



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

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

'Christian Value' – Trust

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid."

Psalm 56:3-4

9th January 2026

Head's Message

Happy New Year! For the second year in a row our first week back after Christmas has been full of snow fun and games, but despite the weather uncertainty we have had a wonderful time in school. Forest Schools started today for a very excited Reception and Class 2. Swimming starts next Tuesday for Class 3. Gail Hull, our new SENCO, started on Thursday. Please do email her (senco@stjohnsboll.cheshire.sch.uk) and arrange a meeting if you have any issues or just want to say hello. Very sadly Mrs Green will be leaving us at the end of January. We will all miss her, but wish her the very best for the future. Mrs Davies will be replacing her as our new school administrator. On Wednesday next week, Rev Jenny will be in school leading an Epiphany assembly and then aiding the children as they Chalk the Doors. This activity had to be rearranged from Tuesday this week. We have now timetabled many events for the spring term, so do please take a minute to have a look below or check out the Calendar section of the school website. Finally, I am sending out three attachments with this newsletter. There is a Water Safety guide, a Parent Guide to Managing Children's Digital Lives and a Personal Profile that Mrs Hull has prepared for your perusal.

Kitchen News

We have started 2026 as we mean to go on – with plenty of hot, nutritious and freshly cooked food each and every day. Please check the Diary Dates as new Family Lunch days and Special Lunches have been planned.

Diary Dates

- 12th January – Road Safety presentation to Year 5 children by the Fire Service
- 14th January – Epiphany Chalking the Door
- 19th January – Teacher after school clubs begin
- 4th February – Year 1 Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm
- 6th February – Young Voices concert
- 13th February – Pancake Day Special Lunch
- 13th February – Last day of term
- 23rd February – Year 5 Bikeability - Level 2
- 24th February – Year 5 Bikeability - Level 2
- 23rd February – Parents' Evening Appointments
- 24th February – Parents' Evening Appointments
- 27th February – Talent Show – infants at 10:30-12pm and juniors at 1:45-3:30pm. Families invited
- 4th March – Lakeside and SATs information evening for Class 4 at 5-6pm

5th March – World Book Day
8th March – Rotary Club Swimathon (volunteers from Class 4)
11th March – Reception Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm
20th March – Non uniform day to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day
23rd March – Easter Special Lunch
23rd March – Easter Celebration Assembly at 2-3:30pm. Families invited
25th-27th March – Class 4 Residential at Lakeside
26th March – Year 4 Bikeability - Level 1
27th March – Last day of term

News from Reception

This week in Reception we have learnt about the differences between living and non-living things. We have matched animals to their habitats and discussed why their physical features make them suitable for their environment. In maths we have looked at shapes with four sides and made observations of squares and rectangles that we could find around school. We linked our art to maths by making our own stamps using Lego and printing pictures using squares and rectangles. We welcomed three guinea pigs to our class and learnt all about how to care for them. The guinea pigs will be regular visitors each week and we look forward to spending more time with them.

News from Class 2

What an amazing first week back! We have been diving into grammar every day, and started a new text about wolves. In maths, we have been sorting and describing shapes, learning about vertices, edges and faces. In science, we have started an exciting new topic on life processes and habitats. We explored what makes something alive, took part in group presentations, and even acted out what we had learned. We have also had some really interesting conversations about inspiring figures such as Marie Curie and Amelia Earhart.

News from Class 3

The children have had a great first week back, getting straight into our times tables in maths and looking at grouping and sharing. In English we started the book of the Pied Piper of Hamlin and have done a deep dive into rats, talent and different abilities. We have been able to link our value of Trust into this book as the King was not trustworthy. In science we have looked at rocks and soil and how rocks are formed. RE has been a great discussion around how Jesus brings change to people's lives and examples of His miracles. In music the children had the pleasure of creating a thunder storm using their bodies instead of instruments.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, we have been learning to multiply unit and non-unit fractions and mixed number by integers. In English, we have started out new text, 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy. We have been exploring Carol's use of amazing figurative language, which paints pictures of the settings and characters in our minds. We have focused in similes, metaphors and personification. In art, we have been exploring the use of gestural mark marking to give the impression of movements, and, in RE, we have started exploring the big question, 'Why was Jesus a great teacher'?

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Class 1 – Gracie for excellent contributions to our science discussions and careful recording of her ideas.

Class 2 – Theo for his fantastic sentence work.

Class 3 – Heidi for her fantastic work in English this week.

Class 4 – Freja for always making such thoughtful, reflective contributions in RE lessons.

Good Citizen

Class 1 – Nora for her enthusiasm for learning that always inspires others.

Class 2 – Bertie for being so kind and comforting a friend.

Class 3 – Finn for always being trustworthy and dependable.

Class 4 – Johnny for putting in consistent effort every single day and being such a kind and thoughtful classmate to everyone in our class.

Ethos Award (Trust) – Class 1: Ellen for being a wonderful member of the class and very trustworthy.

House Points – Oak Bank are last term's winners and Lowerhouse are currently in the lead.

Sports News

Class 1 – The children practised their ball control using a range of ball sizes. We focused on rolling and controlling speed and direction with a partner.

Class 2 – This week, in PE Class 2 started their gymnastics lessons. We looked at making different shapes and letters using our bodies with partners. We also had a small circuit set up to complete in two groups, working on jumping, agility and balance.

Class 3 – The children started their gymnastics block and looked at creating different shapes using their bodies and understanding how our bodies can create different shapes with small detail changes. Class 3 also started their circuit training and focused on balance, speed and power during the lesson.

Class 4 – In PE, the class started gymnastics and looked at creating words in small groups, taking it in turns to guess other team's words based on their gymnastic balance and shape. Class 4 also worked on a circuit against another team, competing in bench step up, burpees, star jumps and speed games, working on our leg muscles and understanding muscular endurance and fatigue.

Star Sports Performers

Class 1 – Eddie

Class 2 – Kit and Ivy

Class 3 – Samuel and Asher

Class 4 – Freddie and Joey

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