to the sick, and helping to prepare children for their sacraments. Personally speaking, she was a wonderful help to me when I started here at St Ambrose Barlow and I could tell what a special teacher and person she was. Miss Traynor told me this morning she is the teacher she is herself because of the influence of Clare. I also know that Clare's assemblies were full of joy and imagination and I know she was with us this morning in spirit.

Golden Book (from last week)

Reception: Jayden-Jaxon Spencer for starting off this term with such a great attitude. Jayden has been trying so hard to do the right thing, always looking out for his peers, offering help before it is even asked for, and checking to make sure everyone is okay. Lately, he has been growing in confidence in his work too, becoming more focused during activities and showing a real eagerness to learn. Jayden has enjoyed learning about number bonds to 10 in Maths and has been independently using a part-part-whole model to work out the answers! Well done, Jayden!

Year One: Kaisan Hassan has made every adult in Year One proud. His handwriting has improved beautifully, and he is working hard to form his letters clearly and at the correct size. Kaisan has also learned his assembly lines off by heart in just two days and now performs them with confidence and brilliant expression — a brilliant achievement. He is consistently polite, supportive of others, and a wonderful friend to everyone. Fabulous work, Kaisan — keep it up!

Year Two: Angelo Sanjay truly deserves a place in the Golden Book. Angelo is an absolute delight to teach—always eager to have a go, always listening carefully to every instruction, and always giving his very best. That's all we can ever ask for. Every morning, Angelo comes into school with the biggest smile on his face that always brightens

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up our day. Angelo has produced some great work this week, especially Maths! Well done, Angelo - keep it up!

Year Three: Theo Richardson for always taking such pride in his work. It is always presented beautifully with neat, cursive handwriting. In lessons, Theo works really hard and tries his best in every subject. He listens carefully and follows instructions thoughtfully as well as trying to help his peers around him if they are stuck. Keep working hard, Theo.

Year Four: Alec Burns left school for an appointment before last week's assembly but was still celebrated for showing such incredible focus in Literacy lessons. For the last few weeks, he has been thinking about the sentences that he uses and how they all fit together to create a story. He has been using some wonderful vocabulary and it's been fantastic to see his enthusiasm about our new text. Keep this up, Alec!

Year Five: Ailbhe Lillington is in the Golden book because she has shown determination and perseverance this week. She has continued to impress us with her positive attitude as she has been determined to learn how to measure angles accurately even though this took many attempts, she did not give up and has now been helping others to learn how to use a protractor correctly. She has also worked well during Religious Education lessons, using the Bible to explore a number of Bible references and then thinking about the messages which are shared in these readings, explaining this in her own words. We are really proud of you, keep up the good work!

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!

Golden Book (for this week)

Reception: Ella Nelson for her amazing reading this week! Ella has impressed us all in Reception with her decoding and blending skills and developing independence. She has also worked very hard this week on her writing, ensuring that her letters are formed correctly! Keep up the great work, Ella!

Year One: Joel Flanagan has truly impressed us this week with his outstanding acting skills in our class assembly. He brings drama to life, using his facial expressions brilliantly to convey emotion—definitely a BAFTA-worthy performance! Joel's writing also showcases a fantastic creative flair; he takes time to think carefully about his ideas before putting them on paper, resulting in thoughtful and engaging work. Super work, Joel!

Year Two: We are so pleased to put Hallie Kennie into the Golden Book this week. She has worked incredibly hard over the last few weeks and has truly shown us what she is capable of! Hallie always tries her very best in everything she does, works brilliantly, and shows such kindness and politeness to everyone around her. Hallie always

contributes well in class and shares her thoughts and opinions with others. Hallie is an absolute joy to have in the classroom. We are so pleased you came to join our special school community! Well done, Hallie.

Year Three: Kimberley O'Loughlin for consistently being the best person she can be. Both in school and at home! Kimberley works so hard in every lesson and at home she impresses us every week with her minutes on TTRS. She is an excellent friend, a great role model for her peers and a joy to have in the classroom. Keep working hard, Kimberley.

Year Four: Millie Kirk is a fantastic example to the rest of her class. She works hard in all lessons and pushes herself to produce her best work every time. Her work this half term has shown how far she has developed as a writer and how she is adapting her work for the topic given. She is generous sharing her ideas and her help in class and is valued greatly by her class.

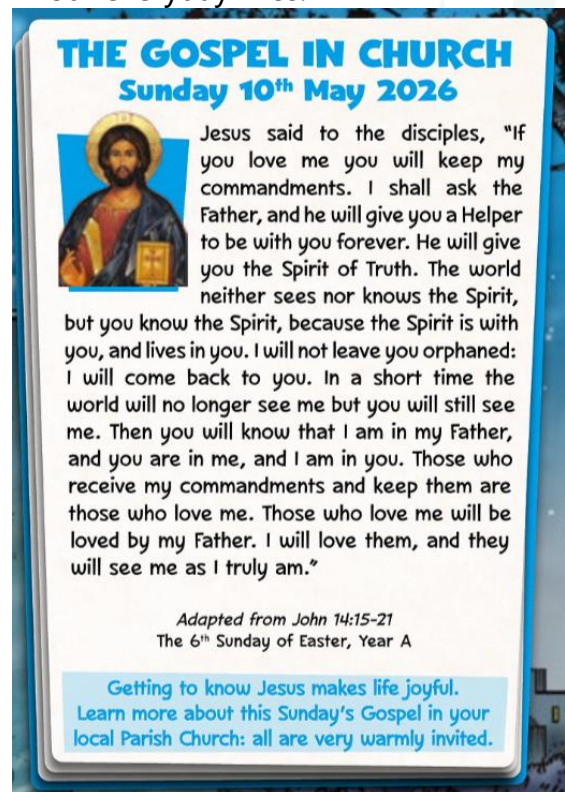
Year Five: Eden Andrews has settled into Year Five really well. He has made lots of new friends and is steadily learning how Year Five work and learn together. Although he has been quiet in class, we know in time he will grow more confidence and we will see the real Eden. Well done for being so brave this week, for having a go and learning lots in your (almost full) first week here. We are sure you will fit right in and be a valuable member of class. Welcome to Year Five, Eden.

Year Six: Emily O'Keefe is truly a delight to teach. She works so hard in all lessons and has presentation of the highest standard. Emily has an


awesome sense of humour and is a very loyal friend. Emily listens, takes advice on board and is flourishing in all areas at school. Keep up the excellent work Emily!

Wednesday Word

The Gospel this Sunday hints at what is to come – Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the church. But the Holy Spirit is with us now – received in baptism and a constant companion, the fruits of which we see in our everyday lives.



THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 10th May 2026

 Jesus said to the disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you a Helper to be with you forever. He will give you the Spirit of Truth. The world neither sees nor knows the Spirit, but you know the Spirit, because the Spirit is with you, and lives in you. I will not leave you orphaned: I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me but you will still see me. Then you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who receive my commandments and keep them are those who love me. Those who love me will be loved by my Father. I will love them, and they will see me as I truly am."

Adapted from John 14:15-21
The 6th Sunday of Easter, 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.

First Holy Communion

Year Three celebrate receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion tomorrow morning. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you, also, to Father John for celebrating with the children and to Chris Rolinson for the musical accompaniment. The children of Year Three are also warmly invited – in their communion outfits again - to

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Mass on Sunday morning at 10am to be celebrated by the parish for their second communion.

"The Eucharist is the Sacrament of love; it signifies love and it produces love"

St Thomas Aquinas

KS2 Sports Day

This will take place 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.

KS2 SATs

As our Year Six pupils begin their SATs on Monday, we keep them in our prayers. These tests are only a small part of their journey here at school. Each and every child is wonderfully made, with gifts and qualities that cannot be measured on a paper. May they approach each day with calm hearts, confidence in their efforts, and trust that they are valued far beyond any result.

*You are more than marks on a page,
More than a score or a test of your
age.*

*You are kindness, laughter, light,
A spark that shines both day and night.*

*You are effort, growth, and care,
A helping hand, a voice that's fair.*

*No number ever could define,
The worth that in your heart will shine.*

*So do your best, be calm, be true;
God's love is always there for you.*

Phonics Workshop – Reception

There are two dates for parents of children in Reception to be aware of.

The first is a workshop, held at 5:30pm on Thursday 4th June and is led by Miss Hodgkins, and the other is an opportunity to work directly with your child on Wednesday 10th June at 9am.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Elena in Year Four who was nine on Monday and to Angelo in Year Two who was seven on Wednesday. On Wednesday, Albie in Year Four also celebrated his birthday, turning nine. Today, Bobby in Reception turns five and Poppy in Year Six turns eleven, sharing their day with David Attenborough who turns 100, and Mrs Bresnen's daughter who turns two! Tomorrow, Mila in Year Five is ten and Millie in Year One is six! Happy birthday to all!

May dates for your diary

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. Please keep Year Three in your prayers as they make their First Holy Communion

God bless,



Mr Clinton