



# Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



### Dear Families,

It has been such a privilege again this half-term to work with pupils and staff and observe the brilliant opportunities provided and the enthusiasm with which pupils learn at Bollington Cross. Our hard working team are always looking to improve and there are lots of subtle tweaks and also bigger changes happening around school on an on-going basis.

We recently had a reading audit take place and we will be working in partnership next year with the English Hub based at Lacey Green Primary. This is DFE-endorsed partnership. As we hoped and expected, they were very impressed with our approach, practice and outcomes and offered us the opportunity to formally support other schools in the area of Reading. Both Mrs Marshall and Miss Asbury lead on reading and continuously look to ensure our practice improves.

Work onsite for the new Air Source Heat Pump has begun and initially this is to build a new bin enclosure, before dismantling the old one (as this is the site for the two Air Source Heat Pumps). We are excited about this change and fingers crossed, all work is scheduled to be finished by September. This change, along with the new Solar Panels, makes us a much more sustainable school.

I know that Miss Purcell has given a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to our grounds and in particular the forest. She is working tirelessly, sometimes during weekends, to renovate the pond and hopefully encourage more wildlife to the habitat and also increase the usage of the pond by the school. It really has already changed a massive amount through lots of physical hard work and two of our upcoming priorities as spends include some landscaping and plants for the pond (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/pond-restoration-for-wildlife-children>) and a complete new wooden fence around it. If you work in an industry/company which may be able to help us with any of these priorities, please do let us know. One thing is clear: Every School needs a forest and every forest needs a Miss Purcell & Mrs Odell!

I know that the 2nd Half-Term at Bollington Cross has some great events and lots of opportunities for our pupils to make great memories, to bring the school community together and to get involved and help out. I know that the PTA are currently enlisting volunteers for the Summer Fair, so please do give your time if you can. I look forward to seeing you at these events next half-term.

In the meantime, have a great half-term and we will see you on Monday 3rd June.

*Mr Donbavand*



## Learning in Reception

Another busy half term in Reception! We have been enjoying thinking about the seasons and created our own beautiful trees showing each of the four seasons.

We've also explored how things grow and as well as planting our own beans, we enjoyed "The Tiny Seed" by Eric Carle. His unique illustrations inspired us to create our own flowers. The results are so lovely!

"The Extraordinary Gardener" helped us marvel at all the beautiful nature all around us - lots of the children enjoyed exploring watercolours and making their own observational paintings.

Our art focus continued into the forest when we explored transient art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy - using natural objects and different ways to arrange them - through stacking, through creating lines and spirals and through filling shapes.

What a creative class we have! We have also continued to try weekly challenges - completing independent activities focusing on different area of learning including writing, reading, maths, fine motor skills and construction.

We have been enjoying weekly handwriting lessons too to help us consolidate our letter formation and grow in good writing habits following our school handwriting scheme.

This has continued into our independent writing - writing sentences with increasing detail and checking them using our sentence checkers.

We are so proud of you all, team Reception!



## Learning in Year 5

What a lot we have packed into this short term! In science, we have been working scientifically to investigate unbalanced forces, including gravity, water resistance and air resistance. When the children investigated the effect of weight on friction, they evaluated their given equipment and method to discover the importance of a fair test! In History, we have been learning about Ancient Greece including the influence that the democratic ruling of Athens had on how our country is run today. In English, the class have worked hard to produce exciting survival narratives based on 'The Lost Book of Adventures'. Using the Kennings poetry they wrote about themselves, they have created impressive mixed media self portraits in Art.





## Miss Purcell & Miss Odell's work on improving our pond

As mentioned in my introduction to the Newsletter...

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/pond-restoration-for-wildlife-children>

Any more funds raised will be used to...

- continue to fill our pond with oxygenating plants to help with the long-term maintenance.
- landscape the area around the pond to attract and support wildlife.
- landscape around the pond area to ensure the children can have the most effective, and safe, learning opportunities in this space.
- fund new, secure fencing to surround the pond area and signage required for safety.
- Any other costs that crop up along the way!



## A moment of Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Bless our teachers, students, and parents with wisdom, curiosity, and strength. Help us spread love and peace, creating a nurturing community. Guide us always with Your presence.

Amen.



## Learning in Year 2

Year 2 have been scientists, explorers and reflective learners this half term! We have applied our learning about plants in science, planning and conducting our own science investigation to discover what plants need to germinate, grow and stay healthy. Our geography learning has taken us all around the world, learning about continents and oceans, and we've loved learning about what it's like to live near or visit the Jurassic Coast. Perhaps you have shared some of our maths learning at home too – as we have been focusing on sharing and fractions, and also telling the time. We have all really enjoyed the book we have read in English this term; 'The King Who Banned the Dark' by Emily Haworth-Booth, and we have worked so hard writing persuasive letters to discourage the King from banishing the dark from his Kingdom! We all enjoyed our visit to St Oswald's Church too – we were warmly welcomed by Reverend Jenny, and enjoyed exploring the church, looking for features that make it a very special building for some people. It has been a busy half term, and we are looking forward to more learning adventures after the break!



## Learning in Year 6

### Revision Learning

'I enjoyed the grammar relay and the games we played in maths.'  
'Coming up to SATs week I enjoyed the fun revision: games like 'keep or pass', reading 'traitors' and the grammar relay race.'

### SATs Week

'I have enjoyed feeling proud now I've completed SATs week.'  
'I liked it when we had breakfast!'  
'I really enjoyed SATs week: it was hard, challenging and involved lots of thinking.'  
**Crucial Crew visit - Year 6 attended a multi-agency safety event designed to provide children with life skills that will enable them to keep themselves and others safe.**  
'I really enjoyed Crucial Crew, especially when we learnt about the effects of alcohol.'  
'I loved Crucial Crew. It taught me things that are helpful like about CO, the effects of vapes and smoking and also alcohol. It really helped me.'



### Thanks!

I wanted to pay tribute, here, to our Year 6 pupils and all of the staff involved in the SATs assessments, which took place in the mornings last week. We are extremely proud of the Year 6 pupils, as they have worked so hard and approached the assessments with gusto, a smile, a healthy amount of seriousness and a composed manner. As they were the class who started Reception in Sept 2017, the same day I started as Headteacher at Bollington Cross, I can certainly vouch for the fact that they have always had a fab attitude. To see them first hand last week, approaching the SATs in such a fantastic way was a pleasure and a proud moment as I reflected on all of the people who have helped them on their journey, but most vital is their own motivation, grit and hard work – which was abundantly apparent. SATs and assessments will come and go, but these characteristics will serve the pupils well in life as well as their future learning.

Mrs Marshall has again done an excellent job in teaching them during the 'home straight' of year 6. It is no mean feat to get the pupils to take the assessments seriously, but not get worried; to approach them with enthusiasm, but never be overwhelmed. I know that our collective message in school is that SATs are just another assessment on a child's learning journey and that they are a snapshot of learning. We just aim for the pupils to be as best prepared to give of their best when the time comes and never be phased by an assessment of their learning. I feel that we get that balance right and that is through the hard work Mrs Marshall and all of the team involved in the preparation. I can't speak highly enough of the fantastic level of organisation and preparation involved in the running of the week itself.

I know that parents have played their part too.; whether in providing emotional support, early nights, hearty-breakfasts or supporting with homework. Thank you to all involved!

**Mr Donbavand**

