

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

9th October 2026

Head's Message

Thank you to all the family members who joined us for our Harvest Assembly on Monday. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. It was a delight to see the children singing, displaying artwork, reciting poetry and giving us all a reminder of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which we have weaved through our curriculum. We were a little taken aback to receive our final Ofsted report on Tuesday, just three weeks after the actual inspection. However, we were thrilled to share the report with you. On Wednesday, the weather behaved, allowing Playground Portraits to take school photographs. The same cannot be said for this morning's Forest Schools session at which the heavens opened at one stage. Please can I remind parents to send in a spare set of clothes for these sessions, including socks and shoes. Next week, we have our Phonics Information Evening at 4pm on Monday for parents of children in Birch and Cherry Class. On Wednesday, we have our Year 3 Family Lunch and then on Friday a PTA Disco from 6-7pm. At the end of this newsletter there is a poster from our new PTA committee which is not to be missed. Finally, I am sending out a Together for Families leaflet with this newsletter. However, please see below for an explanation of what this newly launched service is offering.

Ofsted Report

We do hope you have had a minute to read the Ofsted report, which we are all so pleased with. As mentioned previously, achieving the Expected Standard is considered to be higher and more difficult to achieve than the 'old style' Good.

Just wanted to offer real [congratulations](#) on the final report; it reads really well and reflects the heartbeat of the school, showing everything that staff do for the community and how the children benefit hugely from this approach, as well as the strong teaching across the school.

Well done to all involved!

Kind regards

Mark

Mark Whitehill

School Effectiveness Officer

Diocese of Chester

PTA News

Please make sure you see the PTA poster at the end of this newsletter. There are so many wonderful events planned by the new PTA Committee. Can I just draw your attention to the Christmas Fayre

which this year will be on a Sunday. Also, please note the PTA will be selling refreshments at many of our school events this year, including Carols Around the Christmas Tree on the last day of term.

Sustainability News

This week we were learning about biodiversity. One of the Chairs of Governors came to visit us to talk about biodiversity, including endangered plants species. A new special project on what the schools are doing to improve the school grounds was started by Eco Council members. We will give more updates soon.

Samuel

Together for Families

On Thursday 1 October, the Local Authority officially launched Together for Families across Cheshire East. Together for Families is the LA response to the national Families First children's social care reforms. At its heart, Together for Families is about making it easier for families to access the right help at the earliest opportunity.

What Together for Families is about:

Help at the earliest opportunity

By providing help at the earliest opportunity, together we can make a real difference to the lives of children, young people and families. Together, as a partnership, having a shared understanding of the community and universal offer available to our families.

A whole family approach

Support will focus on understanding the needs and strengths of the whole family, working alongside them to identify solutions and achieve sustainable change.

Greater use of family and community networks

Wherever possible, we will help families build on the support available within their wider family network and local community, creating stronger networks around children and young people.

Building on local services

Cheshire East already benefits from a strong network of schools, Family Hubs, community services and partner organisations. Together for Families builds on these foundations, making support easier to access and navigate.

Stronger partnership working

Education, health, social care and community partners will work more closely together, improving information sharing, decision-making and coordinated support for children and families.

Simpler access to support

Families and professionals will have a clearer route into services through a single point of access for advice, support and safeguarding concerns.

Arbor and Payments

Please note that if you have any queries relating to Arbor, payments or wrap around provision please email Mr Duffy at bursar@stjohnsboll.cheshire.sch.uk

Diary Dates

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

14th October – Year 3 Family Lunch

16th October – PTA Disco 6-7pm

19th/20th October – Parents' Evenings

22nd October – Swop Shop

22nd October – Last day of Autumn Term 1

23rd October – INSET day

2nd November – School opens for Autumn Term 2

4th November – Year 4 Family Lunch

6th November – Comfy Clothes Day for PTA tombola items
11th November – Special Diwali Lunch for children
13th November – Maple Class Cake Sale
14th November – Reception 2027 and Saplings Open Day 10am-12 noon
22nd November – PTA Christmas Fayre (please note this is a Sunday)
27th November – Teacher led clubs end
9th December – School Christmas lunch
15th December – Infant Nativity at 10am (joined by Saplings) – with PTA refreshments
16th December – Junior trip to the pantomime at Buxton
17th December – Junior Christmas Play at 2pm and 6pm – with PTA refreshments
18th December – Carols around the Christmas tree at 2pm – with PTA Refreshments
18th December – Term ends
4th January – School opens for Spring Term 1

News from Saplings

This week, the children have loved using the book 'You Choose', as inspiration for all of their discussions. The children have focused on making choices and explaining why. Everyone enjoyed cutting and sticking their preferences to create collages. In maths, the children have focused on simple patterns by building towers with coloured bricks and threading beads on to string. The children loved going on an autumn walk to look carefully at the changes in nature around school.

News from Birch Class

This week in Reception we loved reading our book of the week, 'Martha Maps It Out'. We have looked really closely at our local community and the amenities available to us; we used Google Earth to zoom in on our favourite places to visit around Bollington. In DT and geography, we created maps of the local area which were a great source of discussion. This then led to us creating larger scale 3D maps with wooden bricks and cars. In maths, we have learnt all about AB repeated patterns, and we have completed pattern sequences with actions, coloured dot stickers and autumn objects.

News from Cherry Class

We've had a fantastic week full of learning and exciting discoveries. In English, we have continued learning how to be good writers by creating our own sentences, remembering to use a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end. In maths, we have been practising ordering numbers and using mathematical vocabulary such as greatest and fewest to compare numbers. In science, we have been exploring the fascinating topic of sound and asking the question, can we see sound? The children enjoyed watching and taking part in some exciting experiments, including an investigation to see if sound could put out a flame inside a bottle! In computing, we have been putting our problem solving skills to the test by designing mazes for our Bee Bots and thinking carefully about the routes they need to follow.

News from Maple Class

What a busy week this has been for Maple Class! We have started our new unit in maths, looking at addition and subtraction. The children have not yet found out which book we are looking at in English next but have used picture clues to write their prediction on what they think their story may be about. In science, we have continued looking at magnets and making predictions on the forces of a magnet. In history, we looked at the different illnesses that children experienced many years ago and how medicine has progressed. In RE, we compared values in stories of the bible and why we

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think they are relevant. Finally, in art the children started to design their art piece for this term and have really been very creative with their textures. Keep a look out in the gallery for these trial pieces.

News from Oak Class

This week, in maths, we have been revising subtraction of integers, and we have been learning to use inverse operations to both check our answers and answer missing box questions. In English, we completed our stories inspired by the story 'Firebird' by Saviour Pirotta, focusing on our editing skills. Highlights this week have been learning all about the life cycle of an insect in science, and, in art, we have been and creating our own mini art installations inspired by Yayoi Kusama.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Birch – Bethan for such a well thought out map of Bollington.

Cherry – Penny for her positive attitude and her amazing maths work.

Maple – Bertie for his phenomenal effort in his hand writing across all subjects.

Oak – Henry L for working so hard on his story writing his week, producing a fantastic outcome.

Good Citizen

Birch – Mabel for being so kind and polite to visiting adults.

Cherry – Isla for being so responsible and always helping with a smile.

Maple – Posy for always striving to give her best.

Oak – Gruff for having an amazing attitude to his learning in all lessons.

Ethos Award (Creation) – Birch: Theo for encouraging others to be creative, just like he is.

House Points – Oak Bank are holding onto their lead.

Sports News

Birch – The children focused on one, three and four body part balances on the mats. The children then practised log, pencil and egg rolls across the mat which encouraged them to consider the shape of their body.

Cherry – This week, the children practised dribbling with a football. The children focused on ball control, changing direction and taking small touches with the football. Children dribbled in and out of equipment and in straight lines practising turning. The children then moved on to fun and games playing a colour game focused on awareness and listening skills.

Maple – In PE this week, children split into competitive teams, playing football and basketball games. Children learnt football rules and played small sided matches 4v4 and 5v5. The children also played small basketball matches 4v4 and 5v5.

Oak – This week, we focused on teamwork and communication in PE this week whilst playing football and basketball matches. The children split into teams and earned bonus points for good leadership, teamwork, enthusiasm and encouragement.

Star Sports Performers

Birch – Levi

Cherry – Heidi and Freddie

Maple – Bertie and Finlay H

Oak – Cora and Austin

Bollington St John's
PTA
Save the dates for our
upcoming 2026 events

Friday
16th October

Autumn Disco



Friday
6th November

Comfy Clothes
Day



Friday
13th November

Maple Class
Cake Sale



Sunday
22nd November

Christmas Fayre



Tuesday
15th December

Infant Nativity
with PTA refreshments



Thursday
17th December

Junior Nativities
with PTA refreshments



Friday
18th December

Carols around
the Christmas Tree
with PTA refreshments



We look forward to
seeing everyone there!

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