

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' – Creation

"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it."

Psalm 96:11

11th September 2026

Head's Message

The end of our first full week back and already it feels like the summer holiday never happened. Year 6 have beautifully filled the benches in assembly and are taking their new roles of House Captains very seriously. Our new Sapling and Birch children have made a magnificent start and the EYFS Baseline assessment has already been completed. The Eco-council, Safeguarding Council and School Parliament have all met, and the children have already thought of some marvellous ideas they want to spend this year exploring or fundraising for. Advance warning: be prepared for the children wanting lots of your money so we can train a therapy dog! Swimming and Forest Schools have both successfully begun. In governance news, Mrs Green has joined our board and we all look forward to welcoming her back to St John's. Finally, next week a few of our highlights include Flu jabs on Monday, a visit from Mark Whitehill from the diocese on Tuesday (which is also Democracy Day) and a special flute assembly on Thursday.

Sustainability News (written by a member of the Eco-council)

Sustainability News by Samuel Rodgers

Our new project is biodiversity and we want to improve our school grounds.

Our swap shop is the 22nd October.

Our trip to the food bank is 1st October.

Please be careful climbing on the trees so they don't get damaged.

Diary Dates

14th September – Immunisation Team in for Flu vaccinations

21st September – Teacher led clubs start

24th September – PTA AGM at 6pm

1st October – Food bank visit

5th October – Harvest Assembly at 9:30am. Families are invited

7th October – Playground Portraits in to take individual photos

12th October – Phonics workshop for Birch and Cherry parents at 4pm

14th October – Year 3 Family Lunch

19th/20th/21st October – Parents' Evenings

22nd October – Swap Shop

22nd October – Last day of Autumn Term 1

23rd October – INSET day (Team Teach training for all staff)

2nd November – School opens for Autumn Term 2

4th November – Year 4 Family Lunch
11th November – Special Diwali Lunch for children
14th November – Reception 2027 and Saplings Open Day 10am-12 noon
27th November – Teacher led clubs end
1st December – Last swimming for Oak Class
8th December – Infant Christmas Cinema Trip (TBC)
9th December – School Christmas lunch
15th December – Infant Nativity at 10am (joined by Saplings)
1st December – Junior trip to the pantomime at Buxton
17th December – Junior Christmas Play at 2pm and 6pm
18th December – Carols around the Christmas tree at 2pm. All welcome
18th December – Term ends
4th January – School opens for Spring Term 1

News from Saplings

It has been a wonderful week in our preschool room. We have focused on our new routines and settling the children and they are doing brilliantly! Everyone has loved exploring the classroom, especially the playdough and sand. We colour matched with pom poms and talked about the colours around the room. Outside, the children have enjoyed making large scale artwork using cardboard, paint and trains.

News from Birch Class

What a fantastic week we have had in Reception! We have learnt all about different emotions this week and linked them to colours, just like in the story, 'The Colour Monster'. We have made our own prints of the monster, explored colour mixing and made artwork from our own paint palettes. The children have loved exploring the classroom and getting to know each other. We are so proud of how well they have settled!

News from Cherry Class

We have loved getting to know the children and discovering all the things they enjoy. It has been a fun-filled first week! In English, we have been reading 'The Bear Under the Stairs' and enjoyed writing our own letters to Bear. For maths, we have been learning about numbers using tens frames, exploring how numbers are made and finding different ways to represent them. During gardening, we have enjoyed getting outside, exploring nature and looking after our environment. In science, we have been learning about our bodies by drawing around ourselves and talking about different body parts. For computing, we became robots! We worked together to create and follow our own algorithms, learning how important clear instructions are. Finally, we have class fish, named Steve and Chicken Nugget. The children are very excited to have some new friends in our classroom and are already enjoying watching and caring for them.

News from Maple Class

Maple class has had a very busy week back and has learnt so much. In maths, we have been working through place value and why we use zero as a place holder. In English, we have been making predictions about the story, 'Leon and the Place Between', as well as starting a setting description. In science, they had a look at how forces impact objects and which direction force is applied. Going back in time, we have been looking at how things have changed for children. Finally, in PSHE we have been looking at emotions and how they look different to each child.

News from Oak Class

What a pleasure it has been to have our new Year 5 join Oak class! They have settled in brilliantly, and we have had a fantastic first full week. In maths, we have been working on place value,

extending to 10,000,000, working on partitioning, placing numbers on number lines and reading and writing the numbers accurately. In English, our first Literacy Tree book of the year is 'Firebird' by Saviour Pirotta. We have been writing expanded noun phrases, writing advice to the king, including modal verbs and writing sentences including co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions linked to the events in the text. A highlight this week was our science lesson, where we dissected flowers, identifying the parts needed for reproduction.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Birch – Jolene for her excellent colour matching picture.

Cherry – Isabelle T for her amazing letter to bear.

Maple – Maggie for her excellent maths work.

Oak – Eleanor for taking such pride in her work in English.

Good Citizen

Birch – Levi for being so helpful to others.

Cherry – Izzy P for being so kind and helpful to the year 1 children.

Maple – Maisie for setting a wonderful example to Maple class.

Oak – Henry V for participating very well in class discussions and showing respect to everyone.

Ethos Award (Creation) – Oak: Sophie for making such a good start in her new class, demonstrating a great attitude to her learning.

House Points – Oakbank are in the lead.

Sports News

Saplings and Birch – Our first combined PE session with preschool was a huge success. We played warm up games by moving in different ways before playing a colour matching game. The children had to focus on following instructions and coordination within the space.

Cherry – The children were looking at gross motor skills and team games. The children used different movements such as running, side stepping, jumping, walking backwards and skipping to collect treasure. They also focused on awareness and co-ordination during the lesson.

Maple – We have spent our lesson football dribbling and basketball passing. In football, the children practised dribbling with both feet and different parts of the foot, changing direction and speeds to improve their ball skills. In basketball, the children practised chest pass, bounce pass and learnt when to use each pass.

Oak – This week, we focused on football dribbling and basketball passing. In the football lesson, children would complete circuits using different parts of their foot to dribble the ball, avoiding obstacles and cones to earn points for their team. In basketball, the children went over their knowledge of passing and added this into team rondo games (piggy in the middle), using different passes to stop the opponent stealing the ball.

Star Sports Performers

Birch – Bethan

Cherry – Isabel and Eva

Maple – Finley T and Rosie

Oak – Finn and Lola Rose

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