



# Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

What has hit me the most this half-term, is the ground our learners are covering and their awareness of what they have achieved, their current point in learning and the next steps of their journey. As a parent myself, I have always strived to ensure that any school I have been part of has made the learning journey as explicit and articulated as possible. Whereas, at times schools are required to summarise progress as a decimal or attainment as a percentage – we know that there are many aspects, of a pupil and their personal journey, that those figures do not capture and do not summarise. I hope that our recent parent’s evening appointments reflected our culture of having positive relationships with, and a great and growing understanding of our pupils – as this is always a priority. Though parent’s evening has not lost any significance in the school calendar – the communication that now goes on within a school year is now vastly different to just five or six years ago at our school. You all have the opportunity to speak to staff with questions throughout the year and I as a Headteacher always try to ensure I am available to listen, discuss and resolve, where needed, any concerns or questions and welcome ideas that will take the school forward.

That said – parent’s evening felt as we intended with its new format – relaxed, informative, worthwhile and, from an observer’s point of view – very positive.

I know that the team had prepared diligently for parents evening and I hope this was reflected in the experience of parents. It was lovely to welcome parents, to hear the chatter of well-dones as parents and pupils emerged from the hall and to see pupils proudly sharing their work and their progress. My choice to sit in the library was to ensure that parents felt able to check in with me if needed – whether to give feedback on the evenings and their format, or to just catch-up. Many parents did this and the two or so hours each night flew by. I also got to enjoy some lovely books with pupils in the new library. I am a bit jealous that the pupils get to spend lots of time in there!

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Happy Easter from all at Bollington Cross Primary School!



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Thank you all for all of the feedback recently on the parents evening format, which was positive and thank you also to everyone who has fed back on the Ofsted report to myself or staff around school; or sent a card in. Lots of parents have stated that we should all be proud of the contents of the report and that it was a true reflection of they see around school everyday. This is lovely to hear. The team have continued to strive and improve since their visit, so I know we are showing our young learners that we have a culture of self-improvement.

I started by talking about pupils and I’ll finish on that too. It has been so lovely for me to witness pupils, this term, first-hand, overcoming challenges and having them proudly come to my office to share their successes and progress. This really is a brilliant part of the job. I always feel that pupils should see the head’s office as a place to come and celebrate as well as reflect on any mistakes – and at our school – overwhelmingly – the celebrations are certainly the focus of the vast majority of pupil visits!

Have a fantastic, relaxing and refreshing Easter break and thank you for your continued support, feedback and collaboration.

*Mr Donbavand*

## Learning in Year 4

It’s been a fantastic half-term for Year 4! In English, the children have produced some incredible persuasive letters as well and some superb poetry. In maths, the class have challenged some really tricky three-digit multiplication as well as dividing with remainders. In topic, the class have thoroughly enjoyed learning about mountains which involved creating muddy mountains with clearly identifiable features. The class have also really enjoyed learning about Holy Week in preparation for Easter. This week, the children reflected on Jesus’ triumphal journey into Jerusalem by laying a path of leaves as well as enjoying a range of activities in church as well as a really interesting Q&A with Reverend Nancy.

Mr Etherington







## Learning in Year 6: Reading Buddies with Reception

When we were in Reception, we had reading buddies. We remember how our buddies made us feel and how they encouraged us to love reading - and we even remember their names. Since the start of this Half-Term, we have re-started having reading buddies ... but this time as Year 6s!

We love being reading buddies: we get the opportunity to connect to children in another year group; we read books that we enjoyed when we were younger; we are learning lots of new things - about how to engage others, about their personalities and what they like; and it brings back our memories from when we were in Reception (we had Eric the elephant too!).

The excitement and the way the Reception children's faces light up when we read to them really is amazing to see. When we walk around school, we also love to see our buddies!

We hope that as reading buddies we are giving the Reception children the same brilliant memories that we have.

Written by Year 6



## And what do Reception think of Reading Buddies?

"We get to read nice books and learn how to read."

"I like it because they read to me."

"When you are reading, you get to learn new words."

"We can make new friends and we can enjoy reading with someone different."

## A moment of Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for Easter and for showing us how much you love us. Thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross and for raising him from the dead. Help us to remember the amazing things Jesus did for us and to share his love with others. Bless us and our loved ones today, and fill our hearts with joy and hope. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



## Swimming Information:

The upcoming dates for swimming lessons are as follows:

**Rec, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 will swim on ....**

Fri April 28th, Fri April 28th, Fri May 5th, Fri May 12th & Fri May 19th

**Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will swim on...**

Fri 26th May, Fri 9th June, Fri 16th June, Fri 23rd & Fri July 7th

The cost per lesson will remain at £1.90. This is the price we are charged by the Leisure Centre.

## Changes in the office....

### Mrs Hartley

We have had such a busy time recently that I have not yet communicated to parents that Mrs Hartley in the office has left. For the time being, she is not going into another role straight away, as she always said that she would be looking to make the most of the warmer weather when it began.

Mrs Hartley has worked here at Bollington Cross on a part time basis for the last three years and has been excellent as an office administrator with such great experience of previously being a School Business Manager at another setting. The Governors and I thank Mrs Hartley, not only for her service here, but also for increasing to full-time whilst the school sought a new business manager and administrative assistant. Mrs Hartley was well regarded by the staff and we wish her the very best in the future and many days in the sunshine in her garden.

### Mrs Wearden

Mrs Wearden joined our office team as Administrative Assistant recently and we are happy to have her join the team. Here is a little introduction....

Hi, my name is Melissa, I am married to Richard and have two children, Bella (12) and Michael (7). I grew up in Bollington so it is a joy to be working here. My background is Children and Youth Ministry for the Church of England so this is a change to be in the office but I am really enjoying it. I have been really welcomed by staff, children and parents – thank you! – I look forward to meeting you all.



### Mrs Booth!

I know what you are thinking....just let Mrs Booth retire! I promise I am trying, but from time to time at the moment we are still seeing her smiley face as she helps us out during this interim period! She is great. You all knew that anyway! We are so appreciative of her time as we transition to a new team in the office.

### Mrs Hayes

After Easter, we will welcome Mrs Suzanne Hayes, our new part-time School Business Manager. I will introduce her properly after the Easter Break.