



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

We finish for Christmas with lots of great memories fresh in our minds, especially of Christmas Concerts, great achievements and a lot of hard work from pupils and staff. Especially after having gone so long without welcoming parents into school or to any events – we have loved and relished being able to do this again. Our pupils sang their hearts out during their performances and really did themselves proud. It was such a pleasure and a privilege to enjoy all four of our school's lovely performances. Before being a headteacher, I would have been practising frequently with the children and would have the Christmas Songs 'on a loop' in my head. Now I am not so involved in the practice, which I miss, however I do get to watch the performances with 'fresh eyes' like many families – which is a massive treat! I really do start to feel Christmassy once I have heard Children singing Christmas songs and I hope it gave you all the same feeling of warmth and festive spirit as we break for Christmas.

There are a great many things to look forward to at Bollington Cross to energise us in the new year. Starting tomorrow, the canopy outside the Year 2 classroom will be installed (now I have demolished the out-house!), this will give us shelter for a uniform shop, cake sale or chit-chat, but mainly providing a covered outdoor area to be accessed for learning by ks1. Then on Monday the carpets will be fitted in the school library area and in half of the lower school hall. This will help these areas look and feel smarter and more welcoming. Our 'Bollington Cross Reading Spine' has now arrived at school and I know how excited Miss Bold is to introduce this to the pupils. You will hear more about this in the new year and the children's first assembly back will be an introduction to the idea of the reading spine. Essentially, the reading spine consists of '50 Recommended Reads' per class – all books which are ambitious, engaging and intriguing for our pupils. This will help us to ensure that all pupils get a challenging selection of books to further engage them and enhance their love of reading for pleasure. The reading spine is designed to be kept in classrooms so that it is exclusively pitched at each of our year groups. We can't wait to introduce these books to the children. This will also support us to maintain and improve our record of being in the top 20% of schools nationally for reading progress at ks2. Books are not cheap and this selection of 50 per class has cost over £2000. Therefore, whenever you help raise funds at a PTA event – this is the sort of amazing resource it goes towards!

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Best wishes and warm regards for the festive period from everybody at Bollington Cross CE Primary School. See you in 2023!



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The library furniture itself arrives at the end of January, so around that time there may be a call-to-arms for any 'flat-pack' experts to come and help me assemble it! This would be another great way for some of you to support our school for the benefit of the pupils.

So – though I am not wishing Christmas away – I am really excited about the new year and the opportunities and exciting events it will bring!

Lastly, I'd like to thank our pupils, who ensure every day is different and have shown us great enthusiasm and resilience each day. Our staff – who through a difficult half-term in terms of staff absence – have rallied like they always do to ensure the highest standards possible and warmest welcome for pupils every day; committed and supportive at all times. Our parents and families, who have attended our discos, fair and concerts and been so generous in their lovely feedback and donations to help school.

Thank you all for the part you play in this special community. Have a lovely, restful Christmas and a fantastic New Year.

Best Wishes,

Mr Donbavand

Learning in Year 1

Firstly, I would like to say a great big thank you to all the children and families for welcoming me so warmly this half term. Secondly, WOW! Year One, you have worked so incredibly so hard. We have been...

Historians as we studied historical figures such as Guy Fawkes and Florence Nightingale.

Scientists as we carried out fizzy pumpkin experiments!

Artists as we recreated big, splattery artwork inspired by Jackson Pollock.

Designers as we designed and made our own Christmas cards.

Performers as we sang and acted in our Christmas concert.

We have also continued with our favourite part of the week... Forest School! We have planted daffodil bulbs, made Remembrance crosses with sticks and string, and practised our whittling skills.

We can't wait to see what fun next half term brings!

Miss Purcell





Our Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas Concerts were quite a spectacle to behold. Though most of my pictures were of the back of children's heads (I am sure you all took some better ones!), I do still like these photographs and have wonderful memories of the concerts. Thank you to everyone involved in making the concerts so successful!



Learning in Reception

Wow ! What a busy half term it has been for Team Reception! We are so proud of how hard all the children have worked and how much they are learning! Forest School is a big success – we have loved exploring together! Our topic has focused on space – we learned the names of all the planets and even made our own! Our VIP this term who we learned about was Mae Jemison – I wonder what your child can remember about who she was? Our word wall is building up nicely! We love learning new words and challenging ourselves to use them in our everyday learning! The children have worked so hard in their Fred Time and are making great progress. We have even been authors - writing our own little story based on "Star in the Jar." All the grown-ups are so proud of what a super team we are showing kindness and teamwork and perseverance. We look forward to learning even more in the new year!



Learning in Year 5

Year 5 have been busy learning about Ancient Egypt this term. They applied their knowledge of squared numbers to build pyramids and showcased their work with Stop Motion animations. They worked as teams to share presentations of their research in 'Pharoah Factor'. They also enjoyed researching, tasting, designing, and baking Egyptian flatbread too!
Mrs Flynn



Making our Egyptian Flat-breads!

Learning in Year 3

Year 3 have had an explosive half term! Alongside our topic we have been getting to grips with our multiplication facts and writing information reports on an animal of our choice. We have been looking at volcanoes, researching them and trying to see the best reaction. Throughout we have been using topic related language. We have also created geode biscuits! The children have also love telling me about Happy Breathing in My Happy Minds. A great half term!

