



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Dear parents,

I cannot believe how quickly the year is going. We have reached the end of the third week of Summer Term so we have only four weeks left - twenty days!

I spoke to Father John earlier this week and he said he will be at drop off and pick up a bit more often. Please feel free to approach him and have a chat – he just wants to have an idea of what is going on in school and for both children and parents to see him as a familiar, friendly face.

Today, we have ended our week with Reception's Class Mass, which our parents joined us for. In two weeks' time, it is their assembly (always a highlight of the year). The following week, all children will receive their reports and then we will reach the final week of the academic year with all that entails. Tissues at the ready for Year Six's Leavers assembly and Mass.

Golden Book

Reception: Gracie Langan for her dedication and enthusiasm. This week, she has tried incredibly hard to learn and practise the hymns for our class Mass. She has also done wonderfully in Phonics, reading Phase 5 words independently! Her confidence in completing work independently is

really starting to grow. In Maths, Gracie has really enjoyed learning about and finding doubles and has approached it with such a positive attitude. Well done for a fantastic week, Gracie!

Year One: Aubrey Sheldon has put her creative flair into her literacy work this week by rewriting a poem about a robot. Aubrey worked collaboratively, listening carefully to her partner's ideas and combining them with her own. Her poem was full of humour and imagination, making it a pleasure to listen to when she confidently and eloquently read it to the class. Super work, Aubrey!

Year Two: We are beyond delighted to put Lylah-Rose Holsey in the Golden Book this week! Lylah-Rose has been working incredibly hard in class. She has shown great focus and motivation in all of her learning and has approached every lesson with a positive attitude and a determination to do her very best. We have been especially impressed by her fantastic imagination and creativity. Her own adventure story, inspired by *'The Owl and the Pussycat'*, was a delight to read and showcased her brilliant ideas and storytelling skills. She has really impressed all of the adults in Year Two with her determination, perseverance and fantastic attitude this week. We are all so incredibly proud of her! Keep it up, Lylah-Rose!

Year Three: Archie White for being a fantastic member of our class. Archie consistently works hard in class and

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

always gives his best effort. He completes his work quickly without being distracted and to a high standard. He is kind and helpful and always willing to lend a hand when needed. Well done, Archie!

Year Four: Lawson Wilkins has worked hard this year, making choices that are going to help his learning. He has put a lot of effort into his maths fluency this year which he has been able to showcase his skills during his multiplication check. Keep up this marvellous work Lawson!

Year Five: Helena Ridgeway is always eager to learn. She has been an absolute star this year: she could teach the class if ever McGrory gave herself a day off. Helena is always calm, confident and happy and seems to just take everything in her stride. She really pushes herself in every subject ensuring that all of her work is presented beautifully and is to the highest standard. Mrs McGrory cannot wait for assessment week as she knows she will be blown away with Helena's knowledge and understanding in all subjects. Helena, whatever you put your mind to you will achieve so aim high and go for it - you are determined and confident so reach for the stars!

Year Six: Annabelle Spencer has had a brilliant final year. She could have been in Golden Book numerous times throughout the year. She produces work of a high standard, tries her best and listens really well. All of these qualities show us she is more than ready for the move to secondary school where she needs to continue to show just how fabulous she is

Sports Day

I make no bones about the fact that I love Sports Day. I love seeing children showing off their athletic prowess but, more than that, I love seeing children try their hardest and being supported by their peers.

Splitting Key Stage Two and Key Stage One works well – Key Stage Two walked down to Moseley Cricket Club and spent the day there. We enjoyed sprints, skipping, long distance running, a bean-bag relay and shuttle runs. The support from the parents was fantastic and I wish to thank all involved, but especially Malachi McGrory (Mrs McG's son) who was equivalent in my opinion to three members of staff. St Oscar Romero were the overall winners with an incredible 1280 points!

Key Stage One had their Sports Day on Tuesday in the playground, run by class teachers, our AVFC coach, and Miss Ball. Thanks again to all involved but especially to Miss Ball, who is extraordinary in her dedication. Results for KS1 are below:

1st: St Josephine Bakhita - 910 points
2nd: St Oscar Romero and St Theresa of Calcutta – tied on 840 points
4th: St Maximillian Kolbe - 680 points

Gaelic Football

I will continue the sporting theme by celebrating our Gaelic football team, again led by Miss Ball. They played at Páirc na hÉireann on Wednesday against a few other Catholic schools, including St Nicholas, The Rosary, St Albans, St George and St Teresa's and Our Lady of the Wayside, We played

admirably but unfortunately didn't reach the final. Congratulations to Layton, Abel, Zach, Nevaeh and Francis from Year Six, Amelie, Conall, James, Eden, Dermot, Ailbhe, and Dermot, from Year Five, and Tommy from Year Four.

Currently reading

Our Literacy approach is based on using high quality texts that children read and enjoy, identify and explore the features and then write an extended piece in a particular genre. Reception have just finished reading *"A Very Hungry Caterpillar"* and are now reading *"The Very Tiny Seed"*, both by Eric Carle. Year One have read *"No-Bot"* by Sue Hendra in Literacy and reading *"Marge in Charge"* by Isla Fisher in class. Mrs Hunt is reading *"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"* at home, every night, on repeat.

Year Two are reading *"The Owl who is Afraid of the Dark"* by Jill Tomlinson and Miss Hookes is reading *"The Divorce"* by Freida McFadden. Year Three have read *"The Enchanted Wood"* by Enid Blyton and thought it was great! They are also reading *"The Creakers"* by Tom Fletcher and *'Mr Stink'* by David Walliams.

Year Four are nearly at the end of *"The Boy at the Back of the Class"* in Guided Reading and have been exploring Brer Rabbit tales in Literacy. Ms Reynolds has several books on the go but *"Crypt"* by Alice Roberts is her non-fiction pick currently and listening to *"Oh Maya Gods"* by Maz Evans on her morning commute.

Year Five are reading *"Journey to the River Sea"* by Eva Ibbotson and Mrs McGrory, like me, has more than one book on the go: She is reading *"She Didn't See It Coming"* by Shari Lapena and has just finished *"The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden"* by Jonas Jonason, which I think was recommended by Miss Reynolds.

Year Six are reading *"Wonder"* which is a wonderful book and deals with such important content – whether we accept people who are different, how we feel inside and what we project to others, as well as themes around transition and starting secondary schools with the shifting social groups that this necessarily entails. It is Miss Brown's plan to read *'Verity'* in the coming weeks after a recommendation from Mrs Birch and I am reading *'American Prometheus'* (still) about J. Robert Oppenheimer, as well as a few other fiction books, both highbrow (*'Precipice'* by Robert Harris) and otherwise (any Jack Reacher novels – all hugely easy and enjoyable!)

Weather

The weather next week is especially warm. Please send children into school every day with their water bottle, a sun hat, and make sure sun cream has been applied at home. Children can apply sun cream in school too, but they will need their own labelled bottle and this is not the responsibility of school staff as it becomes quite unmanageable very quickly.

King Edwards Camp Hill for Girls Open Day



Please see above for a flyer advertising a Summer Open Afternoon on Thursday 2nd July 4pm – 6pm for interested pupils in Years Four and Five and their parents/carers.

Transition Day

On Wednesday 1st July, children will meet their new teacher. Please see below for which teachers will be based in which class in September.

Reception: Miss Hodgkins

Year One: Miss Traynor and Mrs Hunt

Year Two: Mrs Healy and Mrs Bresnen

Year Three: Miss Ball

Year Four: Miss Hookes

Year Five: Mrs McGrory

Year Six: Miss Reynolds

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Roy and Joy in Year Five turned ten on Monday. Yesterday, Ayra in Year One was six. Tomorrow, Ava in Year Two will be seven and Eliza in Year Three turns eight. On Sunday, Lily in Year One will be six! Happy birthday all!



June dates for your diary

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

September dates for your diary

Tues 1st Sept: School Closed for INSET

Wed 2nd Sept: School closed for INSET

Thurs 3rd September: School opens for all pupils

Have a good weekend! Enjoy the sunshine and the World Cup matches. Happy Father's Day to all our fathers and father-figures on our parent body. I am celebrating by running my final ultra-marathon of the year (so far anyway) so you will see me stiff and sore on the school gate on Monday.

J Clinton

Mr Clinton