

Summer 1st Half-Term 2021



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

It has been a fab half-term at Bollington Cross, but a very different experience to a normal Summer 1st Half-Term. With no events in the calendar, teachers and pupils have worked extremely hard (and had lots of fun with learning) in what has been an uninterrupted 7 week stint. We love the events we have and the chances to get the community together and I don't need to go into detail about the benefits these events have for everyone – most of all the pupils. However, I also can't deny that there have been no distractions in what has been a vital half-term in supporting all pupils to make up as much ground in their learning as possible. School has felt exactly like that: focused.

That is not to say that learning hasn't been incredibly interesting and fun too. Our teachers have weaved their usual magic and I have seen and heard such enthusiasm for the curriculum across the school. Whether it has been pupils learning about the Titanic tragedy or Chemistry with Cabbage in Year 6, constructing a cardboard Bollington in Year 2 or Reception exploring the forest – there are countless examples of pupils getting so much out of their uninterrupted time at school.

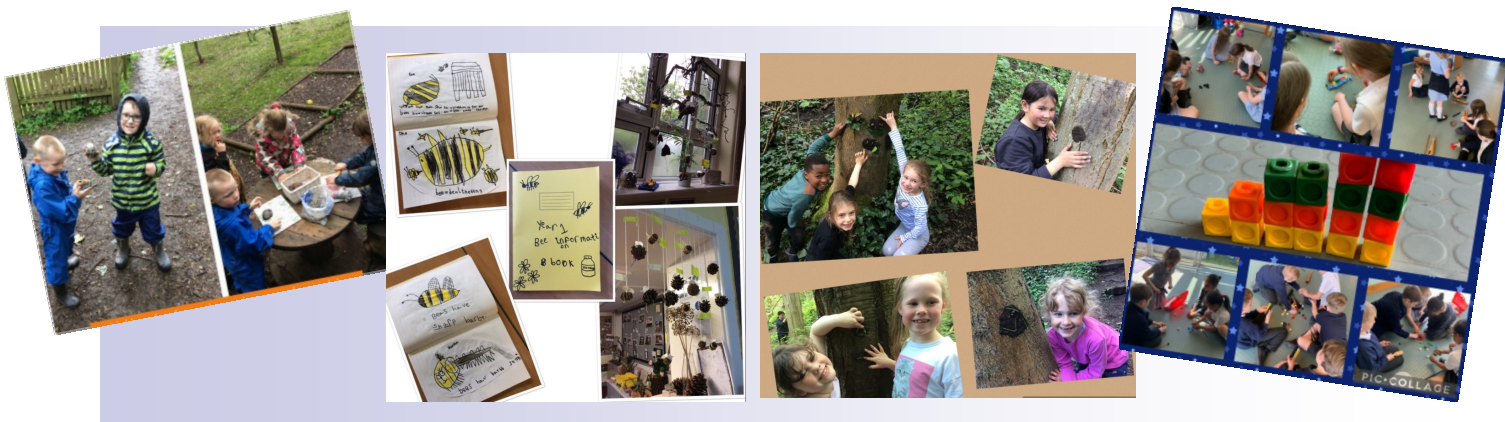
Due to the continued following of guidance from staff, pupils and parents, we have not had any positive cases amongst our immediate school community during this half-term. I do thank you all (and I know I sound like a broken record now) for your support in following the guidance onsite. Not one parent has taken issue with the continued wearing of masks or the timings or systems. I am so grateful that we are all working together on this.

Undoubtedly, there will come a time, soon, when it may feel that schools lag behind wider society for a while. We need to ride that out together, as just this week, there is data regarding clusters of positive cases in primaries in local areas such as Handforth. The overriding message must be, 'Why risk it now?' As I have said before, I can't wait to get back to seeing people's smiles and not wearing masks, but unless we have a big Cheshire East announcement in the coming weeks, I feel that we will stay as we are for the remainder of this term.

Once again, thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe. It is so appreciated.

Whatever you do over half-term, whether staying locally and supporting some of our local businesses or travelling and helping support the tourism industry get back on its feet – I hope you have a great half-term and that the sun comes out for you!

Mr Y. Donbavand
Headteacher



Before and After School Club

Thank you to all of you who have returned to using our before and after school club this term. It has helped the club get back on its feet! So much so that we are actually turning people away due to over subscription, late booking and covid regulations. **Therefore, please could you ensure that any bookings are made by 4pm Friday.** We are having up to 9 children turn up, who are ad hoc bookings and this is testing our capacity for staffing and supplies for snacks and food. We of course understand when traffic or cother family circumstances require a quick agreement of a booking, but routine weekly bookings should be made by 4pm on a Friday for the following week, to ensure the smooth running of the club and its ratios.

An everyday prayer

I saw this lovely idea and the link included and wanted to share it with all of our families.

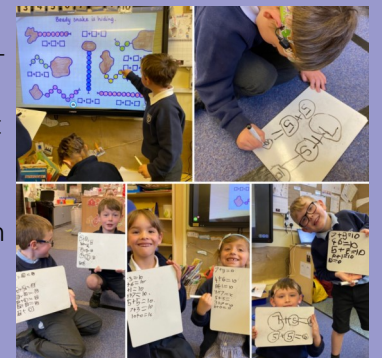
Five Finger Prayer: Each finger represents a group of people to pray for. Children can use this as an outline for their prayer. [Click here for further explanation of the prayer](#)



- Thumb- (point to heart with thumb) Pray for those who are close to you.
- Index Finger- (point away from you) Pray for those who are far away.
- Middle Finger- (tallest of your fingers) Pray for leaders.
- Ring Finger- (only finger too weak to stand straight up) Pray for the weak.
- Little Finger- (least or could be the letter "I" in sign language) Pray for yourself last.

Year 1

What a busy Half Term it has been in Year 1! We have been learning about all things to do with Dinosaurs and are now at a point where we could quite comfortably claim we are Dinosaur experts! Lots of practical learning and following the interests of the children meant that the children were intrinsically motivated to want to find out more and to embrace all aspects of the learning. In Fred Time we have been making fantastic progress which I am sure you are seeing evidence of at home when sharing stories with your child. Our Forest School escapades have been focusing on tool skills the last few weeks; lighting fires, whittling and observing the changes and life cycles in the environment as well as learning all about the animals who live there. Our nature cam has spotted many furry and feathered visitors and we are working hard to look after their home. It has been incredible to see in increase in the children's self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities during these sessions, we really are very lucky to have such a fantastic learning space on our doorstep. Wishing you all a safe and happy Half-Term.



Year 3

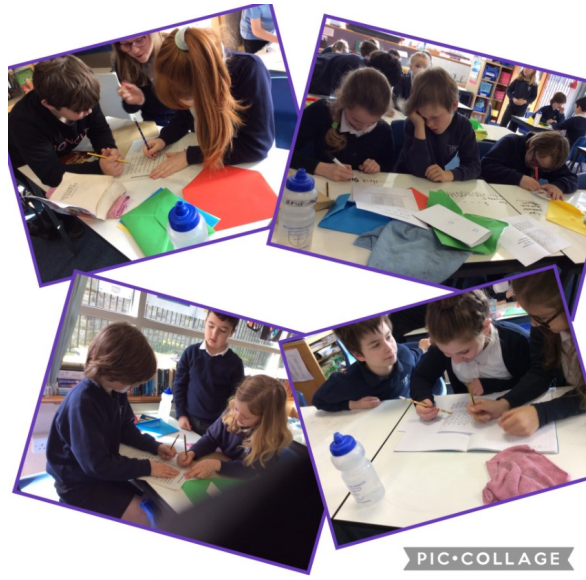
We have really enjoyed learning about Rainforests and Endangered Animals and have taken a keen interest in the effects of deforestation. They have loved looking at the work of David Attenborough! The topic prompted them to send some persuasive letters to Mr Donbavand to ask if we could do some fundraising to help! The whole school took part in a Wear Orange for the Orangutans, with donations going to the WWF. As a class they also adopted a Polar Bear!





Year 5 sporting achievement

Herbie Ray, Ben Conquest and Freddy Woodley were part of the Bollington United Hornets (U10) team that won the Stockport Metro Junior Football League cup on Saturday 22nd May.



Year 5

The class have shown lots of enthusiasm for our Victorians topic. They enjoyed going for a short walk to see all the historic buildings and architectural features that can be found just metres from our school gates. Did you know that the Cock and Pheasant was built in 1753 (pre-Victorian, obviously)? The date can be seen on the outside and was quickly spotted by our sharp-eyed Year Five pupils. During this final week of the half term, they are planning and creating a leaflet for a guided tour around the Bollington Cross area. Perhaps they will take their families on an educational visit?!

Reception

We have enjoyed another busy half term in Team Reception. We have been learning about wild animals in Africa – we’ve thought about the noises animals make, how they move, the colours and patterns of the animals, learning about camouflage and why it’s important as well as making animal masks. We have also been learning about the Maasai people – the ways in which their lives are similar and different to ours. The children have continued to work hard with all their learning and have loved welcoming another child to our team! Well done everybody – we are super proud of you all!



Reception learning about Tigers and Elephants in a Music lesson.

Year 4

We have been enjoying some messy science! We made a model of the human digestive system to show how food travels through our bodies. The children especially enjoyed making the ‘poo’ (from biscuits and bananas). As part of National Smile Month, we have also been learning all about teeth and how to keep them healthy. We carried out an investigation about tooth decay by soaking eggs in different liquids to show how acid attacks the enamel on our teeth. The children were surprised at the damage orange juice and cola had and were really surprised at the ‘bouncy’ egg that was a result of it being soaked in vinegar!



Year 2

Year 2 have been developing their writing and creating some great pieces as if they were a cat. Some are purrrfect! We have also been looking at different animals and created our own riddles and fact sheets. I hope the parents have guessed from their videos! We have also been into the forest learning some new skills; like whittling and developing some further by creating mud monsters for Mrs Allen's wellbeing challenge. We have, on numerous occasions, tried to recreate some buildings in Bollington but the weather has definitely been against us! This week we managed to complete it. The children have worked well as a team to develop some very impressive builds. We have also painted some glass jars and added some seeds. They will just need to add water and watch it grow over the holidays.



Year 6

Chemistry with Cabbage in Class 6

This term, we enjoyed taking part in a 'Chemistry with Cabbage' science workshop. We learnt all about acids, alkalis and neutrals. We made our own red cabbage indicator, tested household chemicals, saw distillation and completed experiments with carbon dioxide and gravity. Since the workshop, some members of our class have even carried out the experiments at home. We really enjoyed our science day and can't wait to continue our science learning.



Isa, Daniel, Amelia and Lily

Being a Year 6 learner...

“The Chemistry with Cabbage was great. I liked experimenting with different chemicals and how they changed the solution. It was amazing really!”

“I’ve really enjoyed orienteering as I like reading maps and staying active!”

“Our lesson on soap carving was weird and fun...it taught me about being creative and also how Inuits lived. They obviously had it harder than us because they had to carve into stone!”

“I loved learning about the Titanic, because Miss Bold brought it to life by giving us each a card with the details of someone who was actually on the ship.”