St. Ambrose Barlow
Catholic Primary School

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Friday 20th November 2026

Dear parents and friends,

Three weeks down, four weeks to go! Nativity rehearsals are in full swing and our Key Stage Two Carol Service is slowly gearing up. Please encourage the children as much as possible to learn their words and lyrics at home. By the time it comes to perform, you may well know the words off by heart too!

Today, Year Three led us in their assembly with a focus on how we can happily remember our loved ones during the month of November. This assembly had it all – singing, solos, acting, an emotional message, and a powerful performance from each and every child. I could not be prouder of them. My special thanks to Miss Ball and Mrs O'Driscoll for their guidance and inspiration. The children are lucky to have you!

Golden Book

Reception: Bora for trying so hard to understand what is expected of her. She is very observant and watches those around her carefully, using it to help her understand routines and activities. She always tries her best and should be very proud of how much effort she puts into her learning. Well done, Bora!

Year One: Ella has been an absolute superstar this week! She has shown enthusiasm while learning and performing all of the Nativity songs, joining in beautifully with the singing. In RE, she produced some outstanding work about the Nativity story. She wrote a brilliant sentence explaining what the angels told the shepherds, demonstrating excellent use of her phonics knowledge and spelling other words correctly by using the Widgits showing great care and pride in her work. We are so proud of her hard work, determination, and positive attitude to learning. Well done, Ella - what a wonderful week you have had!

Year Two: Joel is such a delight to teach. His sense of humour is nothing short of fantastic and he never fails to make all of the adults in Year Two smile. Joel has been working extremely hard in all lessons, particularly in RE, showing us just how truly capable he is! Keep up the excellent work, Joel!

Year Three: Arlo for consistently setting a good example for those around him. He puts 100% effort into everything he does, whether that is during a lesson or helping out in the classroom. He was also absolutely fantastic in our class assembly and blew everyone away!! Thank you, Arlo, you being you.

Year Four: Wow, what an amazing week for Kimberley! Kimberley has listened incredibly well and taken on feedback brilliantly. She always goes above and beyond what is asked of her. This week, Kimberley has written a fantastic newspaper report including all

the key features and technical vocabulary. Kimberley always gives 100% in everything she does and we couldn't ask for more! Well done, Kimberley!

Year Five: Henry has worked really well this week in all lessons. He is really enjoying reading our class novel, *'A Christmas Carol'* and is always coming out with facts he has found out at home about this book or the characters. We are loving this enthusiasm and hope he continues to love his reading as we are enjoying his interaction and involvement in class discussions because we are learning new facts too. Henry is a polite, well-mannered pupil who always tries his best and helps others too. He is a pleasure to teach.

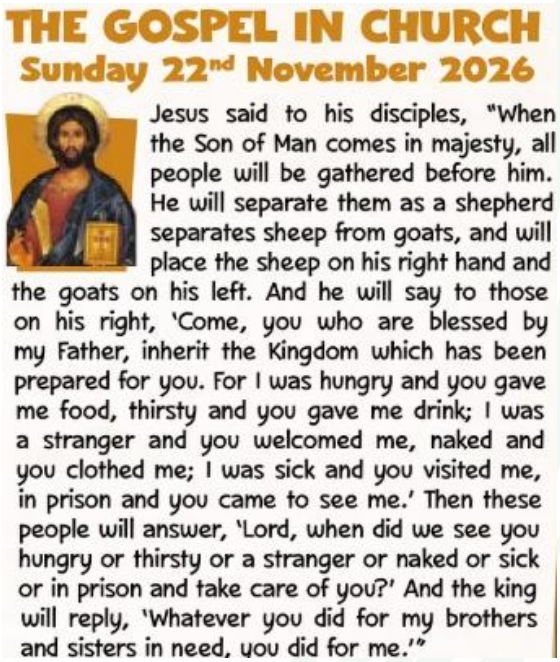
Year Six: John has shown a strong positive attitude so far this half term. He has really tried to show his potential and put a considerable amount of effort into improving his presentation. Continuing with this attitude, he is going to shine in Year Six.

Whitemoor Lakes

Unfortunately, due to circumstances way beyond our control, next week's residential for Year Six to Whitemoor Lakes has had to be cancelled after the closure of the site by Environment Health due to an outbreak of sickness. Year Six will attend school as normal on Monday, in their own clothes, and there is a programme of alternative activities that they will now enjoy on Monday. I will keep you updated as and when I know more. This is an ever-changing situation but I am hopeful that we will be able to offer alternative dates.

Wednesday Word:

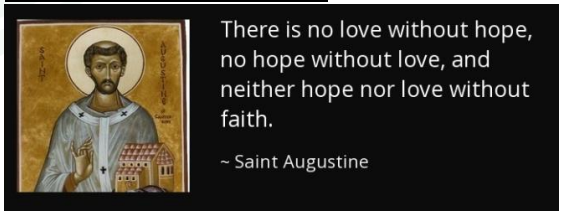
This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, which signifies the end of the Church's liturgical year before the First Sunday of Advent next week. Year Six will lead this Mass on Sunday at 10am and you are warmly invited to join them.



Father Hudsons Caritas

On Monday, we welcomed Adele and Lauren to speak to our children about how we can help those in our local community who are less-well off, particularly the homeless. This Sunday's Gospel is especially applicable in this regard, as is the ethos of Catholic Social Teaching that underpins our whole National Curriculum here at school.

Learn from the Saints



2026-2027 Parent/Carer Survey
closes soon

The parent survey closes this week. This will be your final opportunity to respond. The survey can be accessed using the following link:
>>respond here<<

Morning drop offs

Parents, in the morning, please park your car and walk with your child through the gates and down to the front door for Morning Club. The mornings are still dark and sometimes frosty and the path from the front pedestrian gate to the hall is long. This is especially true for Key Stage One children. You may think that it is inconvenient and adds extra time to your morning routine but I can assure you that it is far more beneficial for your child to be dropped off safely by the front door of the school rather than a rushed goodbye in the dark on the busy road.

Water bottles in school

It has been a long-standing rule that children have access to a bottle in school that is filled with water. Lately, there has been a trend in children drinking juice or squash instead of water. No member of the school staff would be comfortable tipping away a child's drink but, on the other hand, juice presents its own problems: it is sugary, it stains the desk when it invariably spills, it is sticky, and we also have children in school who are allergic to some of the ingredients. The very least I can do is ask for your support in not sending children in with cordial.

Year One Phonics workshop

My thanks to Mrs Hunt and Miss Traynor for leading what was an extremely informative and interesting Phonics sessions. I cannot emphasise how important our approach to reading in school is and your support in this endeavour is hugely appreciated.

Reception Early Reading workshop

On Monday 23rd November at 5:30, Miss Hodgkins will lead a Reception Phonics meeting for the parents of children in her class. Please make every effort to attend.

Christmas Cards

As we delve deeper into the festive season, a lot of cards are sent. If you wish to send Christmas cards, and they are always lovely to receive, it makes far more sense for **a child to send ONE card addressed to the whole class** which the class teacher can then display, rather than a child sending 30 cards to each of their classmates, which results in a lot of expensive cardboard waste.

Chess tournament

Congratulations to the thirteen children who represented our school playing against nine other Catholic schools. Thanks to Ambrose and Alex, Aurora and Sonny, Ethan B and Ethan V and Kieron in Year Six, Tobias, Jasper, Gemma, Henry and Edward in Year Five, and Theodore in Year Four. We split the children into two teams and came third and fourth respectively. I am very proud of them all!

PTA Events



On Friday 27th November, children can wear their own clothes in exchange for the donation of a bottle for the parish tombola. On Monday 30th November, children can again wear their own clothes for the disco that they will attend – KS1 begins at 2:15 and will be finished by the end of the school day, ready for KS2's to begin at 3:45 and end by 4:45.

Birthdays this week



Happy birthday to Oliver in Year One who was six on Monday. Sonny in Year Six was eleven on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Sebastian was nine and wore his Villa goalkeeper shirt to celebrate, which I was happy to admire from afar. Mabel in Reception was five on Wednesday too. On Thursday, Ethan U in year Five was ten. Today, there are no birthdays but tomorrow, Jai in Year One turns six and Ariella in Year Three turns eight. Happy birthday to all!

November dates for your diary

Mon 23rd Nov: Year Six to wear own clothes for a day off curriculum
Fri 27th Nov: Own clothes day in exchange for a bottle for the parish tombola.
Mon 30th Nov: Own clothes for KS1 disco (2:15 – 3:15) and KS2 discos (3:45 – 4:45)

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 9:30am
Mon 11th Jan: Year Two to visit Hall Green library at 2pm
Tues 12th Jan: Young Voices at Resorts World
Thurs 14th Jan: Year Six Confirmation meeting 6pm
Fri 15th Jan: Year Five Class Mass 2:30pm
Mon 18th Jan: Year Three to visit Hall Green library at 2pm

Fri 22nd Jan: Year Six Sponsor workshop 2pm;
Year Six Confirmation 7pm
Mon 25th Jan: Year Four to visit Hall Green library at 2pm
Fri 29th Jan: Year Four Class Assembly

February dates for your diary
Mon 1st Feb: Year Five to visit Hall Green library at 2pm
Fri 5th Feb: Year Five Class Assembly 9am
Mon 8th Feb: Year Six to visit Hall Green library at 2pm
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 all children;
Year Two to visit Hall Green library at 2pm
Fri 26th Feb: Year One Class Mass 2:30pm

March dates for your diary
Mon 1st March: Year Three to visit Hall Green library at 2pm
Sun 7th March: Year Three to lead Sunday Mass 10am
Mon 8th March: Year Four to visit Hall Green library at 2pm;
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
Mon 15th March: Year Five and Six children to visit Hall Green library at 2pm (those not attending 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

April dates for your diary
Mon 12th April: Children return to school for Summer Term
Fri 30th April: Year One Class Assembly

May dates for your diary
Mon 3rd May: School closed for Bank Holiday
Thurs 6th May: School closed for local elections
Sat 8th May: Year Three First Communion 10am
Wed 19th May: May Procession 2pm from church
Fri 21st May: Break up for half-term

Have a good weekend. We hope to see you at Mass on Sunday with Year Six.

God bless,

J Clinton

Mr Clinton