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' – Joy

"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy."
Psalm 94:19

6th November 2026

Head's Message

Welcome back to our second half term of autumn, which leads us delightfully to Christmas and all the joy that season brings. Thank you on behalf of the PTA for all the tombola donations that were brought into school today. I for one am very much enjoying sitting my Comfy Clothes as I write this newsletter. Just a reminder that on Friday 13th November Maple Class have their Cake Sale after school. Then, before we know it, our Christmas Fayre will be here! Please ensure you have kept Sunday 22nd November free in your diary for one of the lovliest PTA events of the year. I am reliably told a certain Father Christmas will be in attendance. On Wednesday, it was wonderful to see so many Year 4 family members join us for lunch. Next week, Tuesday marks World Science Day and we have our special Diwali lunch on Wednesday. Then on Saturday 14th November we have a Saplings and Birch Class Open Day from 10am-12pm for any children about to start in either preschool or Reception. Please do spread the word. Finally, Remembrance Sunday is this weekend, and one of our pupils discussed in assembly this morning how he was taking part in the Sea Cadets commemorative parade.



Sustainability News

This week our school Eco Council was learning about The Cheshire Nature Recovery Strategy and their plans to restore nature across the region. We also were investigating about the hedgehog habitats and highways. We looked at local projects that we want to get involved in too. Samuel

Diary Dates

11th November – Special Diwali lunch for children
13th November – Maple Class Cake Sale
14th November – Reception 2027 and Saplings Open Day 10am-12pm
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 Birch Class
This week in Reception, we have had a fantastic time learning all about fireworks and the history of Bonfire Night. We read a new story called The Quiet Little Firework and we created some artwork using oil pastels and plenty of glitter. We learnt some great new vocabulary linked to how fireworks look and sound and we all tried really hard to independently write some letters in these new words. Everyone enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot which helped us to understand why we celebrate with fireworks and a bonfire; we talked about our own experiences and what we could expect to see this year. We all made a sparkler and then we role played how to be safe when at a display before we made a safety poster. In maths we have looked at artwork by Kandinsky, with a focus on his use of circles and triangles. We created triangles using geo boards and lolly sticks before going on a shape hunt around school.

News from Cherry Class
What a lovely week we have had! In maths, the children have been working hard to develop their understanding of number bonds to 10 and 20, as well as exploring fact families and how numbers are connected. In English, we have been thinking about what makes a good writer and exploring the skills we need to become confident writers. In science, we started our exciting new topic, Materials. The children enjoyed sorting different materials and discussing their properties, thinking care fully about what makes each material unique. In RE**,** we had a lovely lesson exploring the theme of Good News. The children listened to and re-enacted the story of Jesus healing the man who could not walk, bringing the story to life through drama and role-play. We also enjoyed our Outdoor Classroom Day! Taking our learning outside, we explored geography by working together to create a map of the United Kingdom using loose parts.

News from Maple Class
Maple Class hit the ground running this week and has so many things to talk about. In English we have started a new book which got the children very excited called the Matchbox Diary. We have spent some time looking into descriptions, antonyms and how different life can be for others. In maths, we have continued with subtraction over boundaries and although this is a tricky topic, the children have been working hard. Science had us looking at solids, gases and liquids and their properties. With Christmas only next month, we have been looking at the nativity and how it is represented. We looked at who was there and what their purpose was at the time of Jesus's birth. In geography, we are learning about how the planet has lines of longitude and latitude and wh at this means. Finally, to top off our week we had a sweet treat to test different biscuits as part of our design and technology unit where we will be adapting a recipe.

News from Oak Class
This week, in maths, we have started our unit on fractions. We have been exploring equivalent fractions, including placing them on a number line, and we have been learning to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. In English, we completed our setting description, linked to the storm act in 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare. We have also started our new Literacy Tree book, 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan, and we have been writing questions linked to the first chapter,

using modal verbs. We have also started writing diary entries in role as one of the characters. Other highlights have been looking at gravity in science and exploring animation in our computing lesson.

Celebration Awards
Good Work
Birch – Rowan for a well thought out safety poster.
Cherry – Delilah for working so hard in her writing.
Maple – Orla for her growth mindset in maths this week.
Oak – Lola-Rose for writing a fantastic setting description based on the storm in 'The Tempest'.

Good Citizen
Birch – Jolene for being extremely thoughtful towards others.
Cherry – Deborah for working so well with others.
Maple – Arthur H for always being honest and kind to others.
Oak – Dyiako for always making fantatic contributions, participating well in every lesson.

Ethos Award (Joy) – Maple: Heidi for her infectious smile that brings joy throughout the school.
House Points – Clarence and Oak Bank are jointly in the lead with 121 house points each.

Sports News
Birch – After a warm up, the children focused on jumping, spinning and twisting like a firework. We used scarves to make our movements big and colourful. Once we had practised each movement, we put them all together with some exciting music.
Cherry – The children practised dribbling a football around a set area, using different parts of our feet to control the ball. In the game, cones were added which needed avoiding. Gates were added to gain points by passing through different coloured gates. Children used awareness and co-ordination to navigate through the game. The children then went on to some small team games working in groups and moving through obstacles.
Maple – We have started new topics of hockey and netball. Firstly, we sat and spoke through the rules and safety measures of hockey. The children started by practising dribbling around using the correct technique and hand positions, learning how to turn left and right around cones. In netball, we played small 'rondo' games which involved players keeping the ball away from a defender.
Oak – This week, we moved onto hockey and netball. We recapped hockey rules and safety. The children practised dribbling in and out of obstacles while keeping the ball under control. The children then played 'king/queen of the ring' which involves dribbling around while keeping the ball safe. The children recapped netball passes and played small team games by trying to steal the ball from other teams and keep their ball for as long as possible.

Star Sports Performers
Birch – Aylinn
Cherry – Jesse and Kit
Maple – Ivy and Heidi
Oak – Dyiako and Scarlett

If you are able to volunteer to help at the Christmas Fayre please follow this link to sign up: https://volunteersignup.org/DFJ9T



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!