



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have managed to cram a lot into a Spring 2nd Half-Term, as our pupils have worked incredibly hard around school and there have been lots of celebrations of their achievements, whether through dojo, collective class rewards, Headteacher Awards or coming to visit me to show off their hard work.

As a staff this half-term, we have invested some time in reflecting together on our Learning Environment Policy. We are always striving to create a calm and purposeful learning environment in our classrooms and limit distractions as much as we can, hence our request to reduce the items coming in from home. This has removed the clutter from children's bags, desks and trays and though not popular with all pupils, has led to better concentration, tidier learning environments and no worry or upset about things going missing. Thank you very much for your continued support with this (especially in Year 5 and Year 6 where parents may not be actively the ones with responsibility for packing their child's bag) In terms of our learning environments, we are always looking to reduce the sensory 'clutter' and this has led to consistent use of visual-timetables, hessian-backed displays and neutral tones in all of our learning spaces. We certainly see evidence of how a pared-down environment can positively support our learners.

Our investment in outdoor play and learning continued with the arrival of our Loose-Parts play and this half-term we have really seen the benefits of this. The equipment has been used daily for a number of creative ideas: I have spotted; stages, drum kits, podiums, shops, salons, offices, cars, trains, boats and assault courses! It has definitely increased creativity and also eradicated any boredom the astro-turf! A visiting school recently remarked how lucky the pupils are to have such engaging play equipment. To carry on this theme and make our pupils even more active, we will have some outdoor Gym equipment installed towards the end of May. Another exciting addition to our outdoor provision! **(Continued on next page)**



We have had a number of excursions and fixtures too, with trips to Peak Wildlife Park, and the Museum of Science and Industry within the last week or so and Year 3 experienced a visit to Dean Valley to see their penpals and a visit from pupils at St John's for a prayer experience at St Oswald's.

Whilst Spring term is often seen as the clearest in terms of events, we have also held Parents' Evenings, hosted our School improvement Partner visit, had a Church Family of Schools preparation Visit (for next Year's SIAMs inspection), enjoyed World Book Day, hosted an evening event aimed at supporting parents and had a host of PTA and Church events as well as school photographs day! With most of these things happening in the last three weeks of this term, I'd like to thank everyone involved in all of these initiatives and events for all their time and effort to support school.

I do hope that you all have a restful Easter, which includes some time for you and your family to rest and re-energise. Happy Easter!

Yenson Donbavand

Learning in Reception

What a busy half term it has been! It has flown by! Some of our highlights include celebrating World Book Day! Getting ready for Lent! Having a visit from a Bog Baby! Beginning our swimming lessons! Reception have done so well - they have been safe and sensible walking to and from the Leisure Centre with their partners as well as being superstars getting dressed and undressed independently. The swimming teachers have been so impressed with Reception - they always try their best and always have a smile on their face!



Celebrating World Book Day!

As always, we are really proud of you all Team Reception and we look forward to another busy term after Easter!



Getting ready for Lent!



Having a visit from a Bog Baby!

Dear God,

Thank You for the beauty of Easter— a time of hope, joy, and new beginnings. Help us to be kind, to share love, and to appreciate the blessings around us. May our hearts be filled with peace and happiness today and always. Amen.





Learning in Year 2

What a fantastic day Year 2 had at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester! We discovered all about how our senses work and how messages get sent to our brains in the Operation Ouch! exhibition then explored the Revolution and Textiles gallery to find out about important events in the history of Manchester. We finished by being Scientists in the experiment gallery, learning about magnets, friction and light and taking on building challenges to see whether we could succeed as engineers in the future.



Learning in Year 1

Year One had a wonderful day at Peak Wildlife Park on Monday 31st March as part of our Science topic about comparing animals. The sun was shining and the children represented Bollington Cross fantastically. We saw polar bears, lemurs, penguins, bush dogs, arctic foxes and more. We even got the opportunity to feed wallabies and see joeys in their pouches! What a great day!



Learning in Year 4

What a wonderful half-term it's been in Year 4! From dance workshops to designing wind-up cards, our class has been jam-packed with exciting learning opportunities. In English, we have enjoyed writing refugee narratives, based on the book, The Journey and in maths, we have progressed with multiplication and division as well as learning to calculate the perimeter of rectangles and polygons. In science, we loved learning about states of matter which included conducting interesting investigation to measure changes in state such as melting and evaporation. In art, we learned how to create different shades and textures with pencil and water colours. This influenced observational works as well as our Easter cards which were also inspired by the tradition crosses displayed on the way into Bollington. And how could we forget extra thrilling initiatives like World Book Day and a Chinese New Year dance workshop. A huge thank you to everyone involved, including the parent volunteers who supported with making cars and of course to all the children for always trying their very best!



Learning in Year 5:

In Year 5 we have been exploring the isolating and yet hopeful story of The Promise. The children have created a third-person narrative that describes the lonely world a little girl lives in and the impact she had on her city. We then wrote a Newspaper Report to re-tell the positive impact like it was real life. Within Geography, we explored 'Why our oceans are important.' We investigated coral bleaching, over-fishing, tourism and plastic pollution. In Science, we have looking at and comparing the life cycles plants, birds, mammals and insects. In RE, we have been exploring the topic of 'How have expressions of worship changed over time?' through the religion of Christianity. For our DT day, we investigated pop-up books and designed our very own based on a nursery rhyme or short story.



Learning in Year 3

Year 3 have had a really busy half term. They have connected with St-Johns in the Easter Experience and led worship for KS2 in the church. We also managed to go to Dean Valley to connect with our pen-friends. We carried out a challenge where we had to search for clues across their grounds and then we enjoyed the weather and play equipment in another school. Great job Year 3. Have a great Easter!



Our Netballers

The netball team have worked really hard since September. It ended on a high in the tournament. Thanks to all that have shown up, especially the volunteers from Tytherington High School.



A note from the school office

- *Snack forms to the office asap (no form/payment means no snacks) – payment on Parent Mail please.
- *Anyone needing assistance for set up on Parent Mail please arrange to pop in to see Carole Nelson.
- *Childcare Voucher payments – please email admin@ when you have made a voucher payment, with the voucher company used, amount, reference and date.
- *Please supply evidence of medical appointments to authorise your child's future medical absences.
- *hats and sunscreen for sunny days (apply at home prior to school)