St. Ambrose Barlow
Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton
0121 464 2791
www.sab.bham.sch.uk
enquiry@sab.bham.sch.uk

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

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear parents,

I heard on the radio this week that John Lewis has launched its Christmas advert. Now Marks and Spencer has. A bit early, I thought, seeing as we haven't even had Bonfire Night at the time of writing. And then, of course, I arrived at work to be surrounded by discussion of Key Stage Nativities and we had our first hymn practice for our Carol Service too. Expect to be inundated at home with scripts and song sheets and for the halls, quite literally, to be filled with the sound of music.

Welcome back after the half-term break. It is wonderful to see the children look so smart in their full winter school uniform. It is getting colder now so essential that children have a warm coat and, should they bring hats and gloves in (and I recommend they do), that these are labelled with their name in. We are lucky that, being a small school, when things do go missing that they are invariably returned but a name inside a missing item makes the whole process infinitely easier.

Finally, thanks to Miss Hookes and Mrs O'Driscoll and to Father John for celebrating Year Four's class Mass this afternoon. It was a lovely end to the week.

## Golden Book

**Reception:** Gabriella for being such a bubbly and friendly member of our class! Gabriella always brings smiles and positivity to the classroom, showing kindness towards others and being such a fantastic role model. She has started this half term with such an amazing attitude towards learning, by listening carefully and following instructions. Well done, Gabriella!

**Year One:** Bobby has really impressed all of the adults in Key Stage One this week with his enthusiasm for learning the songs for our Nativity play. He has been eager to join in, trying hard to learn the words and sing along, which is a wonderful start to our rehearsals. In Maths, Bobby always works diligently and has developed a fantastic understanding of number sentences, completing calculations with increasing speed and confidence. He also takes great pride in forming his numbers carefully and correctly, showing excellent attention to detail. We are very proud of his positive attitude and hard work.

**Year Two:** Nico has worked so well this week - in every lesson - so much that THREE members of staff have commented on the efforts he has made. He has also shown remarkable resilience over the past few weeks, coming into school with a smile on his face, and even ending the week by racing to the KS2 door. He has been

given been an ambitious role in the Nativity and we cannot wait to see him flourish.

**Year Three:** Nova for just being an incredible member of our class. Over the past half term Nova has shown maturity in the playground, doing her best to be the best person she can be. In lessons, she listens so well and has been producing work of the highest quality! Keep up the good work, Nova!

**Year Four:** We are thrilled to put Anora in the Golden Book this week! Anora has been working incredibly hard in all lessons, always contributing thoughtfully, listening carefully, and acting on feedback to improve their work. She consistently sets an excellent example to her peers through her positive attitude and commitment to learning. A particular highlight was in RE, where she wrote her own verse to a hymn. It was creative and thoughtful, showing how well Anora had listened and engaged with the learning! Well done, Anora!

**Year Five:** Angeline has settled into her school, without any fuss or bother, she always has a smile on her face. We are really proud of the progress she has made already and this is because she listens in lessons and works hard to produce her best work all the time. We have really seen her confidence grow and she is now answering questions more readily. Well done, Angeline - you are a joy to teach and we are glad you have joined our class.

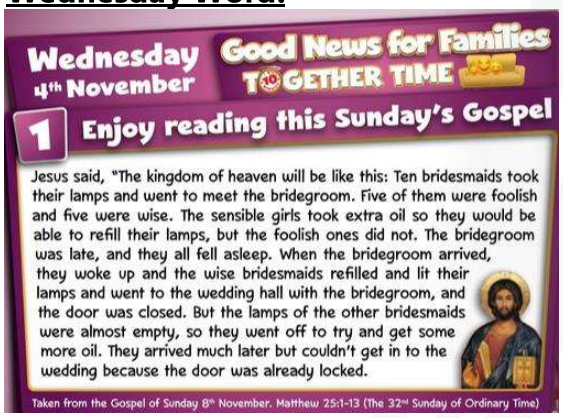
**Year Six:** Ambrose has shown what a St. Ambrose Barlow student is capable of this week. Whilst out of school yesterday on an art/history enrichment trip, he impressed staff with his maturity and his engagement. During his practice tests this week, he has applied himself and worked to his full potential. Keep this up, Ambrose!

## 2026-2027 Parent/Carer Survey

The survey can be accessed using the following link:

>>respond here<<

## Wednesday Word:




## 'flu vaccinations

The team who delivered our 'flu vaccinations are returning on Monday 16th November. The school office will communicate the salient details shortly via email. Please take every opportunity to protect your children this winter with this totally safe, simple and painless nasal spray vaccine.

## Year Three Sacrament Preparation

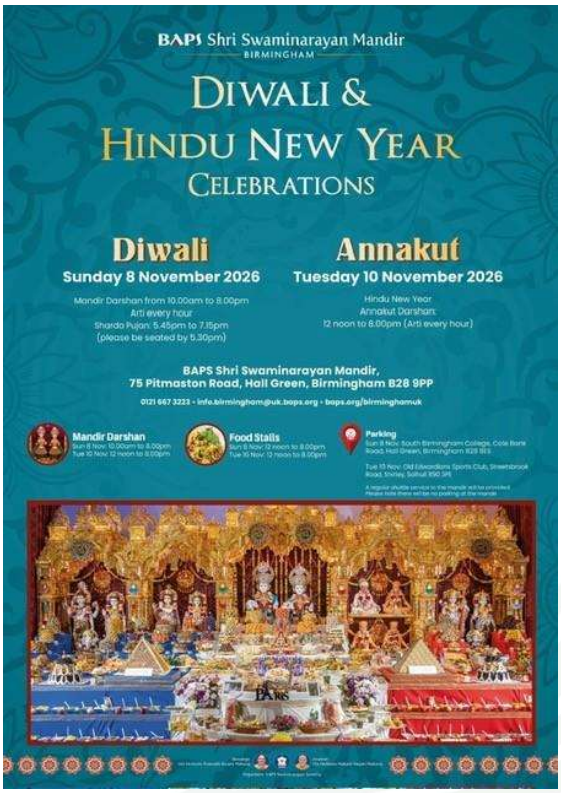
Please join us for Mass this Sunday at 10am, where Year Three will assist with the readings and the Bidding Prayers, in advance of receiving their second Sacrament this Thursday when they celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 6pm in the church. All are welcome at Mass. It is also Remembrance Sunday this week where we will remember the fallen of previous conflicts with two minutes of silence.

## Open Morning and Afternoon for prospective Reception parents

Next week, we host our two open sessions – one in the morning on Tuesday at 10:30, and one in the afternoon on Wednesday at 2pm. Please share with anyone you may know who is looking for a school in September for their children starting Reception.

## Diwali

As you may be aware, Diwali celebrations are over this weekend on Sunday 8th November. Our local Hindu mandir is holding a new year celebration will be on Tuesday 10th November. Please see the poster below with the timings inviting all to come and celebrate.




## Birthdays this week




Happy birthday to Maria in Reception who was five on Wednesday. Gracie in Year Five was ten on the same day. Yesterday, Jasper in Year Five was ten and tomorrow, Mihaela in Reception is five. Happy birthday, all!

## November dates for your diary

**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

You are all warmly invited to Mass this Sunday at 10am where you can join with the staff and Year Three. Have a good weekend – this might be the turning point in Manchester United's season where they finally discover form, just in time for them to play the Villa.

Finally, congratulations to Hayley in Year Three who celebrates her baptism this Sunday at Our Lady of the Wayside! Welcome!

God bless,

J Clinton

Mr Clinton