St. Ambrose Barlow
Catholic Primary School

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Friday 16th October 2026

Dear parents,

Thanks to Year Six for leading this morning assembly so enthusiastically and so reverently. The children at the very top end of our school are growing into their role of being responsible young adults so well. A special mention to Ms Reynolds and Mr Turner and Mrs Yusuf for their support in preparing the children.

Golden Book

Reception's Golden Book will start after half-term

Year One: Jayden has worked incredibly hard in everything he has done this week, showing enthusiasm and determination. He has produced some brilliant work on adjectives in Literacy, carefully applying his phonics knowledge to sound out and spell new words. In RE, Jayden has thoughtfully considered how he can help make the world a better place, sharing some lovely and meaningful ideas. He has also demonstrated wonderful social skills at lunchtime, interacting positively with the Year Six children and playing cooperatively and kindly. We are so proud of you, Jayden! Keep up the fantastic work!

Year Two: Patrick has caught the attention of at least four different members of staff this week with his wonderful work. Not only was his Maths work impressive (good enough to visit Mr Clinton's office) but his RE work about how we can help others was also beautifully presented and illustrated. He was delighted to be recognised for both. Patrick, keep up this excellent work!

Year Three: Zinedine for really impressing his teachers this week with his independence and effort. Zinedine has been contributing to lessons and working quietly and independently. He has also been noticed for how helpful he is around the classroom, stacking chairs that have been left out and picking up things from the floor. Thank you for being a superstar, Zinedine!

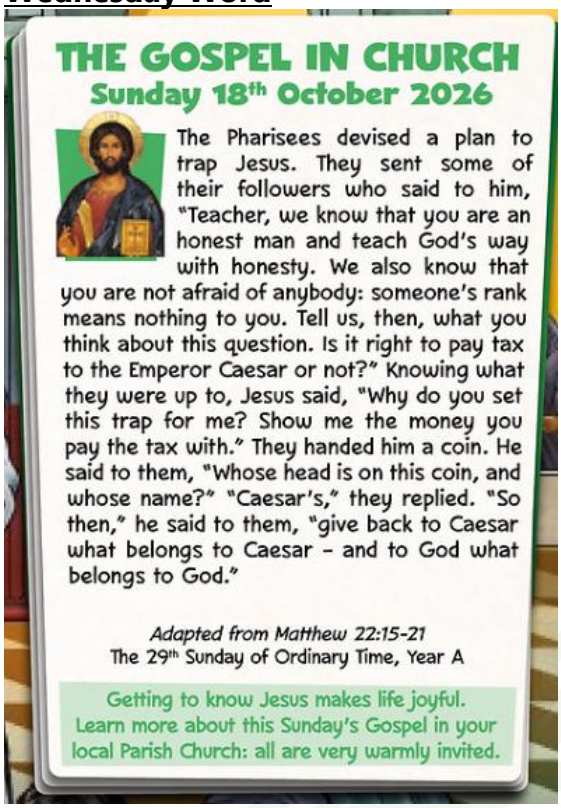
Year Four: This week, we want to celebrate Theodore! This week, he has worked hard in every lesson and has produced an excellent fantasy story, demonstrating both creativity and careful planning. His confidence in Maths shines through, and he is always keen to contribute his ideas during lessons. He has also made a real effort to improve the presentation of his work and his handwriting. What stands out most is his enthusiasm for learning and his determination to do his very best. Well done on a brilliant week!

Year Five: Albie has really impressed this week: not only has he been working well in lessons, answering questions readily and trying hard to concentrate on his tasks, but he was also asked to lead the Rosary on Tuesday morning, a task he did with confidence, grace and

reverence. Albie was asked to lead as his RE work has really shone this week. He has taken great pride in his work, and his answers show his deep reflections and his own, personal ideas on the subjects we are learning about. He has also been praying at home with his grandmother each day, a task we were all given after a prayer service last week. Lead by example Albie, others are sure to follow.

Year Six: Joy has been working hard on his Maths this week, developing his skills in division and multiplication. He has also worked really hard during our rehearsals for our class assembly, trying to make sure it runs as smoothly as possible. Well done, Joy!

Wednesday Word



Harvest Mass

My thanks to Father Pat O'Beirne, from the Columban Fathers, who celebrated Mass with us on Wednesday. It was a lovely occasion and the singing, as usual, was a joy to witness. Thanks to all who attended. The gifts you donated were plentiful and will be shared out amongst the needy in our own community and further field: the homeless in Birmingham, the Church of the Ascension food bank, and St Chad's Sanctuary.

A polite request

Please, when parking your car on the local roads around school, do NOT block the drive ways of our neighbours and residents. This week, I have received two complaints – one from a resident on Temple Avenue, and also one about this car parked across the driveway on Shirley Road, both preventing access.

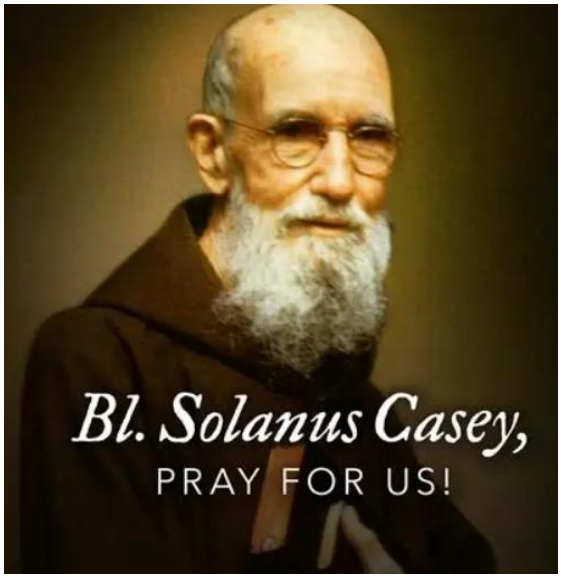


We have to work closely with our neighbours and generally have an excellent relationship with those that live close to the school. They often compliment the behaviour and conduct of our pupils. Please park more considerately in future.

Learn from the Saints

"Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for power equal to your tasks."

Blessed Solanus Casey



Parent Consultations

It was a pleasure to welcome parents on Monday and Wednesday to feedback about their child's progress and celebrate some wonderful work. Our next Parent Consultations will take place on 8th and 10th March.

A key that was attached to a keyring of the Eiffel Tower was found in Miss Hookes Year Four classroom. If this belongs to you, please contact the school office.

Two bits of happy news!

It may (or may not) have escaped your attention at Parent Consultations meetings that Miss Ball is pregnant! Congratulations! That will explain the one-year fixed term contract for a Year Three teacher that went out some weeks ago. We are delighted by this news and know that she will make a wonderful mother. Mrs Birch, working so wonderfully in the office, is also pregnant, which is equally joyous. Congratulations to her and her family. We will soon be sharing plans for covering her position, starting in January.

School Photographs

Children were photographed by Tempest on Monday for their individual and sibling portraits. Tempest will return on Friday 18th June for class photographs, where they will also be able to capture any children or sibling groups who were absent.

2026-2027 Parent/Carer Survey



Within the St Teresa of Calcutta MAC, an annual survey is conducted to help understand the views of our school communities and ensure that feedback continues to inform school improvement priorities. For your information, the survey schedule for the academic year is as follows:

Autumn Term: Parent Survey
Spring Term: Staff Survey
Summer Term: Pupil Survey

This term's Parent Survey is now ready, has been emailed out to parents, and can be completed using the QR code above.

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

SEND Coffee Morning

On Friday 6th 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.

Book Fayre

It's that time of year again. Books can be browsed and bought every day next week from 8:30 each morning and evening after school.

Birthdays this week



Happy birthday to Jayden in Year One who was six on Tuesday and to Berties in Year Four who was nine yesterday. On Sunday Ravneet in Year Two celebrates her seventh birthday.



Mrs Robinson is the latest addition to the Big Five-Oh club and celebrated her 50th birthday on Thursday. She was serenaded in assembly by the children – presented with a cake accompanied with sparklers and balloons - and loved every second of being the centre of attention! I think.

October dates for your diary

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

November dates for your diary

Mon 2nd Nov: Children return to school

Fri 6th Nov: Year Four Class Mass, SEND Coffee morning

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
Mon 22nd Feb: School re-opens for
Fri 26th Feb: Year One Class Mass 2:30pm

March dates for your diary
Sun 7th March: Year Three to lead Sunday Mass 10am
Mon 8th March: Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20pm
Wed 10th March: KS2 Reconciliation; Parent Consultations 3:40 – 6:20pm
Mon 15th March – Fri 19th March: Year Five and Six in Paris
Sun 21st March: Year Three to lead Palm Sunday Procession at 10am
Mon 22nd March: Year Three 'Palm Sunday' Holy Week Assembly
Tues 23rd March: Year Four Holy 'Last Supper' Week Assembly
Wed 24th March: Year Five 'Gethsemane' Holy Week Assembly
Thurs 25th March: Year Six 'Stations of the Cross';
Children break up for Easter at 3:30pm

Have a wonderful weekend. Blues play QPR and Villa play Newcastle. Who will be the happiest on Monday morning?

God bless,

J Clinton

Mr Clinton