



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School



Ho Ho Ho!

Dear Families,

It is a real privilege to be part of the team here at Bollington Cross and to work with and support the staff to get the best outcomes for our pupils. A prime example of just how far our pupils are developing in terms of confidence, respect and happiness was in our recent Nativity and Christmas Concerts. As a school leader who values highly their knowledge of all pupils and their educational journey, I was beaming with pride seeing them perform so well across different roles. I hope you feel the performances had the right mixture of energy, warmth, solemnity and professionalism from the pupils. I certainly thought they performed amazingly and should all be proud of themselves. Thank you for all the lovely feedback after the performances and for encouraging all of our pupils.

It has been a challenging term in several ways and I am always struck by the way the staff stick together and support each other in such a compassionate way. I have no doubt that the positive relationships staff foster with each other and with our pupils enable us to move mountains together and get through any setbacks we have.

A few of the challenges facing us at Bollington Cross are in the realms of finance, governorship and the PTA. In terms of finance there have been a raft of changes from the government which are yet to fully hit in terms of whether Bollington Cross will be a winner or loser in the recent set of funding decisions. Two key pushes from the government are tooling up schools like ours to better support SEND pupils and also a drive to improve attendance across the UK.

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Merry Christmas from everyone at Bollington Cross CE Primary School!



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With finance in mind, the PTA play such an important role in supporting school and have notably donated £6000 for a school library and £3000 for new laptops over the past couple of years as well as hosting and organising a range of brilliant events – including free-to-access discos. Some of you may already know that Kelly Harris is stepping down as Chair of the PTA in January and it really is hard to put into words how much effort and energy she has given to the school, especially when you consider that she was Vice-Chair when I arrived in Sept 2017! I am determined that at the next PTA event we will give her a fitting send off and thanks, however, this does mean that we are currently looking for a new PTA chair. Please consider whether this role is something you would consider as we are a school passionate about ensuring that the PTA funds are always spent on things that positively impact on as many pupils as possible.

We will also be looking to appoint 2 new Parent Governors in January to expand our Governing Body and boost its capacity. There are many areas of expertise needed in order to ensure the smooth running of a primary school and we have a number of projects and initiatives you may be able to support or take the lead in, including moving our catering service in-house and continuing to ensure financial sustainability and excellent outcomes for our pupils. If you feel you can support the school in this capacity, please put yourself forward in the January parent governor election.

I'll finish with another big thanks. Sarah, Tracey and Alexandra in the school kitchen have done an incredible job of producing delicious Christmas Dinners across 7 classes over Tuesday and Wednesday this week. Having eaten two myself (no...not on the same day!) I can say that the meals tasted absolutely delicious and they were cooked to perfection. The children loved their dinners and I am so grateful to the team. Well done to the team in the Kitchen – we are lucky to have them!

All that remains, is for me to thank parents for their ongoing support of the school, their feedback and their kind words about the team. I hope you all have a restful and rejuvenating Christmas period with family and friends and I look forwarding to us working together again in 2025 to make Bollington Cross the best it can be in every area.

Best Wishes, *Mr Donbavand*

Christmas Performances at St Oswald's Church





Learning in Year 5

This term in Year 5, we have explored the world in both a small and large scale. Within Geography, we have been comparing The Alps with Bollington, looking at the leisure facilities both offer and what could be done to improve. In Science, we have been investigating mixtures and solutions, conducted many experiments to see the changes that occur and how we can separate different mixtures. Within English, we have written a setting description and a letter based off the book 'The Farther'. In Maths, we have immersed ourselves within the world of fractions. Towards the end of the year, we created an advent spiral with Reverend Nancy and have also been fortunate to have had Cheshire East Fire come in to talk with the children. Miss Braddock



Learning in Year 3

Well what a busy half term. We started on an adventure to Poole's Cavern. The children were engrossed and bemused by the rock formations and the information we were told. They were also a little distracted by the Christmas decorations.

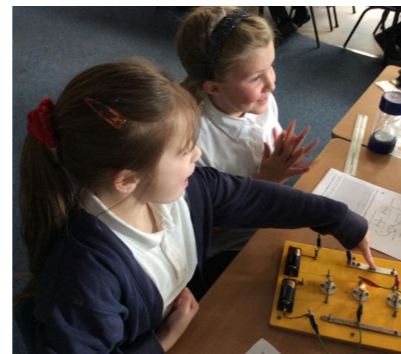
We have also made links with our pen-friends in Dean Valley and can't wait to meet them in 2025.

What stars they all are in the productions~ all the staff that work with your children in year 3 were all really proud of the way they conducted themselves in the church. All trying really hard with their lines, the singing and remembering what to do!



Learning in Year 4

What a fun-packed half-term it's been in Year 4. From studying the digestive system in science, to designing and making biscuits in science, it's been food galore in our class. In geography, we even enjoyed learning about sourcing food sustainably, considering things such as food miles and Fairtrade. We also had a 'buzzing' morning, when we participated in an electricity workshop, where we learned all about circuits and different components. In writing, we wrote outstanding outsider narratives – stories about an animal that found themselves lost in a foreign land and in maths, we completed units in addition and subtraction, area, and we are currently learning about multiplication and division. We have also enjoyed a range of reflective experiences in worship, from Advent and Christmas preparations to observing remembrance on 5th November, where the children laid poppy rocks at the memorial cross on Kingsway. Year 4 continue to go from strength to strength. Have a well-earned rest over the holidays and we look forward to another exciting chapter in the New Year. Mr Etherington



Save the date: Tuesday March 4th at 7pm Location: Bollington Cross School Hall

I am pleased to announce that in Partnership with Lucy Griffiths (Sensory Wise Owls) we are putting on an event to offer insight and advice to any parents in the area whose children have meltdowns or processing challenges after the school day. This will be a pay-as-you-feel event for any local parent. Please pop it in your calendar if you are interested! More details and how to book will follow in January.



Wonderful news which I should have shared way before now.....

In October Mrs Marshall started her Maternity leave and a couple of weeks later....little Reuben appeared!

Mrs Marshall has since been able to pop back in and see us and she has already perfected the rocking-whilst-standing motion to keep baby Reuben pacified. She will never stand still again!

Whilst she was here, she went around the classrooms and the children were thrilled to see them both. Mrs Marshall will be back towards the Summer, but it good to see that her and her little one are doing really well.



Learning in Year 6

Year 6 got to experience High School this term with a visit to Tytherington School. They took part in a forensics investigation to find out who had stolen a laptop. The children got to take part in using scientific techniques such as looking at material under a microscope, using chromatology to identify inks and investigating fingerprints. The children enjoyed their first experience of High School.



A moment of reflection...

Dear God,
Thank You for this special time of year.
Bless our family with love, joy, and togetherness.
Help us to be kind, generous, and caring to others.
May our home be filled with peace and happiness.
Amen.

