



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



A moment of prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the year we have experienced in school.

Thank you for all of the members of our community who love and care for us and encourage us in all we do.

Help us to recognise them and be thankful for them, as they help us to grow and develop.

Amen.



What an amazing year!





Dear Families,

I will start by thanking you for everything you do to support the school. This may be in a range of different capacities and may vary in time and frequency, but every little bit of it is appreciated. This year we have had volunteers from our community for:

- Listening to and supporting young readers
- Supporting trips to the swimming baths
- Volunteering in forest school
- Giving up your time and energy to run/support/attend an event
- Running a pop up uniform Shop
- Sharing your knowledge to come in and teach a session
- Sitting on the Governing Body
- Sharing your experiences of our schools with others – we have a full in-take again for September
- Supporting your child to engage with and love learning at home too
- Attending class showcases, open evenings, leaver’s assemblies, Sports Days, Summer Parties and all the other events we’ve had!

I really do believe that energy and enthusiasm is reciprocated throughout our community and every time that happens the energy builds further. Basically, you being how you are encourages us to go the extra mile. Teachers being who they are encourages our pupils to go the extra mile too. This energy bounces off in all sorts of directions and bounces back to us. And somewhere in there is a headteacher, looking around and saying, “These lot are amazing! Pupils, parents and Teachers all giving everything!” You can probably guess the impact that has on me. It makes me want to go the extra mile too and have lots of passion and energy to bounce back to everyone! Including Governors, who challenge, support and encourage me/us at every turn. So...you get the picture...there’s a lot of energy and enthusiasm bouncing about! We should all feel happy to be part of such a thriving, supportive, enthusiastic and inclusive community. The Bollington Cross Primary School Community.

One of the big themes of our recent parent survey was exactly the words I have used above. The warmth with which parents have spoken about our community is amazing. Parents have commented how inclusive the Sports Day was and how inclusive and affordable the Summer Party was too. Thank you to those that got in touch regarding the class photos...I did my best. I just wanted to offer things like that for free – with the awareness that we serve a variety of families in different financial contexts and these were practical examples of how we could support those finding things hard. Another example of this being the pop-up uniform shop, which will return in September. We are approachable and if you are experiencing difficulty with any fees – there may be a way we can help – so reach out.

It has been a particularly poignant end to the year with some staff moving on for different reasons. All of it is positive for the people involved, but the depth of connections they’ve made at Bollington Cross during their time is what makes it a wrench for staff, pupil and parents. It is a testament to the community that people feel this strongly and I know many of you have wished Miss Bennett, Miss Latham, Miss Bracegirdle and Mr Hodgkinson well on their future journeys. Miss Bennett and Miss Latham, in particular feel, like part of the bricks and mortar at the school! We will miss them. We have told them all how brilliant they are and ensured they have felt our love throughout the past few weeks especially, but throughout the whole of their time here.



With big metaphorical shoes to fill – recruitment becomes a really important aspect of how a school grows and improves. Never before have I felt so acutely aware of the trust shown by everyone in the Governing Body and our Senior Leadership Team in recruiting the right people. In studying the NPQEL I have reflected on how culture and ethos are vital and based on our recent parent feedback and our own feelings – we are in a very good place in terms of 91% of parents reporting that the school’s ethos enables good learning and progress. I am very confident that our culture can be retained whilst some of the lovely faces change. Thank you for putting your trust in us to make the right decisions. I am very excited to welcome our new staff and I know that they will fit into and further develop the great culture we have at Bollington Cross.

I have seen our pupils have experienced a lot of growth and development and reading and commenting on each report just brings home how much effort they have all put in throughout the year. Their energy and enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge has really come through yet again this year. The pupils have thrived during this first stable ‘post-covid’ year and have been able to build and strengthen those essential positive relationships with peers and the staff who support them around school.

Our Year 6 pupils have had an amazing final year and especially in this last few weeks have really come into their own and shown that they are ready for the next phase in their education in every way. They are a brilliant bunch and were a pleasure to trek 14km with yesterday! They have had boundless energy and enthusiasm and I know Miss Bold has enjoyed teaching them. The diverse nature of their characters certainly came through in their leaver’s production / performance and they leave as happy, healthy and confident pupils, who have discovered and developed some passions during their primary years. They are also adept in discussing their feelings and this has never been more vital than in our current times. I hope that we have given them the tools needed in this sense to lead happy lives and have a positive impact on the world, as I am sure they will.

I was clear in my words at the Leaver’s Assembly that our pupils are not ‘their results’ as these capture little of them as individuals and they are ‘A+ people’. However, they did achieve very well and there were so many success stories in their results in terms of just how much progress they have made. To circle back to my first theme, they have benefited from and reflected back Miss Bold’s enthusiasm this year in Year 6.

Staff will get together today and reflect, over a few drinks and nibbles, on the year and should all be proud of their achievements. I mean for starters – we are on our 5th Education Secretary of this academic year! In spite of this, they have offered amazing commitment, professionalism, care, camaraderie, support and challenge to me and to our pupils. The relationships they have with our pupils really are the golden thread running through the school. The depth of this connection being evident in this morning’s assembly. I thank the staff and wish them all an amazing and refreshing break.

I look forward to the next academic year (but will get a rest in the interim) with great positivity at all of the opportunities we have, at new goals and targets, at new initiatives and possibilities. I look forward to working in partnership with parents towards these for the benefit of all of our pupils. I do continue to feel proud and privileged every day to be part of our school community and again thank you all for the part you play in it.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Mr Y.Donbavand