



# Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



### Dear Families,

What a fantastic term it has been with a great many highlights! It is also good that the sun has decided to come out several times, especially now that the solar panels are fitted! In terms of an update on that front, we expect that the scaffolding will be removed hopefully by the time we get back to school on Monday 15th April. In terms of the Air Source Heat Pump it is looking likely that we may have some materials dropped off imminently, but that the work is likely now to be pushed to the Summer Half term or even into the Summer Holidays as it will require lots of access to the school building – which would not be feasible during term-time.

We are looking to improve many aspects of school all the time and recently this has included reviewing and improving our curriculum in Writing, Handwriting and the foundation subjects too. Our focus on handwriting has started to make a big difference with our pupils and for some pupils in particular the difference of their work pre and post this focus on handwriting is incredible. Our pupils are taking even greater pride in their work and I know from the lessons I see lower down school – the pupils in KS1 are very focused on improving their writing. From my room the other day I could hear a group of young writers demanding more writing tasks and wanting longer and more challenging spellings! What a great attitude they must have. This is also thanks to staff as they make a very regimented, daily session as fun and enjoyable as can be.

It has been lovely to see so many pupils and parents at our recent parent’s evenings. Thank you to all those who stopped by to say hello to me too. It is lovely that not all my conversations with parents focus on school. It is always great to hear what the parents of our pupils do for a living and get a sense of their ambitions for their children. It helps me to get to know, and serve, our school community even better. I do hope that the parent’s evenings were a success in your eyes, in terms of you feeling updated and able to ask any questions you wanted to regarding your child’s progress. Hopefully, you will see in this newsletter some of the reasons why our pupils are so engaged and therefore make good progress. Have a great Easter break!

*Mr Donbavand*

### If you go down to our woods today...

You’ll see that our Forest School Club and particularly Miss Purcell and Mrs Odell have been restoring our seating area, fire pit and our school pond! I really can’t thank everyone involved enough because everyone in school benefits from having a wonderful woodland on the school grounds to learn in and connect with nature. Now Miss Purcell has a new pair of waders, there really is no stopping her! Thank you also to Mrs Odell who helps at Forest School Club each week.



**Learning in Year 5** Last week in Year 5 we were fascinated by a scientific workshop called ‘Chemistry with Cabbage’. The day before the workshop there were a few sniggers when we talked about the title of the workshop. How could cabbage and chemistry combine? How could cabbage be part of a fun Science workshop. Well, once Mrs Foster started her workshop, it was clear that the Year 5 pupils were fascinated. They found out that the cabbage juice was a great liquid for testing whether other chemicals were acid, alkali or neutral. As the workshop developed they tried more and more chemicals and these culminated in some interesting colours, reactions and results! Year 5 were a credit to themselves and their listening was A+. It was such a pleasure for me to be with them during this workshop and I learned a lot too! Well done to all of our budding Scientists in Year 5! **Mr Donbavand**



### A Prayer for Easter

On Easter morn, we gather in gratitude. Bless our school with joy. Guide us in goodness. May love shine through us, inspiring kindness. In this season of hope, we thank you for grace and renewal. Amen.





### Learning in Year 1

Whenever I visit year 1, I am always bowled over by their independence and enthusiasm for learning. Here are some of their highlights of this Half-Term.

Scott- 'Learning about Easter and reading the Easter story.'

Molly G- 'Learning about lengths and heights in Maths and measuring objects in the classroom.'

Molly B- 'Learning about animals.'

Charlotte- 'I enjoyed the challenge where we made a boat for Max!'

Elsie- 'Making an Easter cross at Forest School.'

Willow- 'Handwriting with Mrs Odell.'

Emmie- 'Going to Forest School!'

Killian- 'Writing stories and making moving story books in DT.'

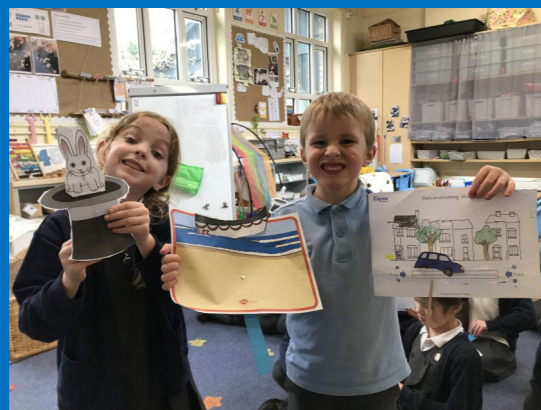
Isla- 'Making Easter cards.'

Martha- 'Open the Book assemblies.'

Annie-Mae- 'Our visit from Zoo2U because I like animals!'

Harriett- 'We learnt a new story called Where the Wild Things Are!'

Lyla- 'I have enjoyed PE.'



### Learning in Year 3

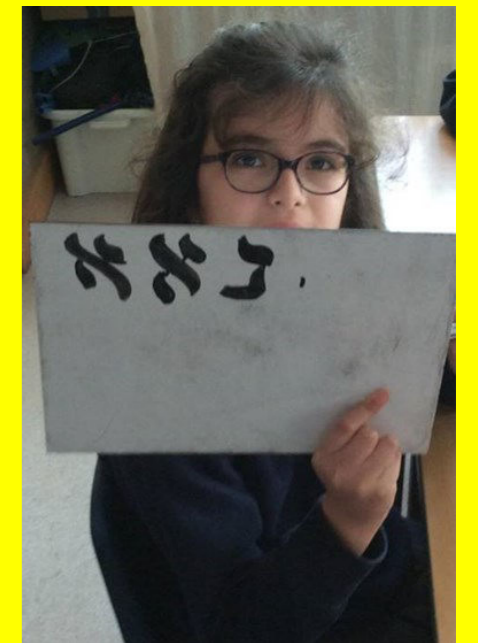
Class 3 have had a very busy build up to the easter break. As well as showing sheer determination and resilience in our lessons we ended with our wonderful experience at St Oswald's. It was great to meet new friends and carry out lots of fun activities culminating in our mini performance and gathering, where it was great to see so many of you there. Rev Jenny Eades sent a lovely email saying: "...I am emailing to ask you to give my thanks to your children. And to let all of you know that, today was, for me, a joyful and beautiful day that I know will be the highlight of this Easter - if not this year.

Your children behaved impeccably, with maturity, with enthusiasm, with joy and with thoughtfulness. I loved spending the day with them. It was so moving and wonderful to see the classes and the different coloured sweatshirts mixing in the course of the day." Have a lovely Easter Laura Smith



### Learning in Year 4

It's been a fantastic half-term in Year 4, packed with exciting learning and opportunities. In English, we enjoyed writing poems to the Wicked Witch from our class story, persuading her to give back the happy endings from much loved fairytales. We have thoroughly enjoyed studying Islam in RE, where we learned about everything from important prophets to holy texts places of worships. We even enjoyed learning to write our names in Arabic. We are also excited to hear back from Ms Yomna (a former colleague of Mr Etherington's) who will answer our questions about Ramadan via video. In Geography, we enjoyed learning about rainforests as well as conducting research and analysing data about how children and families use our local woodland. World Book Day was a real hit with all sorts of exciting book-based experiences. From book reviews and fancy dress to golden tickets and a Mad Hatter's tea party, we had a phenomenal time!



### Celebrating World Book Day 2024 at Bollington Cross

