



St. Ambrose Barlow

Catholic Primary School

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Friday 11th September 2026

Dear parents,

Welcome back to all our returning children, and a huge welcome to those children and families who are starting with us this year. It was such a joy to welcome the children last Thursday – they all look so smart in their school uniforms. I have enjoyed getting to know our new Reception children and look forward to their first full week, starting this coming Monday.

Golden Book

Reception's Golden Book will start after half-term

Year One: Adrian has made a brilliant start to the school year. He has settled into Year One quickly and approaches all tasks with enthusiasm, focus and a positive attitude. He is always eager to learn and gives his best effort in everything he does. Adrian has also been fantastic when it comes to tidying up, often going above and beyond what is asked of him. We are all incredibly proud of the way he has started the year and look forward to seeing the wonderful progress he will continue to make throughout Year One.

Year Two: Elijah has had a fantastic start to the new year! He has settled in brilliantly and has shown determination and focus throughout his lessons this week. Elijah is a joy to have in classroom, and we are looking forward

to seeing how much progress he makes throughout Year Two. Well done, Elijah – keep up the hard work!

Year Three: Lylah-Rose for settling into life in Year Three brilliantly! She has made a fantastic start to the school year, completing all of her work and following instructions well. She's also been a big help around the classroom, helping with various jobs throughout the week. Keep up the good work, Lylah-Rose!

Year Four: Nancy has had a truly brilliant start back. She is everything we hope for as a pupil of St Ambrose Barlow — she listens beautifully in every lesson, responds thoughtfully, and is always doing exactly what she should be doing. Nancy takes immense pride in her work and it is always so beautifully presented. Nancy is a fantastic member of our class and we are so lucky to have her! Well done, Nancy!

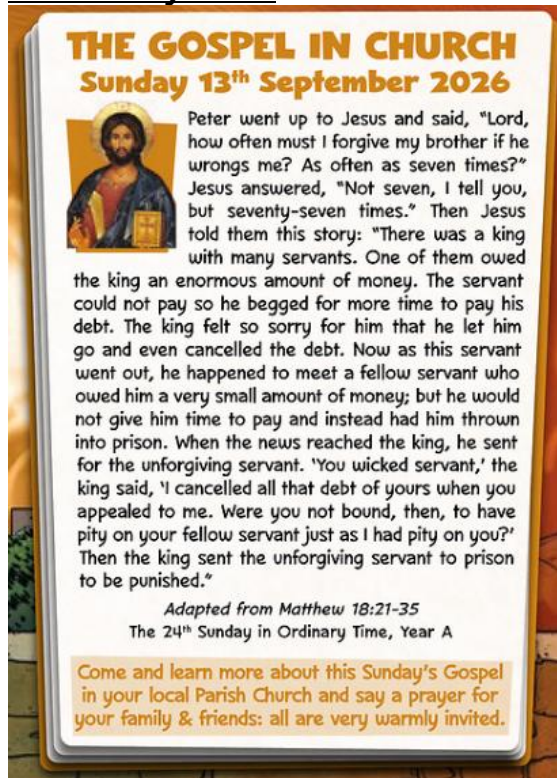
Year Five: Alec has made a fantastic start to Year Five he is eager, enthusiastic and focussed in lessons and is kind, polite and well-mannered in class. He really enjoyed our eco retreat and was absorbed and interested to learn more about how we can take care of creation what an amazing role model during this season of God's creation.

Year Six: George has started Year Six tremendously. Not only have we seen evidence of how kind and compassionate he is, he has also put his best effort into all that he has done this

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week. With this attitude, he is going to have a fantastic year. Well done, George!

Wednesday Word



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Uniform

A reminder that boys should be in a white shirt with their school tie or, until half-term, their light blue polo shirt. Girls should be in their white shirt and tie or their summer blouse, or a summer dress. As the weather gets colder, children should be in their full winter uniform with their branded jumper. All pupils are allowed to wear a watch, though any watch that has a camera or can receive calls is not suitable for school. Pupils are allowed to wear one pair of ear studs – hoops are not suitable for school. Other items of jewellery should not be brought to school as the wearing of jewellery can

be a safety hazard. Thank you for your support.

Reflection

I want to share with you a piece of work that Florence in Year Six wrote at the end of Year Five. It is very fitting for our vision here at school about God with us on our journey through life.

Christ may not be with us but he is in us;

*My hands are His. My feet are His.
My eyes are Christ's where he can look through to see the love in the world.*

My mouth is His to spread the Word of God to everyone.

I could use my feet to go on pilgrimage with God.

I could use my hands to heal and help others.

He is in me so I can see what is good.

*Whatever is mine belongs to Jesus:
my hands, my feet, my eyes and my body.*

First Holy Communion Sacramental preparation

First Communion for children in Year Three is on Saturday 8th May at 10am. Please be aware of the following dates as part of the preparation programme:

Thurs 17th Sept: Parent Meeting 6pm (school hall)

Sun 20th Sept: Enrolment Mass 10am

Sun 8th Nov: Sunday Mass 10am

Thurs 12th Nov: Confessions 6pm

Sun 7th March: Sunday Mass 10am

Sun 21st March: Sunday Procession 10am

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Confirmation Sacramental dates

The date for Bishop David to celebrate with us has been confirmed as Friday 22nd January 2027 at 7pm. The following dates therefore apply:

Thurs 1st Oct: Parent meeting 6pm (school hall)

Sun 4th Oct: Enrolment Mass / blessing of Reception children 10am

Sat 22nd Nov: Christ the King Mass 10am

Thurs 14th Jan: Parent meeting 6pm (school hall)

Fri 22nd Jan: Sponsor Workshop 2pm

Fri 22nd Jan: Confirmation 7pm

Open Morning and Afternoon for prospective Reception parents

Please join us for our Open Days to welcome and discuss with you the aims and strengths of Catholic education, an introduction to our Reception staff, and then a tour of the school led by our prefects. All are welcome. No booking necessary.

Session One: **Tuesday 10th November 10:30am**

Session Two: **Wednesday 11th November 2:00pm**

Year Seven secondary school applications

Applications for children in Year Six must be made online using the following link:

>>[Application Form](#)<<

Applications are now open and close on 31st October. I advise parents to make use of ALL six choices, putting your first preference top.

St Ambrose Barlow Feast Day

This was celebrated yesterday on 10th September and the children have been rewarded with ice lollies. To further mark the occasion, we have bought a CAFOD world gift of a goat and some chickens to support communities facing poverty in our global family. On Wednesday, Year Five and Six went to church to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the consecration of the church.

Father Paul's birthday is on 23rd September and we will make a donation to Mary's Meals to mark this, as it was one of Father Paul's favourite charities. He remains very much in our thoughts.

Parent Consultations

These will take place on Monday 12th October and Wednesday 14th October. This is the seventh week of the new school year and therefore the focus is on routines and targets. Appointments will be bookable via MCAS in the coming weeks.

Christmas trips

My thanks to Miss Brown in the school office who has booked trips and organised transport for this coming December's Christmas trips. Yes, the C-word in September. These are payable via MCAS.

Reception and Key Stage One (Years One and Two) will attend '*Tales from Acorn Wood*' at Midlands Art Centre in Cannon Hill on Tuesday 15th December. Children will eat lunch in school as normal and then depart at midday,

returning in time for pick up. The cost for the trip is £23.

Children in Key Stage Two (Years Three, Four, Five and Six) will attend '*Peter Pan*' at the Birmingham Rep on Wednesday 16th December. All children will require a packed lunch.

Year Six trip to Whitemoor Lakes

The children in Year Six will visit Whitemoor Lakes for a three-day residential on Monday 23rd November to Wednesday 25th November. There is no charge for this as the cost has been covered by the management fee that we pay as part of St Theresa of Calcutta Mac. However, there is a one-off charge of £30 for the cost of transport.

Year Five and Six trip to Paris

As a reminder, please see the salient details from communication sent in July.

The cost per child is £700. A £50 deposit was paid earlier this year to confirm the place. £200 should have been paid by 3rd September. Please see the office if making this payment is an issue. £150 will need to be paid by 31st October and two further payments of £150 to be paid by 31st January and 28th March. a different payment plan can be arranged and spread over the next nine or twelve months should this be more convenient and realistic for you. The trip will commence on Monday 15th March 2027 with a departure from school at approximately 5am. Children will return at approximately 8pm on Friday 19th March 2025. The children will travel on a coach via Eurotunnel.

Birthdays this week

Happy birthday to Mia in Year Four who is nine today and to

Ava and Gabriella in Reception who are both five on Sunday. They share their birthday with Jimmy in Year Three who turns eight on that day too. Happy birthday, all!



Term dates for this year

Please find these on the website: [Term Dates | St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School](#)

There have been no changes since they were agreed last year by the Governing Body. Next year's term dates have not been agreed yet, suffice to say that the start of the year will start for children on Monday 6th September 2027.

September dates for your diary

Thurs 17th Sept: Year Three parent meeting 6pm in school hall

Sun 20th Sept: Year Three Enrolment Mass 10am at church

October dates for your diary

Thurs 1st Oct: Year Six Parent meeting 6pm in school hall

Sun 4th Oct: Enrolment Mass for Year Six and Reception 10am

Mon 12th Oct: Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6:20

Wed 14th Oct: Harvest Mass 2pm; Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6:20

Thurs 15th Oct: Year Five Maths challenge 3:45 - 4:30

Fri 16th Oct: Year Six Class Assembly

Fri 23rd Oct: Break up at 3:30pm

November dates for your diary

Mon 2nd Nov: Children return to school

Fri 6th Nov: Year Six Class Mass

Sun 8th Nov: Year Three to lead Sunday Mass 10am

Tues 10th Nov: 10:30 Open Morning Session for prospective Reception parents

Wed 11th Nov: 2pm Open Afternoon session for prospective Reception parents

Thurs 12th Nov: Year Three Confession 6pm

Fri 20th Nov: Year Three Class Assembly

Mon 23rd Nov: Year Six at Whitemoor Lakes (until Wed 25th Nov)

December dates for your diary

Wed 2nd Dec: KS2 Reconciliation 2pm

Fri 4th Dec: School closed for INSET

Mon 7th Dec: Reception Nativity 2pm

Tues 8th Dec: Whole School Mass for the Immaculate Conception 9:30am

Wed 9th Dec: KS1 Nativity: 10am and 2pm

Fri 11th Dec: Keyboard and choir concert 2:15pm

Tues 15th Dec: KS1 trip 'Tales from Acorn Wood'

KS2 Carol Service 7pm

Wed 16th Dec: KS2 trip 'Peter Pan'

Fri 18th Dec: Whole School Mass 9:30; break up for Christmas 3:30pm

January dates for your diary

Mon 4th Jan: School closed for INSET

Tues 5th Jan: School re-opens for children

Wed 6th Jan: Whole School Mass for Epiphany

Tues 12th Jan: Young Voices at Resorts World

Thurs 14th Jan: Year Six Confirmation meeting 6pm

Fri 15th Jan: Year Five Class Mass

Fri 22nd Jan: Year Six Sponsor workshop 2pm;

Year Six Confirmation 7pm

Fri 29th Jan: Year Four Class Assembly

February dates for your diary

Fri 5th Feb: Year Five Class Assembly

Tues 9th Feb: Internet Safety Day

Wed 10th Feb: Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30

Thurs 11th Feb: School closed for half-term

Fri 12th Feb: School closed for INSET

Have a wonderful weekend after the first full week back at school.
God bless,



Mr Clinton