



# Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Dear Families,

I will open by thanking the whole school community, parents, teaching staff for their support in what has been a busy and at times very challenging half-term.

You will already know that Mrs Day, a member of our team, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in early October. A number of our staff will be attending her funeral on Thursday November 7th. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding at such a sad time for many of our families and staff.

We have had some lovely recent events recently in school including Reception, Year 1, 2&3 and Year 4, 5&6 Harvest festivals which highlighted the strength of our school community as we came together to celebrate the harvest, learn how valuable and abundant our planet is and hear some amazing singing performances from our pupils. My thanks to Rev Jenny Eades, from St Oswald's, and Joe Etherington in particular for their role in coordinating the services and the donations – which will go to the Silklife food bank in Macclesfield. <https://www.silklife.co.uk/foodbank>

We have also had three Autumn Discos and it was appropriate that this week the value we were focusing on was being thankful for music. During assembly today, many of the children shared why they loved the discos so much. Thank you to all the volunteers who put in shifts last night to create a great, free event for our pupils.

Our pupils have continued to impress us during this first half term back getting into new routines and working with new people to build up positive relationships. I really feel that it is important that staff become 'experts' in each child, what makes them tick, what gets the best out of them; essentially—how we can get the most positive outcomes in all of our interactions. I feel privileged to visit lessons and speak to children around school to hear about these excellent relationships first-hand. I feel that every member of the team seeks also to live out and support the children in their educational journeys as they interact around school. The phrase, 'When the adults change, everything changes', was coined by behaviourist Paul Dix a number of years ago and it sought to summarise the difficulties and challenges met by young learners when they are suddenly under the guidance of a different person. At our school, I feel assured that the vast majority of pupils move with ease from one adult to another, which is testament to the strong, positive relationships we nurture and encourage. Speaking of positive relationships, thank you to you all for spreading the word about Bollington Cross last year as we were over-subscribed in September this year! Please do so again, as we will be starting parent tours after half-term.

In terms of school development, this year we have prioritised the areas of Mathematics, Special Educational Needs and Attendance. We look forward, once these plans are agreed by Governors, to working with parents to improve and develop in these areas throughout the year.

Please look out for opportunities to book Parent's Evening appointments later this afternoon, as links will be sent home to our scheduling software.

In the meantime, have an excellent half-term week and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

*Mr Y Donbavand*



Living life in all its fullness at Bollington Cross!



## Learning in Reception

It's been so wonderful to get to know all the new Reception children - they have settled so well and we are super proud of how hard they have worked over these past few weeks. It's been so busy - getting used to our new routines, making new friends, finding our way independently around our new classroom - not to mention beginning lots of new learning - our Fred Time, Maths, Music, Wellbeing, Dance and PE lessons and much more in-between!



## Learning in Year 3

Well what can I say! The year 3 children have impressed me with their skills to work as a team. They have thoroughly loved the Iron Giant writing and were engrossed when writing - they produced some brilliant pieces of writing. Hopefully their love of writing will continue.

I have been amazed at how well they have settled into the junior routines and we have shared some giggles along the way. Have a brilliant break and see you after half term.



## Learning in Year 2

This term in Science, Year 2 have been learning all about different habitats. We sorted animals and plants that live in coastal, rainforest, woodland and ocean habitats and thought about why each one was well suited to where it lives. We really enjoyed exploring our own forest habitat here at school and recording what wildlife lived there and why. Then we created food chains showing how energy is passed from one living thing to another in each of the different places.





## Going Green

To update you all on our Air Source Heat Pump project – essentially everything is in place regarding the electrics and the plumbing and we now await the connecting up and commissioning of the ASHP. My understanding is that the ASHP may have less output than our gas boiler and therefore we have had extra heaters added around school to ensure that the output meets the requirements for the ks2 building. The solar panels, on the other hand, have been installed and working since about May and seem very efficient. They are generating 30kw hours at their optimum. The idea behind the project, is that the reduction in electricity usage gained by fitting the Solar Panels will then be utilised by the running of the ASHP. Whether this leaves us neutral across the year in terms of energy usage, remains to be seen, but the school is now much more sustainable with regard to its reliance on fossil fuels. I must thank our Chair of Governors, Fraser Penny, who has been instrumental in helping oversee the project with me (especially whilst I was out of the country in the Summer) and calculating all the usage and finance projections in the background! Our hope is that the planet, the school, and its pupils, benefit from these improvements for years to come.



## TT Rockstars

We have some super Rock Star pupils that have been improving their their times tables knowledge on Times Tables Rockstars. This is a great way to practise times tables facts and speedy recall with various fun games at school and at home. They can challenge each other, collect coins and climb the leader board the more they play! Your child should know how to log on at home at TTRS.COM but please ask the teacher if you need help with this. You can also find a link to a handy parent guide on class Dojo.

## Learning in Year 4

What a terrific start to Year 4! The children have settled beautifully and they have really hit the ground running. From writing diaries and setting narratives in English to learning all about rainforests and geography, it's been all systems go and it's been fantastic to see the class grow in confidence and further develop their love for learning. Year 4 have also led the way in leading collective worship and they are real champions of our school values. Well done Year 4! Have a wonderful half-term and I hope you're looking forward to the next part of our learning journey.



A resident rainforest tribe using the forest's natural resources to build a shelter in geography.



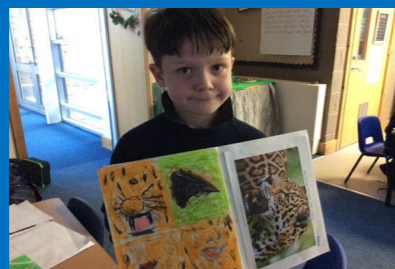
Eager-eyed scientists identify flowering and non-flowering plants.



It's day one and Year 4 take to the hollow for an adventurous Maths investigation.



A tremendous group effort, leading collective worship for KS2.

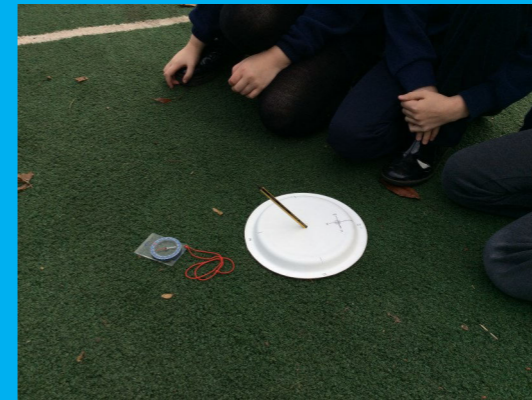


Year 4 capture different prints and patterns found in the rainforest.



## Learning in Year 5:

This term in Year 5, we have been immersed in exploring Space. We wrote a narrative and a formal report based on our investigations of Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 mission. This was supported by our science lessons, during which we created a model of the solar system, made sundials, and visited Jodrell Bank. In Art, we explored retro-futurism and created our own futuristic artwork by blending printing and drawing.



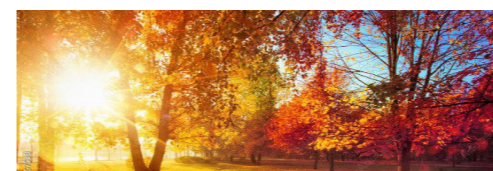
## Learning in Year 6

What a great start we have had to Year 6! As well as working hard in our Writing, Reading and Maths lessons, Year 6 have been learning about Hinduism this term; focusing on traditions and celebrations. At Raskha Bandhan, a time to appreciate generosity, they made 'Rahki' bracelets for family members. In Science, we have also been learning about classifying living organisms and had fun making different phylums of invertebrates out of playdough. We also had super time at PGL, pushing ourselves (adults included) to take on different challenges and spend a few days together. The children were brilliant and had a super time!



## A moment of prayer

Loving God, Thank You for Autumn's harvest, for shared celebrations, and for the joyful gatherings organised by our caring volunteers. Bless our community with rest, gratitude, and renewal this half-term. Amen.



Scoop and Scales eco film: Wilding

19th November

Film at 8, Doors at 7.30

Venue: Bollington Cross Primary School (SK10 5EG)

join us for our last eco film of 2024

Wilding is a 2023 documentary film based on Isabella Tree's book about her and her husband's decision to let their land at Knepp in West Sussex return to nature.

Watch the trailer [here](#) To help us manage numbers, please sign up for tickets [here](#)