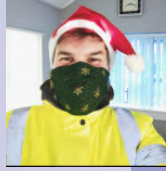




Autumn 2nd Half Term 2020

Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Many times during 2020 I have thought about how pertinent our school values are to the times we find ourselves in. This year has challenged everyone to be more resilient, resourceful, reflective and respectful. Resilience has been shown in many ways by our whole school community, not least our pupils, who have been amazing in their attitudes since returning in September.

It is often said, and I believe, that young people adapt to changes quickly and with less challenge sometimes than adults. I remember my, then 4 year-old, asking upon seeing a group of teenagers during the Summer, "Daddy, why are those people not social distancing?" That question suggested that for my little one, she had taken on board that change at an early age with some developing understanding. I am sure you have all had experiences of explaining changes to your sons and daughters regarding what can and can't be done and you will have also probably seen them adapt their actions to show their understanding. The resilience of all of the pupils at Bollington Cross has been brilliant. They have taken all of the new requests and challenges in their stride and adapted to a new way of enjoying school from the safety of their bubbles.

Our attendance data up to these final two weeks has really been incredible (97.8%) – with a few 100% days sprinkled through the term. This is testament to children, staff and families following the guidance. A big thank you for this. Although, Reception went home for just over a week, this represents pretty much a full term for most children. I do not know how many schools up and down the UK can say that. So, once again – thank you everyone for following all the guidance and rules on and off the school site.

As it is unlikely I may see you all in person (that is just one of the reasons I enjoyed previous Nativity Performances!) I will take this opportunity to wish you all a good Christmas and a healthy and positive New Year. Thank you lastly for all the kind words, letters of best wishes and lovely feedback during a challenging time for everyone. I have been blown away by some of the lovely feedback and it really does support the team and I to garner energy and strength to know the impact our work and approaches have on individual pupils and families.

Thank you all for continuing to help make the Bollington Cross community one to be proud of.

Mr Yenson Donbavand

A Festive Sing-along

With restrictions on singing inside school in place, I have managed to catch a little time with a handful of volunteer singers from Year 5 and Year 6 and record a cover of Dickie Valentine's 'Christmas Alphabet' and also a verse of 'Little Donkey' to be mixed in with pupils from across the other Bollington Schools. Getting together and practising was not easy and sessions took place outside. Thank you to the children involved. The children and I certainly felt reminded of the mental health benefits of singing together!

You can hear the results here:

<https://www.bollington-tc.gov.uk/events/view/668/christmas-together-apart>



Santa Dash!

If Santa can get around this quickly on Christmas Eve—he'll be doing very well!

Every pupil took part in a Santa Dash this week in rain and shine to raise money for charity. It was a fun-filled event in which all pupils got active and got some exercise. A big thank you to all the children and parents for supporting the event—and to Mrs Flynn for organising it. In the end we raised a fantastic **£242** to support the amazing work done at East Cheshire Hospice.

Well done everyone!



We will miss you....

We had a short, socially-distanced gathering of staff and governors yesterday to say goodbye and thank you to Rev. Canon Veronica Hydon, who retires on December 31st as a governor and as Vicar at St Oswald's Church. There were smiles and tears, as we attempted to do the impossible...sum up just what she means to us and how much the school community will miss her. Even if this whole newsletter were only about what she had done for the school and pupils, it would not have been enough. You will have to trust that the Chair or Governors, Fraser Penny and I did our best to capture in words exactly how much we have appreciated her spiritual and strategic guidance and support in happy and sad times. We are sure you join us in wishing her a long, fun-filled and well-deserved retirement. She was moved by her gifts from our pupils and by the vouchers from parents. She passes on heartfelt thanks and is sorry she could not thank parents in person.





Sporting Achievement



In a year of very little sports or chances for competition—Emilia and Harriet have had a chance to show their ability in a recent try-out for the Macclesfield Satellites Swimming Academy. We wish them every success as they begin to undertake training sessions with the club. At the try-out they had to perform a number of swimming styles to impress the coaches and they are over the moon to be taking their abilities further with the academy.

Best of luck Emilia and Harriet—I am sure you will do everyone proud.

Thinking of others

The pupils at Bollington Cross are always thinking of others. None more so than Isabella and Maria—who have both made a sacrifice recently to support the wellbeing and happiness of others. As is the case with this lovely gesture, I often find out about these amazing deeds second-hand, as everyone involved has a focus on the benefit to others rather than the acknowledgement—which is lovely in itself!

Anyway, I wanted to bring your attention to Isabella and Maria—who have both donated their hair to a charity, called Little Princess Trust, who are able to make a wig with it for the use of someone who has lost their own hair through illness.



Isabella has managed to raise £1,333.00 including gift aid for the Charity.



Thank you Mr Gibson

This term we are saying goodbye to Mr Gibson, who has worked at Bollington Cross as Music Lead Teacher and Rocksteady Band Leader for just over twelve months. We wish him luck as he embarks on a new venture in video editing. The children have loved his input and have been inspired to become more confident and knowledgeable thanks to him. Miss Lily Bracegirdle will join us in January as our Music Teacher and Mr Michael Coyne will join us as our new Rocksteady Band Leader. Both are excited to meet the children and join the amazing team we have.

BCPS against bullying

During November we celebrated Ant-Bullying week. The children engaged in many activities to support their learning of what to do if they feel they, or someone they know, is being bullied. I was really impressed with how articulately and sensibly the children discussed their thoughts on the subject. I am looking forward to working with our ks2 anti-bullying ambassadors in the new year to ensure our classrooms and playgrounds are even more welcoming at BCPS.



Feeling Festive at BCPS

In this most challenging of years—we have not let circumstances dampen the Christmas spirit enjoyed by staff and children in school.



We 'heart' learning in Science

Some of my favourite pictures and discussions about learning this term—originated from this Science lesson in Year 6. Yes that is a heart that Lily is holding in the picture! I am so proud of the many fantastic experiences that the pupils have across the curriculum, the excitement with which our pupils talk about their learning and how much they love it. I am glad that Class Dojo allows us to frequently share these insights and kick-start conversations at home about learning!



A Christmas Blessing

May love come alive within your heart
As Christmas time draws near.
May hope fill each room you decorate
And bring joy to those you hold dear.
May peace be before you at every meal
And faith ring through every song.
For Christ is alive, the light of the world
May he bless you all season long.