



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Dear parents,

Happy half-term, just in time for the sunshine! I said last week, it has been a short term but a busy one, with SATS for Key Stage Two and other assessments for other Key Stages, and our trips this week to other places of worship.

On Wednesday, we had a beautiful May Procession, led by our communicants from Year Three, from church to school, via the new gate in to the prayer garden. I asked the children at the beginning to keep both Father Paul and Clare Curtis in their prayers during the Rosary. Both have been a great help to the school. Father Paul, especially, loved the May Procession and said it would get better every year we did it. He was right – this year's was a beautiful and prayerful celebration of our faith. As Zane, our Head Boy, said in the Gospel reflection: *"Mary is a patient mother and, just like any mother, she is there to love us, to guide us, to show us the right path. She hears all our troubles when we might be afraid to talk to anyone else about them. It is through Mary, most importantly, that we build a relationship with Jesus. Speaking to Mary is the surest, most direct, and most perfect way to build a closer and deeper relationship with her son, Jesus Christ."*

We bid a fond farewell today to Samuel and Linda Hajas, in Year Three and Year One respectively, as they move house and therefore move school. Linda also celebrates her birthday before she starts her new setting – happy birthday! We wish them all the very best for their new school and Mum and Dad are welcome to stay in touch if they ever need anything. As I say to Year Six when they leave: if you were once a pupil of St Ambrose Barlow, you'll always be a pupil of St Ambrose Barlow.

Golden Book

Reception: Ayah Aslam-Wright for her amazing writing and attitude to learning this half term. Ayah has worked so incredibly hard to apply her Phonic knowledge in her writing and is starting to show great independence too. She has even started to write more challenging words and sentences and we are delighted with the pieces of writing she has produced. Keep up the hard work, Ayah!

Year One: Theo Anderson-Rennalls has worked extremely hard this week. In PE, he impressed everyone with his excellent ball-throwing skills, great listening, and positive attitude towards following instructions. In Maths, Theo has shown a brilliant understanding of time and can now confidently identify o'clock and half past, independently showing these on his own clock. Well done, Theo!

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

Year Two: We are delighted to have Jenson in the Golden Book today! Jenson has had a fantastic week. He wrote a great persuasive letter, showing real thought, care, and growing confidence in his writing. During our visit to the Church of the Ascension, Jenson shone. He showed so much interest and curiosity and asked so many questions. It has also been really nice to share Jenson's hard work with other teachers and for other teachers to recognise Jenson's hard work. Well done, Jenson!

Year Three: Samuel Hajas for being an absolute pleasure to teach and to get to know this year. He impresses staff every day with his wonderful vocabulary, thoughtful ideas, and enthusiasm for learning. Samuel always tries his very best in the classroom and approaches every challenge with a positive attitude. We will all miss him greatly and wish him the very best of luck and happiness at his new school.

Year Four: Oscar Tranter has wowed with his creativity this week. Not only has his updated fairy tale stories shown his imagination and been enjoyed by the whole class, he has inspired a wave of comic book creation during breakfast club. His ideas have fused the mythology of Ancient Greece with his learning in Science about conductivity and materials. Can't wait to see the next draft!

Year Five: Ambrose Griffin has made the grade for Golden book this week. He has really excelled in measuring angles in quadrilaterals. He loves Maths work and is really trying hard to ensure he tackles the challenge work in class. Ambrose has also been trying to focus

on improving the pace of his work in Literacy this week and we cannot wait to read his finished report on Rainforests as he has been working hard in class to improve his sentence types. Keep up the hard work, Ambrose!

Year Six: Hollie continues to impress all staff in Year Six. When set with a task, she puts her heart and soul into it - one example of this is the fact children are still bringing in money from the sponsored walk. Hollie applies the same effort in the classroom. Particularly these past two weeks, showing off her deep understanding and producing work to a very high standard about the events and symbols of Pentecost. Keep up the excellent work, Hollie!

Grateful and Generous

This half term, children have been focusing on being grateful for their own gifts and talents and those of other people too, and generous with their talents to bring about greater glory to God. The following children have really stood out!

Reception: Annliya Sanjay

Year One: Aubrey Sheldon

Year Two: Nancy Hall

Year Three: Isaac Fiaz-McNally

Year Four: Tayla-Mae Fieldhouse

Year Five: Caoimhe McAuley

Year Six: Caitlin Bradley

May Procession

Thank you for all the donations of flowers that were laid at the foot of our statue of Mary during our procession. On Thursday, our Head Girl, Maeve and her willing assistants, Kadey-Mae and Caitlin, collected up all the flowers and co-ordinated them by colour, ready to

be dropped at St Mary's Hospice. I am often overwhelmed by the kindness and thoughtfulness of our pupils.

Wednesday Word

Emailed out with this newsletter is the Wednesday Word, which contains the Gospel for this week and the subsequent two weeks. This week, of course, is Pentecost where we celebrate the Church's birthday. The Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples and gave them the fortitude and abilities necessary to spread the Good News.

"In the evening, the disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said to them. He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. "Peace be with you," Jesus said to them again. "As the Father has sent me, so I now send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said to them. "If you forgive the sins of anyone, then they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Going Forth Mass

On Sunday 7th June, the children who made their First Communion will once again have an opportunity to wear their outfits as they process from Church on the Feast of Corpus Christi to school, where they will celebrate their communion breakfast. All other families and parishioners are invited to walk with us and enjoy a picnic in our beautiful prayer garden. This is now a

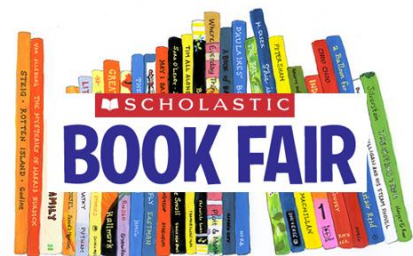
firmly established annual tradition and a great way to celebrate the Blessed Sacrament's centrality to our lives.

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.

Scholastic book fair

It is that time of year again. We are hosting the



Scholastic book fair from 2nd June until 9th June. Children will get an opportunity to visit the book fair during the week and then parents can visit from 8:30 in the morning or until 4pm in the afternoon. My thanks for Mrs Fayaz for organising.

A polite request re: climbing frame

Can parents ensure that children keep off the gym equipment and climbing frame at the end of the school day, either before or after pick up? It sounds like a moan but it is more about following our policy – during the school day, children are monitored by staff when using the equipment but this is not the case at pick up. Some parents monitor their children, and some do not, so for the safety of all involved, please do not use the equipment after school.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to James McC in Year Five who was ten on Wednesday. I was going to make a joke about James being a Blues fan and celebrating his birthday by witnessing a famous Villa victory in Istanbul, to end our 44 year hunt for another European trophy, etc. etc. but unfortunately his sister broke her elbow on the same evening, so he spent his birthday being a good brother and looking after her instead. Good old James.



Happy birthday to all the children who celebrate over the May half-term. Jenson in Year Two is seven on Sunday, Vinnie in Year Five is ten next Tuesday, and Ilana in Year Three is eight next Sunday. Hallie in Year Two is seven on Thursday and Romy is seven the day after! Happy birthday, all!

June dates for your diary

Mon 1st June: Children return to school

Tues 2nd June: KS2 Catholic Sports @ Alexander Stadium

Wed 3rd June: Year One at Twycross Zoo

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

Reception Phonics meeting @ 5:30pm

Sun 7th June: Going Forth Mass / Corpus Christi Procession 10am

Tues 9th June: Reception children at Ash End Farm;

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 10am

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: Keyboard and choir concert at 2:15pm;

Reports out to parents

Thurs 16th July: Year Six Leavers' Assembly

Fri 17th July: Leavers' Mass

Have a wonderful weekend and a well-deserved break over half-term. Last week, I made a comment about Celtic winning the league, which came true. This week, it was entirely appropriate that we prayed for a Villa victory during our May Procession and just look at what happened that very same evening! God is indeed good.

Mr Clinton