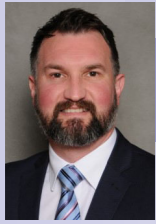




Autumn 1st Half-Term 2019

Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had an exciting start back to this academic year and there are a great many items to share with you all in this newsletter.

Our new pupils have settled in well and their families have been a welcome addition to the Bollington Cross School Community. A community which has come together, recently, to support the Young Minds charity and also to make donations for those in need during our Harvest Celebrations. Thank you all for your generosity and time in supporting these causes.

Speaking of Harvest, our celebrations were a fantastic showcase for the singing, reading, story telling and poetry of our pupils. Both performances were well-attended and enjoyed by all. As always, I was impressed by how enthusiastic our pupils are about singing. Music and singing are vital parts of our curriculum and boost skills for pupils in many other areas of learning. I know that, with Mr Gibson as our new Music Curriculum Lead, BCPS will remain committed to continuing to encourage high standards of musical skills and knowledge.

Thank you all for the way you encourage your children by attending school events such as these.

Mr Y. Donbavand



School Improvements: Read, Write, Inc and our new playground

We have been investing in many areas of the school over the past two years, most recently £8000, from the PTA, went towards classroom furniture and learning resources. We have, recently, also invested a brand new Read, Write, Inc phonics scheme to teach the vital skill of reading in a more consistent, systematic and engaging way. This investment in staff CPD, learning resources and reading materials is already showing its impact on the progress of young readers. We have trained a team of seven staff and we are already looking to increase this with 2 more staff being trained in 1:1 tutoring. Reading is such an important tool for unlocking reasoning questions in Maths and accessing, enjoying and understanding the wider curriculum. One of the most important aspects is to ensure that our pupils develop a love of reading. Even as they progress through Key Stage Two, children still need regular practise at home and at school. They also need regular modelling of good reading and the many skills that adults use to piece together meaning. So no matter how good or fluent they are, keep reading to them and enjoying books together!



Another aspect of education we are passionate about is Physical Education and activity. We are investing over £30,000 in our playground and work is due to commence on November 4th to replace old equipment (an outline of which can be seen below). We are having basketball hoops, football goals and cricket wickets attached to our new fencing and we are replacing the current adventure playground with a climbing trail/circuit. We have purchased a low level interlocking barrier also, which will enable us to section off areas of the playground for different games during lunch time. The children have been involved in ideas and kept informed through assemblies. They are really excited about these changes.



Parents who are new to the school will not be aware that we are looking to have an all-weather pitch and running track installed on our school field. This would nearly double our space for daily play, whatever the weather. This is still firmly at the planning stage and we are awaiting a decision on whether we can consider proceeding with this.



Fees and Payments

Please support school in enabling trips, after school clubs and before and after school care by making sure all payments to school are on time.

A recent look into our school finances, highlighted the fact that 97 sets of parents are yet to pay any fees for swimming lessons. This equates to just over half of our pupils. We cannot sustain opportunities such as swimming unless we have significant improvement in this area. Chasing monies owed also takes valuable time away from our office staff which could be spent on more productive areas for school.

Thank you in advance for prioritising the timely paying of any fees owed.

Good attendance at BCPS

School attendance currently sits at **97.8%**, with 95% being the national average. I am always eager to improve in this area, with the target of maintaining a 97% average as a minimum. We have seen a rise in the number of parents requesting an authorised absence in the register, when the circumstances do not meet the criteria for the request. Please ensure you are aware of our Attendance Policy and update your knowledge of our agreed procedures.

It can be found here;

http://www.bollingtoncross.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/317205

We take attendance and punctuality seriously and want every child to be given the chance to succeed and make good progress. We remind parents and carers of what constitutes good attendance during two parent's evenings and also as part of our annual, individual school report.

Reception: 99.4%	Year 1: 97.97%	Year 2: 98.46%	
Year 3: 99.32%	Year 4: 95.00%	Year 5: 97.02%	Year 6: 97.34%

Thank you for continuing to support good attendance across the school.

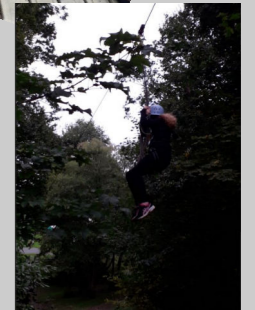
PSHCE: Our work towards a new curriculum

Bollington Cross is a member of the Tytherington Partnership, along with other local feeder schools. We have been working together in order to improve the teaching and provision for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. We have a strong record in these areas, which recent improvements; such as our Nurture setting and our work on Mental Health Ambassadors are a part of. As a group of schools, we are developing a cluster school-wide curriculum to ensure that the pupils at any feeder schools get an engaging and consistent message around keeping themselves physically and mentally well, recognising and reporting risks to their safety and being a positive citizen as they get older. Having Tytherington High School's involvement, means that they can build, at Year 7, on the key knowledge and understanding gained by pupils in their Primary School Years. We will begin to implement this curriculum during the Summer term, in readiness for the statutory requirements for PSHCE, which come into effect in September 2020. In order to support your understanding of the PSHCE Curriculum, we intend to invite parents in to get a better understanding of what our statutory duties around this subject are and the ages and stages at which pupils will gain this vital knowledge. I will give you more details on this during the Spring Term, but wanted to make you aware of this innovative approach to ensuring the best provision in this subject for a community of young people reaching wider than just our own pupils. Our aim is for a whole community of pupils to benefit from this collaborative approach.



Year 6 Residential

On 23rd September, Year 6 left for three action-packed days at PGL's Boreatton Park. Activities included abseiling, raft building, zipwire and the ever-popular giant swing. It was wonderful to see the children overcoming fears and meeting challenges and, most importantly, having fun.



Representing our school

4 of our pupils have been trained, in partnership with THS, to be Emotionally Healthy School Ambassadors. Zak, Tyla, Alessia and Teddy, our ambassadors, led an assembly for the whole school on October 10th, which was World Mental Health Day. In a very mature and engaging presentation, they gave some positive messages and guidance for children and adults, around keeping mentally healthy. They also chose themed activities for classes to enjoy. The four ambassadors have now been involved for nearly 12 months in this initiative and have already worked so hard.



Although I've been terrible at getting any photos so far, the football teams have represented us really well in our first home fixture and in a recent Macclesfield Tournament. Both teams fought hard for a result in torrential rain and on a very muddy pitch! Both Teddy and Bobby, our goalkeepers, finished the game covered in mud. Both teams were beaten by Mottram, but the standard throughout was very high and the children gave everything. Some pupils also represented the school in the Macclesfield Cup recently too, at Derby Fields. Although they didn't qualify from the group stages—again the children gave it everything. Well done all involved!

A moment of Prayer

Dear Lord,
As summer into autumn slips,
O give me grace today
To rise and turn as summer's leaves
Draw life and strength from heavenly rays
Amen



We know you will join us in wishing Mrs McGarey a happy and relaxing Maternity Leave (and house move!). She finishes today to start this exciting chapter. We look forward to her popping in to see us once she has welcomed her new arrival.