



# St. Ambrose Barlow

## Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

0121 464 2791

[www.sab.bham.sch.uk](http://www.sab.bham.sch.uk)

[enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk)

St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

Dear parents,

Thank you to Mrs Bresnen for writing last week's newsletter. It is hugely appreciated. It has been a busy week and it isn't over yet. Year Two have just celebrated their class Mass today, to mark the feast of Guardian Angels. My thanks to Father John for celebrating with us and to parents and carers for joining us.

This Sunday, at the parish 10am Mass, Year Six will formally begin their Confirmation preparation and will start to do so by acting as mentors to our newest children in school – Miss Hodgkin's Reception class – who will be present too. Both sets of children will be presented to the parish and celebrated.

### **Golden Book**

*Reception's Golden Book will start after half-term*

**Year One:** Ayah has worked really hard this week to use her phonics when writing. She came up with a brilliant idea for what Norman the Slug could do next, showing just how imaginative she is in all of her work. Ayah also worked brilliantly when collaborating with some of the Year Two children during Poetry Day, fully immersing herself in all of the activities throughout the day. Ayah always has a lovely smile on her

face and has a wonderful way of making others smile too! Well done, Ayah!

**Year Two:** Theo this week has shown a hard-working attitude in everything that he has done. He has shown resilience and determination, even when it has been tricky. It has been lovely to hear him share more willingly in class. This week Theo worked brilliantly performing his own poem during our Poetry Day celebrations. It is fantastic to see his confidence growing! Well done, Theo!

**Year Three:** Caiden For working really hard in every lesson. He listens so well and always puts 100% effort into everything he does. He has particularly impressed us this week with his journal activities in Maths. He has read the questions really carefully, and worked through them independently, showing a fantastic understanding of addition with renaming.

**Year Four:** This week, Theo E has truly impressed us with his hard work. He has shown excellent independence in his learning and demonstrated great listening skills in class. We have been particularly proud of his growing understanding of place value, where he has worked with confidence and accuracy. It has also been wonderful to see the progress he has made in swimming, with his confidence improving greatly. Keep up the fantastic work, Theo - you should be very proud of yourself!

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

**Year Five:** Francis always listens well during lessons, and he demonstrated this during our science lesson this week. He worked so well, as part of his group, to discuss whether the Earth is flat or a sphere and then explained reasons why he had made his choice. Francis thought of some brilliant questions this week, showing he is curious and has an enquiring mind. Francis, keep being inquisitive, by asking questions you are learning more. Mrs McG am really proud of the fact that you are asking deeper questions exploring what if and why. Keep it up!

**Year Six:** James has had a wonderful start to Year Six. He has been focused in lessons and this has led to some beautifully presented, well thought out pieces that have been showcasing his skills. This has particularly shown in RE this week as we have explored the Cardinal Virtues and the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

### **Gardening club**

Gardening club wish to hold an Autumn

workshop for pupils in Year One and Year Two. This workshop will

take place on Monday 12th October from 3:30 until 4:30pm – places will be limited. Please inform the office if you would like to book a place: Mrs McGrory needs to know the pupils' name, class and who will be collecting them. The group have thought of the activities themselves and are looking



forward to engaging with the younger pupils.

### **Wednesday Word**

**THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Jesus said, "There was once a landowner who planted a vineyard, rented it to some tenant farmers and then went off far away. When the fruit-season came, he sent some of his servants to the farmers to collect his fruit. But the farmers seized his servants. He then sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But the farmers said to one another, 'Look – here's the heir: come on, let's take over his inheritance.' So they seized the son, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the lord of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those farmers?" "He'll bring those bad men to a bad end," was the reply. "Then he'll rent the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruit at harvest time."

*Adapted from Matthew 21:33-43*  
 The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

**Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.**

### **Parent Consultations**

These will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Appointments are now available via MCAS and have been since last week. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

### **Ear rings**

A reminder that studs are allowed but hoops and ear rings that dangle down present too much of a hazard in school. For pupils who swim every Wednesday, no ear rings are allowed at all. This a rule from the swimming baths, so please ensure that any child in Year Four does not wear ear rings on Wednesdays.

### **Harvest Mass**

From Monday, please start to bring in your tinned and non-perishable goods (pasta,



tomatoes, soups) as well as hygiene products (soap, shower gel, toothpaste) that will be donated to those in need: Brush Strokes, Tabor House, SIFA Fire Side and our own local foodbank. Our assembly on Monday will focus on God "blessing us with discomfort" and how we can bring about a difference in the world.

### **PTA**

Miss Brown sent out communication early this week about the need to postpone our PTA AGM. This will now take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 2:30pm. Come along for a hot drink and a cake, meet other parents stand for office if you so wish, and be involved in our exciting plans for fundraising for the year: discos, fetes, social activities and more!

### **SEND Coffee Morning**

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9am, we will be hosting a Meet the Agencies SEND Coffee Morning. This will be a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to meet some of the outside agencies that work with our school, find out more about the support they provide and ask any questions they may have. We are delighted that representatives from the Communication and Autism Team, Educational Psychology, Language,

Learning and Strategic Support Team, Occupational Therapy Team, and NHS Speech and Language Therapy will be joining us. We will shortly be sending out a Microsoft Teams form. If you would like to attend, please complete the form to let us know. There will also be an opportunity to submit any questions you would like our visiting professionals to answer. We hope you can join us for a coffee, a chat and the opportunity to find out more about the support available to our children and families.

### **Chess tournament**

We are hosting the Birmingham Catholic School Sports annual chess tournament on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November. There is a recent trend of children playing chess at lunchtime in the quiet area and it would be impossible for me to love this recent development more!



### **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 and Head Boy and Girl. All are welcome. No booking necessary.

#### **Session One:**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10:30am

#### **Session Two:**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2:00pm

### **Parent Meeting for Year Six residential**

St Teresa of Calcutta Mac have funded a three-day residential for our Year Six pupils to Whitemoor Lakes. This residential will take place on Monday 23rd November until Wednesday 25th. All parents of children in Year Six are warmly invited to a parent meeting that will take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 5:30pm. Information will be shared here about what kit is needed and what activities the children will undertake. This is a great opportunity for our children so please make every effort to attend.

### **Birthdays this week**

Happy birthday to Tobias in Year Five who was ten on Thursday and shared his birthday with Karina in Year One who was six.

Today, Helena (one of our Year Six prefects) celebrates her eleventh birthday. Happy birthday, all!



### **October dates for your diary**

**Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Enrolment Mass for Year Six and Reception 10am

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6:20

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Harvest Mass 2pm; Parent Consultations 3:40 - 6:20

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Five Maths challenge 3:45 – 4:30

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Oct:** Year Six Class Assembly

**Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct:** Break up at 3:30pm

### **November dates for your diary**

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov:** Children return to school

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Nov:** SEND Coffee morning 9am; Year Four Class Mass 2:30pm

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three to lead Sunday Mass 10am

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> Nov:** 10:30 Open Morning Session for prospective Reception parents

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Nov:** 2pm Open Afternoon session for prospective Reception parents

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three Confession 6pm

**Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Chess tournament 1:15 – 4:30

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Year Three Class Assembly

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** Year Six at Whitemoor Lakes (until Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Nov)

### **December dates for your diary**

**Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** KS2 Reconciliation 2pm

**Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec:** School closed for INSET

**Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Reception Nativity 2pm

**Tues 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Whole School Mass for the Immaculate Conception 9:30am

**Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS1 Nativity: 10am and 2pm

**Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Keyboard and choir concert 2:15pm

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS1 trip 'Tales from Acorn Wood'  
KS2 Carol Service 7pm

**Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** KS2 trip 'Peter Pan'

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Whole School Mass 9:30; break up for Christmas 3:30pm

**January dates for your diary**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan:** School closed for INSET

**Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan:** School re-opens for children

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Whole School Mass for Epiphany

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Young Voices at Resorts World

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Six Confirmation meeting 6pm

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Five Class Mass

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan:** Year Six Sponsor workshop 2pm;  
Year Six Confirmation 7pm

**Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Jan:** Year Four Class Assembly

**February dates for your diary**

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Year Five Class Assembly

**Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Internet Safety Day

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Feb:** School closed for half-term

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Feb:** School closed for INSET

Have a great weekend and we will see you on either Sunday at Mass or on Monday morning! There are three weeks left of this half-term and time is flying by!

Mr Clinton