

Summer 1st Half-Term 2026



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a really positive and exciting half-term at Bollington Cross and welcomed many visitors to Bollington Cross for a range of purposes.

To a person, our visitors are always eager to share that our school has a lovely warm welcome from staff and pupils and lots of visitors comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere and great relationships too.

One of our visitors this half term was Cllr Mayor Jon Weston – which I believe would have been one of the final duties of his term as Bollington Mayor. He, along with Harriet Worrall, the Town Manager – came to present a Life Vac Anti-Choking Kit, which they have kindly purchased for each of the Bollington Schools.

Another visitor was one of our Governors – Mrs Murdoch – who came in to monitor and witness how we administer our SATs tests to Year 6. She came in Monday – Thursday and I have to say that she left very impressed (again) with the team and our year 6 pupils – who went about their tests with such brilliant resilience and focus. I know that Mrs Marshall, Mrs Potts and the whole Year 6 team put such a lot of hard work into these assessments and to have people seeing how well prepared the pupils are is great to have as an acknowledgement. Well done and thanks to all of the pupils and staff involved in this. Parents also play a big part in SATs, as it was clear to see that the pupils turned up to school each morning for their classroom warm-up/breakfast looking well-rested and ready for their challenges – so thanks to the year 6 parents.

On Friday 8th May, we welcomed Mrs Montgomery to Bollington Cross and she carried out a SIAMs inspection. A SIAMs inspection is different from Ofsted and focusses mainly on the school's vision, culture, the behaviour and attitude of pupils and our curriculums for Collective Worship and RE. The Inspector had an extremely busy day talking to leaders, pupils (including looking at their books and taking their opinions on school life), governors, parents and staff from a range of roles. The pre-inspection call focussed on our schools published outcomes too. As you can see – a lot of evidence is gathered in order to make judgements about a school. We hoped that Mrs Montgomery would see and feel exactly what we think Bollington Cross does so well every day and indeed she did! I do urge all parents to read the report in full (when it arrives and is shared separately) – but a couple of highlights for me included that she felt behaviour and the way pupils care for each other was exemplary. She also stated that pupils are celebrated as individuals and get to grow and develop in a very emotionally healthy, safe and secure environment - where good relationships enable everyone to flourish.

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Turning Up the Volume on Learning at Bollington Cross!



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As I have said – we think that – but it is amazing to hear visitors say the same when they put these elements of school to the test. The feedback is a really positive note on which to finish this half-term and once again I would like to thank all parents, pupils, staff and governors for making our Bollington Cross community such a special one which is apparent to anyone who visits.

Whilst I am looking forward to having a break – the 4km, every 4 hours for 48 hours event is approaching fast, so I will ensure I keep up the training! For those intrigued, looking to get involved or wanting to kindly donate.... please use the following link:

<https://superkind.org/campaign/bollington-cross-pta-4x4x48-challenge>

All proceeds raised will go towards the outdoor forest school classroom and the more people who join in the more fun we will have. Have a splendid half-term.
Mr Donbavand

Learning in Reception

It's been another busy half term in Reception! Here are some highlights: another lovely visit to our friends at Mount Hall where we celebrated one of the resident's birthdays celebrating Mental Health Week where we opened a new challenge each day to support our mental wellbeing including being with friends, planning things to look forward to, sleeping, exercising, eating well and being mindful we have also been doing lots of planting and watching our seeds and beans grow We are also looking after some tiny caterpillars and are looking forward to seeing them grow into butterflies!



Learning in year 2

This term in Science, we have been learning all about plants. We set up an experiment with cress seeds to discover what seeds needed to germinate and then to grow into healthy plants. We were amazed that the seeds with no light grew faster than all of the others, searching for light to give them energy. However, when we compared them to our own seeds that had been given water, warmth and light, we realised just how unhealthy they looked. Each of us kept a plant diary, recording what our own seeds were doing by observing and measuring. We are really looking forward to continuing our learning about plants and the environment next term!





St John's Primary School v Bollington Cross Primary School: Match review

On Tuesday 19th March, a selection of our Year 6 pupils represented our school in a football fixture against St John's Primary School. I have done my best to capture the game in this short match review.

On a humid Summer afternoon, the storm abated, the clouds dispersed and the Bolly Cross players made their way up Grimshaw Lane – which was the pre-match warm up - and stopped frequently for breath – which allowed tactics and strategy to be discussed.

After a short welcome and formalities, our team went into a circular huddle – during which I have no idea what was said (but it worked). The match kicked-off and after a few minutes, Joe put us 1-0 up, with a mazy run and a calm, neat finish. For the remainder of the game, whilst making a few clear cut chances, we unfortunately came up against a keeper who was having a great game; tipping a few of our efforts onto or around the post.

Whilst the rain had stopped, we faced a torrent of shots and attacking football, as the game wore on. Free-flowing football gave way to dogged, resilient and at times 'last-ditch' defending, with our team throwing themselves into

every tackle and in front of every shot as if their lives depended on it. Seb, in particular, taking the role of last-line of defence to great effect. Leo, our goalkeeper, tipped a few feisty shots over the bar and showed excellent agility in maintaining a clean sheet.

Ollie, Josh, Oke, Jack, Freddie, Dougie and Harvey put in terrific shifts in the midfield engine room, ensuring that their flair players were harassed and harried into mistakes. 70% of the Planet Earth's surface is covered by water – the other 30% was covered by our midfield! They were everywhere!

Will, who had volunteered to come off to let a team mate get some minutes, then came back on, as our goalkeeper had to leave with 5 minutes left of the fixture. Though playing out of position, he made a fine save (without goalkeeping gloves) to keep the victory intact during a tense final siege on our penalty area.

I was proud of every player – they showed great sportsmanship, encouraged each other, gave every ounce of their energy and can take pride in a hard-fought victory. Well done Year 6!

Mr Donbavand



Learning in Year 4

What a tremendous half-term it's been in Year 4. From poets to rockstars, we have had a blast on our learning journey. In English, we have enjoyed studying and writing different types of poem as well as focusing on the rules for written speech. We had a great time converting a comic book into a story using inverted commas. In Maths, we have made tremendous progress with our understanding of fractions and decimals too.

Other exciting initiatives like Mental Health week and David Attenborough's 100th Birthday have also been a real standout. From trying out ten tips for positive wellbeing to learning all about biomes across the world, we have enjoyed bringing learning to life in lots of different ways. We're beginning to learn about the water cycle and rivers in geography and in science, we enjoyed conducting an investigation all about viscosity - how the thickness of a liquid affects how fast it flows.

Have a tremendous half-term Year 4 and we look forward to one last leg of our learning adventure after the holidays!





Learning in Year 6

This half term, has been a very busy for everyone in Year 6.

At the beginning of the half term, we were waiting in anticipation of the arrival of our new leavers' hoodies. Finally, on a Friday at the end of lunchtime, we received them; we all cheered when they arrived. We're so grateful to Mrs Bingle and Mrs Harris for organising them – thank you!

For the first four weeks of this half term, we spent some of our learning time preparing for our Summer assessments - SATs. We had lots of activities to support with our revision: 'Traitors' style maths; marking Mrs Marshall's terrible attempts at past papers; and creating our own revision board games.

SATs week

Each morning we were greeted with breakfast – thank you Alexandra and Tracey - and shared lots of jokes. Even though some of the questions were tough in the papers, we got through them using all our strategies, revision songs, a lot of resilience and knowing there was a biscuit at the end. A huge thank you to the whole school and all of the adults involved for being so flexible and supporting us to be able to achieve our best.

On the Friday of SATs week, we received a surprise from the PTA: an ice cream treat. Thank you so much for helping us celebrate the end of our assessments.

Some other half term highlights:

Our chairs going on strike! This inspired us to write letters of complaint from other pieces of equipment in the classroom.

The jokes in SATs week:

What do you call an aeroplane with bald people on it? Receding Airlines.

What do you call an American bee? A USB

Should I tell you my bin joke? Nahh, it's rubbish!

Playing football against St. John's – have a look at the match report!



Mental Health Awareness Week

It was great to see the whole school getting involved in Mental Health Awareness Week. Children learnt lots of different actions they can take every day to support their own mental health. It was great to see so many of them taking part in the Joe Wicks live workout!

It is important for us as a school to mark these events in the Well-being calendar so that we can teach our children that it is not only okay to talk about our feelings but that it is encouraged! The more conversations we have surrounding mental health the more we hope that our children will learn how to look after their wellbeing and seek help when they need it.

