



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

In the list of things that can present a challenge to school staff and leaders, whole school trips and Ofsted inspections would be in the top 10. So, to say that we have done both in the last couple of weeks gives everyone involved real sense of achievement and pride, as we head into the half-term break.

This half-term has also seen the arrival, and introduction, of our 50 recommended reads in each classroom (our Bollington Cross reading Spine) and the arrival and building of our school library. This was thanks mainly (the building of it) to Rich, a Year 4 parent who has given several hours of his time to get the job done. We are all grateful to him. Especially the pupils!

Miss Bold, as a new Deputy since September, has played a leading role in all of these things (and the Young Voices Trip!) and I want to thank her here for the incredible work in these important events, developments and improvements – including the coordinating of the trip to Chester Zoo. At one point a few weeks ago, I think I remember asking her, “Wouldn’t it just be easier to risk assess bring all the animals to Bollington Cross?” She ploughed ahead regardless and it was such a successful experience for the school and all of its pupils.

At Bollington Cross we have always valued giving pupils a broad and balanced education and experiences which develop them personally, which the Chester Zoo trip was a prime example of. I have always seen primary school as a pivotal time for pupils to be able to find their passions in life, as early as possible, and start to think about what they want to do when they are older—in terms of their career. We definitely had one child state that “Zookeeper” is the career he wants for himself as he got off the coach!

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Embracing the wider curriculum at Bollington Cross!



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In the primary education sector the pressure to achieve highly and make good progress in the core elements of Reading, Writing and Maths – whilst maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum is certainly keenly felt, up and down the country. The current focus in the inspection framework of raising the profile of all subjects and championing them is heartening though. If we are to give our pupils the opportunity to find their passions, practice them and be involved in them on a regular basis, then a wide and rich curriculum is what they need.

Recently, we have added Drama and Choir to the clubs which are made available to pupils but my aim is to try and offer more for pupils who are less likely to choose football, netball, multi-sports and more active pursuits – though I do thank Miss Smith for her work in helping us branch out into local opportunities to climb and try archery, which some of our pupils have enjoyed. Therefore, keep an eye open for opportunities and further clubs being offered as soon as we are able.

Fluent reading, which unlocks potential, increases life chances and is a gateway to success in all the other subjects remains, and rightly so, a big priority in education, in the inspection framework and, I’m glad to say, in everyday school life at Bollington Cross. I know that a great many families ensure that reading, and reading aloud, are prioritised at home too and this must be the case for all our pupils in order for them to make progress in line with their age, or beyond. Please take this as a reminder if this is not the case in your house and also the fact that older ks2 pupils still need opportunities to read aloud to someone, as often as possible, to support their fluency and comprehension.

We have a number of events, including World Book Day, in the calendar as the Summer approaches. These will be aimed at further promoting reading, and the love of reading, in all of our pupils. It will also soon be time to officially open our library, which we are all looking forward to. Before doing that, we are aiming to ensure that the walls are also decorated with lettering and framed illustrations – so watch this space in terms of communications for news about the grand opening. I’ll be in touch as soon as I can regarding this.

Lastly, I wanted to thank you all for your support and thank the brilliant staff team at Bollington Cross, and all governors for their role in an exciting few weeks and certainly in the inspection last week.

It is often said, that being a Headteacher can be a lonely experience at times and this has definitely NOT been the case during our inspection, and especially not during our trip to the zoo! I felt I was part of a positive, respectful, caring, fun and warm community, which always seeks the best for everyone who is lucky enough to be part of it.

Have a lovely half-term.

Mr Yenson Donbavand

**Dear Lord,
Thank you for all the amazing opportunities we have and for all the fantastic people who support us.
Help us to show our appreciation of others everyday.
Help us to appreciate our environment and the beauty of animals and nature.
Help us to be inspired by the things we see, hear and do every day.
Amen**





Bollington Cross go to Chester Zoo!

45 adults and 190 pupils had a fantastic day out at Chester Zoo on Tuesday 14th February. Even MRS Donbavand came along – which meant that I had treated her to a day out at the Zoo for Valentine’s Day! A massive thank you to all of the adults involved on the day. The trip was a great success and we had...no sickness and no injuries! The weather also played its part and, although it was initially quite cold, it turned into a lovely clear afternoon.

The day gave all of our pupils a chance to have some valuable learning opportunities outside the classroom and it was lovely to see the pupils interact with other Bollington Cross pupils of different ages as we explored the zoo. We also had comments from members of the public about just how respectful and well behaved our pupils were. Which is always lovely to hear.

I accompanied Year 4 and Year 1 on the coach and I know that they had a brilliant time. Year 4 had made the trip to the far end of the zoo to see the Tiger. When there was initially no Tiger in sight, I could sense their disappointment. We waited and waited until it was time to head back for the coach. Just as we began to walk away – out strode the Tiger and stood in clear view - looking straight at the pupils. They loved that moment and it was one of my highlights too. I am sure there were many moments such as this for our pupils AND grown-ups, which will live long in their memories.

Thank you all for your support in permissions and funds towards the trip and for any of the comments made through messages and under the posts on Dojo – expressing your thanks and appreciation. I think Miss Bold has finally brought me around to the view that a whole school trip is a good idea!

“A really special experience ! Thanks to everyone involved .The bats were a hit here !”

“Thank you so much, Louis really enjoyed it! He loved the poison dart frogs!”

“Ivy said her favourite was the bats flying around in the dark cave. she had a great day. thank you !”

“Freddie said it was excellent. He was raving about seeing the baby Red Panda! How fantastic. You all deserve a good rest now ha ha.”



“They loved the zoo, thank you! What a fab trip.”

“Amazing! Thank you very much to everyone involved!!!”

“You guys are amazing, providing our children with amazing opportunities during challenging times not to mention the ‘O’ word thrown into the mix! I’m truly grateful and thankful you are able to do these things for our children!”



“Seren had a great time seeing the pen guins and giraffes. She also loved the picnic lunch. She will definitely sleep well tonight! Thank you for taking her. What fab memories made today.”



“Ewan had an amazing day and came back very happy and still excited. Thank you everyone. He said a bat pooped on his head and a rhino charged at him!! Lol.”

