



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding half term, I would like to thank our whole school community – parents, carers, pupils, and staff – for their continued support and hard work. I would especially like to thank you all for your kindness, patience, and encouragement during Mr Donbavand’s planned absence. Your support has been greatly appreciated and has helped ensure a smooth and positive half term for everyone in school.

Throughout this first half term, our pupils have continued to impress us with their enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness as they have settled into new routines and built positive relationships with one another. They have shown great maturity in adapting to new classes, teachers, and expectations, and have demonstrated excellent behaviour both in lessons and around school. We are especially proud of how they have lived out our school values each day – showing love and respect towards others, hope and determination in their learning, peace in the way they play and work together, and faithfulness in doing their best. Their positive attitudes have helped to create a calm, happy, and purposeful start to the school year.

We’ve enjoyed some lovely events in school recently, including our Harvest Festivals for Reception, Years 1, 2 & 3, and Years 4, 5 & 6. These celebrations truly reflected the strength of our school community as we came together to give thanks for the harvest, explore our school values of *love*, *hope*, *peace*, and *faithfulness*, and enjoy some wonderful singing performances from our pupils. Many thanks go to Rev. Nancy Goodrich and Rev. Jenny Eades from St Oswald’s, and to Joe Etherington for coordinating the services and managing the generous donations, which will go to the Silklife Foodbank in Macclesfield: [Silklife Foodbank](#). Another big thank you as well to the families who were able to help with the moving of the donations and benches at the end of the services.

This month, we marked *World Mental Health Week* with activities that encouraged pupils to think about wellbeing, kindness, and talking about their feelings. We finished the week with our bright and cheerful “Hello Yellow” day, filling the school with sunshine colours to show our support for young people’s mental health. We’re very grateful to Mrs Allen for organising all of the activities.



A huge thank you to our wonderful P.T.A. and to St Oswald’s Church for organising and hosting a fantastic Harvest Disco. In the hall, pupils enjoyed a lively, fun-filled evening complete with music, party props, and even snow! Over in the church, families took part in cake stalls, craft activities, a winter clothes swap, and experiential prayer stations. It was wonderful to see our community coming together once again, and we are so grateful to everyone who gave their time, energy, and donations. The P.T.A. continue to work hard to raise funds towards our exciting goal of building a new outdoor classroom, and we are very thankful for their ongoing support.



I wish you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Thank you once again for your ongoing support — it truly makes a difference.

Mrs G Marshall





Worship

Worship continues to be a springboard for spiritual development for our school community with our vision and values, which are inspired by the Christian faith, being at the very foundation.

We started the year with experiential worship, reflecting and praying on the year to come. Each cross was blessed by Rev. Jenny.

We enjoyed reflecting on sacrificial giving. In class worship, we had the opportunity to sacrifice an extra minute of playtime to help save our class egg. After donating our 'magic dust', our egggy friend floated and we all rejoiced! We reflected on how we might need to sacrifice to help others keep their heads above water during difficult times.



Some classes enjoyed a visit from Rev. Jenny where they had an opportunity to ask big questions and about life as a vicar.

We enjoyed designing Harvest windows in class worship, thinking about how we can give our time generously through creativity. Many of us then enjoyed spending Saturday morning in church, decorating for Harvest.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to everybody who made our Harvest Celebration such a joyous success. Silk Life Food Bank extend their gratitude for your generous donations and it was great to see everybody in the spirit of the occasion. This year's theme centred around our school values: Love, Peace, Hope, Faithfulness. We thought about how life is a pilgrimage and that on the journey, if we nurture our values, we can grow our understanding of our relationship with ourselves, others, the world, and God. We will get it wrong but this is an essential part of the process - each stumbling block deepens our understanding and appreciation. Sometimes, it's only by a lack of something that we truly understand its worth and can commit to it further. This is 'falling upwards'. Faithfulness is interwoven throughout our values and this Harvest, the children began to understand that faith is something that you 'do', not just an agreement with a particular set of facts, ideas or beliefs. However, by its very nature, you will only see the value in the values once you have lived them. The children brought this message to life beautifully with a fantastic display of song, dance, acting, and prayer. We can't wait for our next big celebration in December, when we bring to life the story of the Nativity.



Nativity Dates
Reception
 Friday 12th Dec—2.30pm
Years 1, 2 & 3
 Tuesday 16th Dec - 6pm
 Wednesday 17th Dec - 2pm
Years 4, 5 & 6
 Tuesday 16th Dec - 2pm
 Wednesday 17th Dec - 6pm



Learning in Year 3

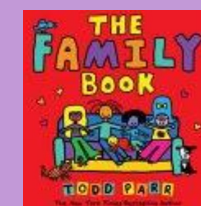
Wow! What a brilliant and busy half term. They have been busy in lots of curriculum areas. They have particularly loved science looking at the body and trying to recreate a moving hand. (definitely a few funny bones!!) They have also enjoyed DT with Mrs Potts. One child asked "can we have it every week?" They brought home some delicious apple crumbles after following the design process. With Mrs Allen, in their PSHE lessons, they shared this lovely book and learnt how every family is different but special in its own way. They talked about how families support us and what we do to help our families.



Finally, they were all stars in the harvest showing great confidence with their lines and their singing was out of this world.

Enjoy the break and look forward to more of the same in Autumn Term part 2.

Mrs Smith



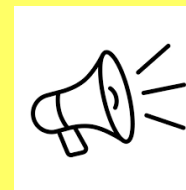
Learning in Year 1

What a start to life in Year 1 the children have made. They have settled into lessons brilliantly. We've written a retelling of the narrative 'Old Bear' and started completing addition and subtraction number sentences. The children have particularly loved Forest School - especially picking apples and making crumble!



Mr Valentine

Important Update: We're Moving to Arbor!



We've been listening to your feedback about ParentMail, and we're excited to announce that during next half term, we will be switching to the Arbor platform for many of our school communications, BC/ASC bookings, meals ordering, attendance - and more! Arbor offers a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for parents, and we're confident it will improve how we stay connected with you.

Here's a little online video from Arbor if you'd like to take a look at what it offers:

<https://youtu.be/kFCuC1NyH5U>

More information will follow after the half term break. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Mrs Nelson & Mrs Jones





Learning in Year 4

What a fantastic start it has been to Year 4! Everybody has hit the ground running, taking on new challenges with a smile. In English, we've enjoyed writing diaries and writing mini-stories based on our inferences about our new class book: The Whale. In Maths, we have been learning about place value as well as adding and subtracting four-digit numbers with the exchanges. Geography and Science have been really lively...we just loved learning about rainforests as well as how scientists classify animals based on their characteristics. This lent itself to our art project where we have designed our own fabric, inspired by the rainforest.



Mr Etherington

Learning in Reception

Wow! What an amazing start the children have had to their school journey through Bollington Cross! We are so very proud of each and every one of them.

As well as getting used to our new routines, we have been making friends and learning how to look after each other, showing love and kindness towards everyone, looking after our classroom and always trying our best.



We have been super impressed with how much the children are blossoming on their reading journey too! We have learned so many sounds and are making and spelling words too! Not only this, we have been busy with our Maths, PE, Music, PSHE, Worship times, Singing, developing our fine motor skills, speaking and listening, turn-taking, sharing, problem-solving, independence and resilience skills - to name but a few! We have also been welcomed into our church family - we have enjoyed meeting Reverend Jenny and Reverend Nancy and looking after Prayer Bear too! Our Harvest Celebration in church was a fantastic success - the children were so amazing, standing up and performing in front of so many people! Other special events have included World Mental Health Day and learning about the festival of Diwali.



I think the children have most definitely earned a very well-deserved rest! Thank you to all the parents and carers for all of your support - it is very much a team effort!

Ms. Asbury



A moment of prayer

Dear God,

As we come to the end of this autumn term, we thank You for all the learning, laughter, and friendship we have shared. Thank You for the love that brings us together as a school family, for the hope that helps us to keep going when things are hard, for the peace that fills our hearts when we show kindness, and for the faithfulness that reminds us to do our best each day. Bless our teachers, friends, and families, and watch over us during the holidays. May we return rested, ready to learn, and full of joy for the term ahead.

Amen



Learning in Year 2:

What a half-term it's been in Year 2! We have had an incredible first half term in year 2! We have danced, learned about technology and different types of habitats and created some wonderful circular narratives in our writing. We have shown wonderful teamwork, determination and resilience.

We are so looking forward to next half term, and hope you all have a lovely, restful break.

Mrs Foat & Mrs Harnett



Learning in Year 6:

This term in Year 6 we have had many challenges to overcome so that we could learn how to be a team, while also having lots of fun. We have grown our level of independence through doing these challenges. Our class motto is ***'We are Year 6: we are a team, we are role models, and we always try our best!'***

Our favourite part of Year 6 so far has been going on residential:



"PGL helped me overcome my fears"

"It taught me that everything is possible"

"PGL encouraged me to try everything!"

"PGL was great because all of our classmates would encourage us"

"PGL was great because I learnt that if I put my mind to it, I CAN do it!"

"Children and teachers needed to be ready for challenges. It taught us that if we believe in ourselves we can do it."

We now feel like we can do anything!

Written by Elise & Eliza, Y6



Learning in Year 5

What a super start we've had to Year 5! Everyone has settled in brilliantly and adjusted really well to our new routines and expectations. In Science, we've been exploring the wonders of *space* — our visit to Jodrell Bank was a real highlight. We were amazed by the incredible Space Dome experience and had lots of fun experimenting with the whispering dishes! We were even lucky enough to see the



huge Lovell Telescope moving! Back in class, we've been writing some really amazing narratives about returning to the Moon, filled with imagination and adventure. In History, we've travelled even further back in time to learn all about the Vikings, discovering their longships, raids, and what life was like in their time. In R.E we've started learning about Hinduism, exploring the beliefs, traditions, and colourful festivals that are part of this fascinating religion. It's been a wonderful start to Year 5 — full of curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm and we can't wait for next term!

Mrs Flynn

