



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

A warm welcome to this Spring 1st Half-Term Newsletter. There have been lots of exciting things going on, as usual, at Bollington Cross this half-term and as we enter the break we are looking forwards to the installation of our solar panels and air source heat pump. These will both greatly enhance the sustainability of our school and in particular the Key Stage 2 building.

The first stage of this installation is to erect the scaffolding (Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th) which will support the contractors in safely travelling up and down to the roof and support the safety of those below. The areas in school which this will mainly affect are;

- The right hand side of the car park double gated entrance/drive onto the school site (as this will be fenced off eventually for the fitting of an air source heat pump enclosure and a new bin enclosure)
- The walk way to year 4 which runs down the church side of the ks2 building (scaffolders have assured me that this walkway will still be accessible, but I will let you all know if this changes).

As you will have seen countless times in the news, school budgets are very tight and we are already seeing the benefits in our monthly tariffs of having LED lighting installed throughout both of our school buildings. This next phase of improving our sustainability is a big, exciting project and I will share more timescales as we get them. There is a current target date of 18th March for the Solar Panels to be installed and working. We can't wait!

(Continued on the next page.)

Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras Celebrations!

Thank you for organising the lovely activities Mr Etherington!



(Continued from 1st page) We have had our usual focus on children's mental health and wellbeing – which we know is an everyday priority at Bollington Cross – but we still like to highlight it as a week of raising awareness in the calendar. The children enjoyed the chance to express themselves and share their own unique style on the Friday of our Mental Health week and I know that Mrs Allen had organised and coordinated a great number of activities across the school. My Thanks to Mrs Allen for this, as the children really benefit from understanding that they are important, their voice is heard and that they are able to identify trusted adults to share their concerns with.

We have also had a number of activities to help the pupils celebrate Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday – marking the start of Lent. The children greatly enjoyed our Mardi Gras parade, Pancake races and Pancake decorating. A big thank you to Mr Etherington – our Worship Lead, for organising such brilliant activities. "This is the best Tuesday EVER!" was one pupil's review.

Though the Spring 1st Half-Term rarely has many big school events – it is a welcome chance after Christmas to get back to the routines and expectations, which school-life is built upon. We aim to support learners in understanding what is expected of them and what the different lessons of the day are. We find that with a better understanding of what is to come, pupils are more settled and ready to focus and learn. We refer to timings and written or visual timetables in classes to make our timetables as accessible as possible and this also supports any learners with additional needs. One way to support your child in a settled start to the school day is to look at the content on their class page of the website, so that they know the equipment they need and are mentally ready for the day. Getting your child to school on time, by 8.50am, is really important as it helps them stay calm and settled. Arriving late at school can mean that your child is anxious or emotional at the start of their day and this can disrupt the learning of their peers. Thank you to all those parents who have had a particular focus on this aspect since Christmas and to those who are always pushing to be on time consistently, regardless of our focus on attendance and punctuality. It is appreciated and supports our teachers and learners.

Thank you as always for your support and I hope you all have a good half-term.

Yenson Donbavand

Going Green with our Eco-Council

Our School Eco-Council are proudly working through an environmental review of our school in order to hopefully work towards and achieve the Green Flag award for Bollington Cross—meaning that we will be much more sustainable and consider the planet in all of our decisions.



Planting new fruit trees in the orchard



Learning in Reception

What a busy half term! It has gone so fast! We have loved starting our Forest School sessions - we have shown so much teamwork resilience and adventure during our time there - and we LOVE getting really muddy!

We have also loved our Family Reader sessions - we really look forward to them and sharing special books together!

Our topic this half term has focused on Superheroes - we have enjoyed lots of stories including Supertato where we made our own little superheroes and wondered about our own superpowers! We also thought about the story of Juniper Jupiter and practised retelling the story in our own ways.

We have started going to our school swimming lessons - the grown ups have been so incredibly proud of how independent we have been, how safe we have been travelling to and from the Leisure Centre and for how positive we have been with our learning. What superstars!

We have enjoyed taking Eric the Elephant home - he chooses someone to go home with each Friday and we record his adventures in a special book! We love to hear what he has been up to!

Thank you for all your hard work Team Reception and for continuing to make every day amazing!



A moment of prayer

Heavenly Father, as we enter the spring half-term break, we thank you for the warmth of the sun, the blossoming flowers, and the joy of new beginnings. Bless our children with safety, fun, and precious moments with loved ones. May they return refreshed and inspired. Amen.



Learning in Year 6

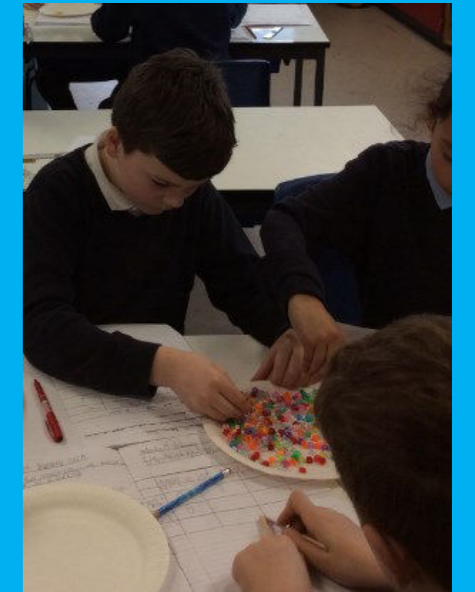
This half term everyone in Year 6 has continued to work incredibly hard in every lesson and be incredible role models around school.

In Year 6 we have been learning about Charles Darwin, adaptation, evolution and inheritance in our Science lessons and have been using our knowledge in our English lessons too:

In Science, we loved learning about inheritance and inherited characteristics through the use of Mr Men and Little Miss - we had to design the offspring of our chosen characters and even create variation between siblings.

We have also learnt about natural selection - we did a science investigation where we used different bird 'beaks' to see which would be best adapted to eat specific foods.

In English, we are currently really enjoying researching an animal ready to write our own explanation texts about how it has adapted to its environment.



D&T

This half term, we have been tasked with designing a new playground in our D&T lessons with Mrs Potts. We've learnt how to create different types of structures and are so proud of the models we've created!



Chinese New Year

Everyone in Year 5 and 6 really enjoyed the Chinese New Year dance session where we learnt sections for the dragon, the moon and strength as well as creating our own.

