

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

25th September 2026

Head's Message

As we approach the end of September, we look forward to embracing autumn. The Forest School sessions are linking autumnal themes with curriculum planning. Please do ensure you look at the website or Facebook page to see examples of the creative and seasonal work the children are doing. Autumn also brings with it a Harvest celebration, which will take place in school on 5th October. As usual, we are collecting for the food bank, and a box has been left in the main reception area for all your kind donations. Teacher led clubs began this week and will run straight through until 27th November, with the exception of Parents' Evening week. Last night the PTA held their AGM and we said goodbye to all the current committee members and hello to a brand-new committee. As a school we send our thanks to resigning members for their hard work and dedication to St John's, and we send equal thanks to the new members for picking up the baton and ensuring the PTA goes from strength to strength. We have focussed on two important global days this week. Monday was the International Day of Peace and today is the European Day of Languages. Next week, we have our first visit this academic year to the food bank on Thursday, which is also Poetry Day.

Sustainability News

We want all the children to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals. Generally, Sustainable Development is using things carefully and looking after the planet so people today can have what they need, without stopping people in the future from having what they need too. Things like recycling, saving water and energy etc. Can you talk to your children about that? Try World's largest lesson website. Thank you, Samuel.

Diary Dates

- 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
9th December – School Christmas lunch
15th December – Infant Nativity at 10am (joined by Saplings)
16th 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

In Saplings, the children have explored the garden, planting herbs and enjoying the kitchen. We have made binoculars so we can watch the busy squirrels from the window. Everyone has enjoyed playing with the apples from the orchard; the children made prints in paint and tasted some fresh apple juice.

News from Birch Class

This week in Reception we have read the text, 'The Map of Me'. This beautiful story led us to create our own maps showing the people and the things that we love. We also considered the things that we'd love to be surrounded by in the future. We are in a great routine with our RWI phonics and the children are really engaged in every lesson. In maths, we have focused on matching pairs and creating sets following different rules. In art, we have used apples to create prints in paint; we also made some fantastic observational drawings of apples in our sketch books.

News from Cherry Class

What a lovely week we've had in Cherry Class! In English, we have started using our Mighty Writer to help us generate ideas and create sentences. In maths, we have been using number lines and practising estimating where numbers might sit. Our science learning has been very tasty! We have been exploring the different tastes of salty, sweet and sour foods. We were particularly surprised by how many children loved tasting lemons! We have also been busy in the garden, tending to our weeds. In history, we have been exploring holidays, comparing our own experiences with holidays from the past. We have been using Bee-Bots, giving them instructions and thinking carefully about how to reach our destinations. To finish off, we have also been exploring the work of the artist David Hockney, and taking inspiration for our own art.

News from Maple Class

Maple class has had a really engaging and creative week. In English, we have been planning our first written work based on 'Leon and the Place Between' where the children are giving a first-person account of the story. In maths, we have been working with numbers up to 10 000 and the values of these numbers. Science was very interesting as we took out magnets and experimented with what was magnetic and what wasn't. Looking back in time, we dived into the life of Lord Shaftesbury and the good he did. Finally in RE, the class had a look at values in our lives and how we can show these values by what we do.

News from Oak Class

This week, in maths, we completed our unit about place value. We learned to order and compare positive and negative numbers and calculate the difference between pairs of integers. In English, we have started writing our stories inspired by the story 'Firebird' by Saviour Pirotta, focusing on setting the scene and developing characters. A highlight this week has been exploring the artist Yayoi

Kusama, 'The Princess of Polka Dots'. We learned all about her life and created artwork of our own inspired by her pieces. Also, in science, we explored the life cycle of a bird and compared in to that of a mammal.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Birch – Theo for his great observational drawings.

Cherry – Amelie for her fantastic piece of art inspired by a Bible story.

Maple – Maggie for her fantastic sand art.

Oak – Hugo for a fantastic piece of artwork, inspired by Yayoi Kusama, focusing on depth and shading.

Good Citizen

Birch – Bethan for being so caring towards our preschool children.

Cherry – Eddie for always lending a helping hand.

Maple – Sasha for being an exceptional role model to Maple class.

Oak – Finn for having such an amazing attitude to his learning and participating so well in lessons.

Ethos Award (Creation) – Maple: Posy for always offering thoughtful and creative contributions.

House Points – Oak Bank are still slightly in the lead.

Sports News

Birch – This week, we focused on stopping and starting and balancing bean bags on different parts of our body.

Cherry – The children focused on balancing and travelling. They started with some fun animal warm ups moving in different directions using different actions. They were then grouped and practised balancing a bean bag on top of a tennis racket, moving in and out of cones whilst keeping their bean bag safe. Finally, they competed in different races and events, balancing beans bags on rackets, their heads, shoulders, and feet.

Maple – We worked on shooting in football and learning different techniques for different situations, like using the inside of the foot to place a shot and laces to add more power. We tried to use our body to direct shots whilst having power involved. In basketball, the children are slowly working into small matches using the dribbling and passing skills shown in previous weeks.

Oak – This week, we were busy in PE with multiple games. To start with, the children took part in different shooting drills (football) which involved 1v1 games and target practice, using different parts of the foot to score goals and linking up with team mates for different scenarios. The children moved on to line ball matches. These focused on passing, dribbling and shooting, and they finished with some small fun games to cool off.

Star Sports Performers

Birch – Mabel

Cherry – Ralph and Izzy P

Maple – Posy and Orla

Oak – Eleanor and Jack

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