



# Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter: Autumn 2nd Half-Term 2025

Dear Families, As we come to the end of our Autumn Term, I have personally really appreciated the kindness and welcome back from all of the school community. I have really felt the care of everyone who has asked me how I am, after my time away from school. It has been strange being away during such a busy time of year, but it has allowed me the opportunity to see and notice everything afresh whilst I have been slowly phasing-back to my role. It is very much in tune with one of the books I read whilst recovering, entitled, 'The things You Notice When You Slow Down'. The book really encourages noticing and appreciating the things that may pass us by when we are at 'normal' speed.

Our pupils have certainly struck me with the independence, confidence, resilience and energy they showcased in our Christmas Concerts and our Reception Nativity last week. The children gave us some amazing performances, which clearly showed the togetherness and collective energy they have for school – even in this final week! The children were so organised and professional in the way they sang the songs – but also in the way they ensured the full story was articulated by pronouncing their words and projecting their voices superbly throughout. To-day, I will visit the classes to ensure that our pupils all know how proud I am of them and also remind them that they should be proud of themselves too. What a great privilege it was for me to be back in time to witness these lovely events.

Our staff team have also shown the independence, confidence, resilience and energy needed in my absence and in coming back I have witnessed the care and attention they have for their roles and for every pupil that attends Bollington Cross. It is a strange feeling for me to have so much energy in this last week – whilst seeing the tiredness and efforts of all of the team. They really are tremendous and really do rally for each other when the chips are down. Whenever I talk about our school – particularly our team and the culture leaders foster (which is usually whilst touring prospective parents around the building) it really is about prioritising safeguarding (as our top priority) but this is closely followed by creating positive relationships. I really feel that this has a naturally positive effect on all of our outcomes as a school and on outcomes for the pupils. In essence, we are trying to create a happy organisation, because of the effect happiness has on our outlook and our work. Back in my days as a new HT, I always felt this but probably was not confident enough to say it, as it can often be misconstrued as an overly soft approach. I like to frame it as a 'Low Threat – High Expectations' culture – which allows and indeed encourages, taking risks, experimenting, making mistakes (ultimately this is how we learn) and ownership over the journey of self-development. This obviously applies to everyone in the building – including me! I hope this culture is felt by all of our visitors into school and at our lovely events. Thank you for working in partnership with us to enable, foster and promote such an approach.

Our PTA members continue to impress us all with their efforts and willingness to put our school so high on their own personal lists of priorities. Whilst I haven't been able to be at the discos, I know that they were a success and with the incredible amount of detail they show in their organisation of events – this is no surprise. I really am blown away as they continue to out-do themselves in order to support and improve our school and the first-hand experiences of our pupils. Over recent years, we have had a new library and new laptops and they have spread such great awareness of the next project; to build a dedicated outdoor-classroom facing into our lovely forest – for the benefit of many pupils for years to come. School budgets are incredibly challenging and whether you are helping to organise events or putting your hand into your pocket to make a donation – it is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working in partnership with the PTA in 2026 to see how quickly we can bring this latest project to fruition. What an exciting prospect!

I am keenly aware that once our Autumn Term ends on Friday – households will go into overdrive in getting ready for Christmas. This is a seemingly inevitable and unavoidable feeling in the run up to the festive period. I do hope, however, that no matter your schedule – you do all make time for yourselves. There can be a lot of pressure over Christmas to be at events and make promises of your time. If you do ring-fence some time and make time for yourself, I do feel you will be better equipped to make time for others. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year! I have my fingers crossed we will not see a repeat of the two weeks of snow we did at the start of 2025 (see picture above) and that we are all fit, well and ready to start back on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**.

Best Wishes, *Yenson Donbavand*



MERRY  
*Christmas*



A moment of Prayer:

Loving God,  
Bless our children, families and staff with joy, kindness and peace.  
Help us to share love, welcome others and serve with generous hearts, in our school, community and wider world.  
Amen.

