

Bollington St. John's Church of England
Primary School



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

'Christian Value' – Compassion

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

1 Peter 3:8

14th November 2025

Head's Message

It has been such a busy and joyous week in school. On Monday I was invited to watch Year 6 audition for their Christmas Play, which is going to be spectacular. What struck me wasn't just the talent we have at St John's, but the friendships on display when multiple children wanted the same role. It really was something special to behold. Our Eco-Council joined a COP 30 live webinar from Brazil on Tuesday, and had the opportunity to find out what children around the world are doing to tackle climate change. We also observed a poignant two minute silence at 11am, and Class 4 produced some marvellous artwork linked to Remembrance Day. Water Safety talks were held on Wednesday, reminding children how to stay safe. At lunchtime we welcomed our Year 3 families to join us for a very tasty, hot meal. Today, some of our Eco-Council have visited the Silklife foodbank, to learn more about what happens after we have collected our Harvest donations. Year 5 and Reception have taken art in rather creative Forest School sessions in the hall, due to the high winds. Furthermore, to top the week off we have held a non-uniform/pyjama day for donations to the PTA for the Christmas Fair on 29th November. Next week, is Maths Week and we also have our Reception vision and hearing checks and a new starter open evening on Monday.



Forest School Update by Marcella

We had indoor Forest School fun today, due to the high winds and stormy weather. The Reception children used the story of 'The Sun Thief' to explain the changes in daylight over the winter months. Craft activities included leaf art and skewers. We introduced the concept of hibernation in preparation for next week's learning. Year 5s session focussed on clay modelling, with every child making a Christmas decorations for our tree using either card, clay or wool.

Open Day

We are holding a festive Open Day for any children who are due to start Reception in 2026, on Friday 5th December. Please share the details to anyone who may be interested.



Kitchen News

How fantastic to see all the Year 3 families enjoy a freshly prepared lunch on Wednesday. Thank you so much for all the lovely comments about the food, they really do mean the world.

PTA News

A huge thank you to everyone who brought in prizes for the tombola today. The children looked fantastic in their cosy pyjamas, and we're so grateful for all the wonderful tombola gifts that were donated. Your support helps make our Christmas Fair such a special event each year! We're also busy collecting for two of our favourite festive stalls, the Teddy Tombola and our brand-new Christmas Jumper Swap! If you have any pre-loved teddies or Christmas jumpers (for adults or children) in good condition, please drop them off at school reception. Every donation really helps. Our Wreath Making Evening is coming up soon and is always a real highlight. Tickets are on sale now, so don't miss your chance to join in and create something beautiful for your home. Don't forget, on 20th December, we'll be joining the Round Table Santa Sleigh to raise money for the PTA. It's such a magical community event, and we're looking for volunteers to help Santa along his route! Thank you, as always, for your amazing support, together we're making this Christmas our best one yet!

Diary Dates

- 17th November – Reception children hearing and vision tests with school nurses
- 17th November – New Starter 2026 information evening at 4-4:30pm
- 24th November – Flu Vaccine delivered in school
- 26th November – Year 2 Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm
- 29th November – PTA Christmas Fair at 12-2:30pm
- 1st December – New Starter 2026 information evening at 4-4:30pm
- 5th December – PTA wreath making event
- 9th December – Infant (Reception and Class 2) Christmas Production at 2-3:00pm
- 10th December – Advent Spirals for all classes led by Rev Jenny
- 16th December – Junior (Classes 3 and 4) Christmas Production at 2pm – 3:30pm and 6-7:30pm
- 17th December – Christmas Dinner and non-uniform day
- 19th December – Last day of term

News from Reception

This week we have focused on the four seasons using the story, 'Tree' by Britta Teekentrup; we looked at how the weather changes and what we might see in the environment. We spent time outside to identify what season we are in now before collecting our favourite leaves for a watercolour printing project. In literacy we tried hard to write simple words linked to autumn and we learnt the months of the year through pictures and songs. In maths we have explored artwork by Kandinsky; focusing on circles and triangles. We have sorted these shapes and identified them within the environment. In RE we have learnt about the first (and most important!) character in the Nativity story, Jesus.

News from Class 2

This week, Class 2 have started exploring our new text *I Have Lost My Hat*. We've been learning how to ask and write interesting questions, as well as creating detailed character profiles about the bear in the story. In maths, we've been focusing on grouping tens and partitioning numbers into tens and ones — the children have worked really hard to strengthen their place value skills. In geography, we've continued our exciting map work by creating our own messy maps, using different materials to represent landscapes and landmarks. We've also begun practising our Christmas songs, and the classroom is already starting to feel a little bit festive!

News from Class 3

What a week we have had in Class 3. In maths we have continued with our column subtraction and the children have been working really hard. In English we have been looking at the 'Tear Thief' and the learners had the opportunity to make a warning poster looking for good quality tears. This sparked an amazing conversation about what they thought would qualify as good quality tears or not. Bones kept the class busy in Science as we have been labelling bones and even did a little dance. To keep the creativity flowing, we looked at why we think Jesus is a light to all and created our very own stain glass windows.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, we have been adding fractions, including mixed numbers, by finding a common denominator. In English, we have started work on 'The Unforgotten Coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. We have been learning to write dialogue and have been writing our own dialogue between two characters, working on using the dialogue to advance the action in a story or to give the reader additional information about the characters. In design and technology, we have started making pop-up books, with a Christmas theme, and, in geography, we have been exploring the key physical and human characteristics of the Alps. In RE, we have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Advent wreath, including the significance and colours of each of the candles, and making our own class wreath.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Class 1 – Albie for an excellent watercolour leaf print.

Class 2 – Viktoriia for always giving 100% and making a fantastic aerial map.

Class 3 – James for working so hard on his handwriting and punctuation in English.

Class 4 – Hugo for making a wonderful start to his pop-up book in design and technology.

Good Citizen

Class 1 – Ellen for her thoughtful reflections during our Remembrance Day discussions.

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Class 2 – Sky for looking after her friends when they need help.

Class 3 – Maggie for the responsible attitude that she has in Class 3.

Class 4 – Harry for making wonderful, thoughtful contributions.

Ethos Award (Compassion) – Class 1: Heidi for showing compassion to all her friends.

House Points – Oak Bank have taken the lead from Lowerhouse.

Sports News

Class 1 – The children focused on balancing and controlled jumping from a range of different heights.

Class 2 – This week in PE, Class 2 were focusing on gross motor skills and being able to link awareness with decision making. The children participated in multiple games involving different movements, target practice and working in teams.

Class 3 – In PE, the children had a class challenge to work in their houses to earn points. They played target practice games, aiming for different objects using different types of throws. The children finished the session with just dance competitions and working in teams to complete dances.

Class 4 – Children in Class 4 this week worked on netball passes and used them in different games. The children looked at chest pass, bounce pass and shoulder pass and had to figure out when to use the correct one in small games.

Star Sports Performers

Class 1 – Amelie

Class 2 – Theo and Maksym

Class 3 – Sasha and Asher

Class 4 – Lola-Rose and Freja

