



# Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



### Dear Families,

I hope you are all well. Although this is a very busy time of year for all of us, I do hope that you are having moments to enjoy and savour the lead up to Christmas. This period can feel very busy and pressurised in terms of time and energy, hence once our bodies relax for Christmas, so many people become poorly! So, hopefully this is your little reminder to slow down and look after yourself.

On Monday, I was lucky enough to spend time with Year 1 and Year 2 for a small assembly (ks2 were super busy practicing in the church). I started the assembly with a news story about Twinpike Rd in York, where Christmas illuminations had become an attraction to locals. This year, they had decided to stop putting so many lights up. When I asked the children why they may have made the choice, they rightly identified that it may be too expensive and a waste of electricity. I then asked whether Christmas decorations are important and whether there was anything more important than decorations. Some of the answers were as follows:

The story of Jesus is more important

Spending Time with your family and friends is more important

Sharing with others is more important

Showing that you love people is more important

Having a rest and some fun is more important

Doing things for others is more important

I hope you agree that these answers from young pupils are really reassuring and capture what we would hope young people value at this time of year. We then talked about how helpful they can be over Christmas at what can be a very busy time for grown-ups. (Continued on the next page.)



**A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024 from the Staff and Governors at Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School**



(continued) Our decision to have a shorter Christmas event last Friday was also a nod to just how busy everyone is. Our PTA certainly did a fantastic job and there was a lovely atmosphere in the playground for 'Carols Around the Tree'. Our Celebrate Choir sang fantastically as well! The slot just after school meant that for parents, there was not the feeling of getting home then coming back out to an event. We also decided to be outside and the fine weather really enabled the event. Our reasoning on being outside was that the Christmas event last year in the hall felt very busy and cramped. The playground gave everyone a chance to spread out and ensured pupils had a calmer experience. Thank you all for supporting the event – whether donating items, buying tickets, singing around the tree or all of the above. We are very grateful.

With our Reception Nativity last week and our KS1 and KS2 concerts this week, we have been treated to the brilliant singing and acting of our pupils. I know that the staff and particularly Mr Etherington have worked ever so hard to prepare for the performances and it showed. The pupils have enjoyed this festive period in school and this has recently included their Christmas dinners, all lovingly prepared by Sarah, Tracey and Alexandra in the school kitchen. Having sampled a dinner myself, I know that the food for the pupils was excellent again this year! Thank you to our amazing kitchen staff. We've recently replaced a gas oven with a fully-electric oven too – so they have had to get used to different timings. Well done to all!

Lastly, a big curriculum focus this term has been handwriting, which we have prioritised. When we had a couple of staff meeting twilights recently, the facilitators brought examples of excellent work and improvements from other schools in order to prove the impact of their CPD. I remember staff being blown-away by the difference and improvement in such a short time-period of the examples they brought.

Just this morning, I have been into Year 5 and Year 6 and they were all busily working on some writing entitled: How to steal Christmas. I must say that our pupils have really taken on the challenge of learning new ways to form their letters, they have focused on their posture and pencil grip and are certainly providing evidence of their improvements to us! I am blown away and would like to thank all teachers and pupils for the pride and enthusiasm they are showing in their handwriting – which can undoubtedly lead to higher sense of achievement and increased self-confidence. Even my Headteacher's Award certificates are getting neater, as I'm afraid the children will point out my incorrect joins! I can't wait to see the pupils across school further improving in this area in the Spring Term.

I do hope that you have a fantastic Christmas and make time to look after yourselves. Have an amazing New Year 2024 too and thank you for all your support.

*Yenson Donbavand*

### Learning in Year 3:

Another action packed half-term. Year 3 have been looking at their letters from their pen-friends and can't wait to find out more about them in 2024 and eventually meet them!

We have had some great cricket sessions with Stewart where we have refined some of our cricket skills. Watch out for future stars.

We were also really lucky enough to have Mrs Robertson (Harley's mum Year 2) to carry out some hands on practical science. The children were engaged and enthusiastic. We also learned it didn't always go the way we expected...literally.

Have a great Christmas.

Mrs Smith



**Excellent cricket session with Stewart from @CCBSchools today focusing on catching skills. Lots of cool catchers in school. We might have some future stars here!**

PICCOLLAGE



### Looking after others...

It was lovely, in a recent celebration assembly, to recognise the work of some of our pupils in raising money for those who need it. Matilda in Reception baked some treats (her classmates donated self-made treats too) and decided to hold a coffee morning in aid of Shelter. She raised over £100 and should be very proud of herself. (pictured top)



We also acknowledged a group of pupils involved in 2nd Bollington Beavers' Homelessness project. Benny, Leo, George and Grigor from class 3 and Flynn, Finley and Harley from class 2 told us all about how they raised £600 for Crisis. They should also all be very proud of themselves. (Pictured bottom)



### A moment of Prayer:

Dear Lord,

in this festive season, we pray for hearts attuned to the needs of others. Grant us the compassion to be kind friends and caring classmates. May the spirit of Christmas inspire us to share joy and love, mirroring the selflessness shown through the birth of Jesus. Amen.



### Learning in Year 4:

It's been a fantastic half-term in Year 4. We thoroughly enjoyed creating setting narratives in writing and in maths, we have made great progress, moving from addition and subtractions, through to area, and now multiplication and division. In history, we were fascinated by how children across different eras lived their lives. For example, in Victorian times, children used to go to work. Many children even left home as early as age 7 to go and work for a master! In science, we loved learning about states of matter. We particularly enjoyed acting-out the movements of each state's particle structure as well as conducting an experiment to show the relationship between temperature and melting. In PE, we have enjoyed a range of different skills-based drills and games that have improved our balance, agility, strength, and flexibility and in music, we had a great time preparing a digital performance on the blue-bin drums. In RE, we enjoyed learning about different aspects of the Christian faith such as the Holy Trinity – which we represented through art.



We also had a great time journeying through advent, reflecting on different messages of love, hope, joy, and peace in the run-up to Christmas. This led us to our Christmas Celebration which we all thoroughly enjoyed. In Year 4, we reflected on the role of Joseph and how we are thankful for all of the adults in our life. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Year 4



### What Y1 have enjoyed learning...

- "I enjoyed learning about wasking in other people's shoes because although it wasn't their real shoes, I like learning about other people's lives." Scott
- "I liked baking because I got to eat my cookie." Lucy
- "Maths. I liked learning about part part wholes" Ford
- "I enjoyed Geography because we got to learn about the earth and compass points." Lyla
- "I like doing independent challenges because it good. I liked making a snowman with the play dough." Willow
- "I liked making the crown in the craft area because there was all shiny stuff." Elsie
- "I like Fred Time because I like the new sounds" Martha
- "I enjoyed going to Forest School because we got to make conker necklaces." Killian
- "I like Forest School because we get to get muddy." Isla
- "The challenges are helping me to learn." Molly B
- "I liked making Christmas cookies" Rupert
- "I liked Science because we got to learn about the world's weathers." Lyla



Over the last week, Year 5 and 6 have worked together on a Grinch writing project. The children have worked so hard to create their Grinch-inspired 'How to Steal Christmas' instructions. We are so proud of their independence, resilience and positive attitude towards their learning 🌟🌲 Well done everyone!



### Learning in Year 2:

In Year 2 this term, our DT project has been all about strength and stability. We investigated which 3D shapes were the most stable by making shapes out of plasticine and were then given the challenge of designing and making a chair for Baby Bear from the story of Goldilocks. We had to think carefully about how we could make a chair that would support a teddy's weight and not topple over when he sat on it. We worked with a partner to build our chair and then decorated it using colourful pens and paper. We hope you like our designs - we think Baby Bear would love them!

