



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



Dear Families,

It has been an amazing 1st half term back. Full of learning and new experiences for our pupils and really exciting to welcome new staff members to the team and new pupils and get to know them better.

On a staffing note, Miss Purcell joins us at half-term (in Year 1) and takes over from Mrs Foat who has been brilliant in for the pupils and school. Mrs Foat will now take up her originally planned role of teaching in Ks2 – which Miss Ramsay has been covering for us. We wish Miss Ramsay well as she completes her stint at Bollington Cross and she has said what a lovely school, pupils and set of staff we have! Which is always nice to hear! We wish her all the best and thank her for her commitment to this temporary role.

There are many reasons why it is an exciting time to be involved in the Bollington Cross Community and so many things to be positive about.

This half-term has marked our first whole school events with amazing performances at our Harvest Festival at St Oswald's and the chance to enjoy our PTA Autumn Disco. The politest disco I've ever been at. I was asked the following, "Excuse me Mr Donbavand. Is break dancing allowed at this disco?"

Our volunteers also commented on just how polite all pupils were at the refreshments & sweets stall also. Then, to see all pupils in KS2 dance the Macarena 'en masse', was just brilliant. Both the younger pupils and older pupils seemed to relish this first disco and loved being together. Thank you to the PTA for making such a great event possible.

Our Harvest Festivals highlighted our links to St Oswald's and our Christian value of generosity, as we collected donations for the Silk Life Food Bank in Macclesfield. The singing of the pupils was lovely and I could see many faces in the audience beaming with pride and wiping away tears during the performances (I certainly did both!). Mr Etherington did a fabulous job of organising the performances and supporting the children to know the songs and sing beautifully. He even wrote and composed one of the songs himself! **(Continued on Page 2)**



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In terms of the funds raised at PTA events, we communicated last year that these would be put towards a complete upgrade and refurbishment of the main school library in the newer building. In many school settings, libraries are prioritised in order to encourage a love of reading and inspire pupils to read more. As I keep saying on school tours of prospective parents – our refurbishment is more to give our pupils, who are already avid and keen readers, a library space which they deserve and continues to inspire them to widen their reading interests. It will mean that we start to use the building / space differently as the pupils will use the main entrance less and enter the hall through a different door for meals and assemblies. This is in an effort to maintain the quiet in the library space and also reduce anyone using it as a thoroughfare. Miss Bold is taking a lead on this, with new carpet and paint imminent and furniture delivered in January. See pics. How exciting for everybody! This initial investment will be on the carpet, painting and furniture. So please watch this space in terms of how you will be able to support raising money to invest in books through PTA donations and efforts this academic year.

Our curriculum at Bollington Cross continues to be broad and vibrant and we continue to invest in exciting resources to engage and inspire our pupils and also support wellbeing for teachers to try ensure a manageable workload. In this sense we are maximising our potential to improve by reducing how 'frazzled' the teachers could feel, so that they are able to give their best every day. This is an area which we will continue to invest heavily in in order to ensure subject leaders have time to assess their impact through their work to monitor, evaluate and champion their curriculum areas of responsibility.

Improving our sustainability is a very high priority at our school and with this in mind I expressed our interest in a bid to secure funding for a set of Solar panels on the roof of the ks2 building and an air source heat pump too. It will be amazing if this bid is successful and I will keep you posted on the outcomes of this.

Our school continues also to improve its financial independence by creating revenue by hiring out our pitch and hall. This has really taken off post-covid and it is great to see the building lit up at night being used by various community groups and local businesses. At a time when school budgets are tight, this is a much needed boost to our school budget each year and helps build our relationship with businesses and organisations in the community

When I arrived at Bollington Cross, just over 5 years ago, I thought there was so much potential in every area for the school to continue to develop. We have improved many areas of school already and we continue to do so and Bollington Cross still has a lot to look forward to!

Have a wonderful Half Term and thank you for your continued support.

Mr Donbavand

The New Library is coming in January 2023! First peek!

As mentioned in my introduction, Miss Bold has been hard at work with plans to further develop our excellent provision for reading. Partly using funding from the PTA of £6,000, we are re-painting, re-carpeting and buying new furniture for the library.

The painting will be complete during half-term with the carpet to follow imminently, meaning we will be ready for the furniture to arrive in January!

We are really excited to open the new library—especially now that Mrs Booth has bought us some beautiful books to get us started. We will make sure she comes back for the grand opening and a cuppa! Thank you to you all for helping to raise the





Year 2: Muck, Mess and Mixtures!

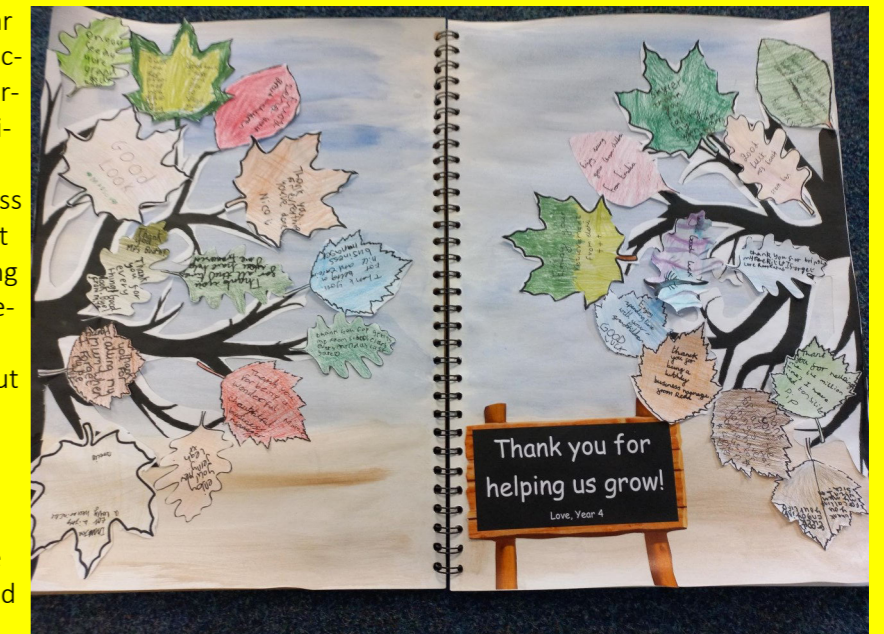
This term in Year 2, our topic has been "Muck, Mess and Mixtures". We started off the term by working as a team to create a huge piece of artwork using all kinds of messy materials, and in our Art lessons since, we have mastered printing. We even studied the artist Carl Warner and had a go at making our own fruit and vegetable pictures. In our Science lessons, we have carried out experiments to find out which cleaning substances make the most bubbles and what happens when you mix water with different substances. The salt dissolved, the oil stayed separate and sat on top and the glitter even made the water shimmer! We have been working hard to first make predictions based on what we already know and to record our predictions and results.

At the end of the half term, we used our imaginations in Forest School to mix potions from natural materials and decide what ingredients to include and what each potion could be used for. Lots of us also investigated how much water we would need to add to soil to make the best mud for sculpting and had a go at creating our own mud artwork. Mrs Harnett



Learning in Year 4!

What a start to the year it has been in Year 4! We have hit the ground running, producing incredible diaries in English and furthering our understanding of place value, addition, and subtraction in maths. We simply loved taking a deep dive into the blue abyss where we made exciting discoveries about different layers of the ocean and classifying sea creatures in different ways. Plus, a special visit from Ruth, a physics expert, who provided an electrifying workshop all about electricity! Harvest was a real highlight where we thoroughly enjoyed thanking God for all the good gifts in our lives. We were particularly sad to hear that Mrs Booth is retiring but we wish her all of the luck in the world in her next adventure and as a thank you, we made a piece of artwork, packed with gratitude and well wishes (See picture).



We are really looking forward to next half-term, where in English, we will meet a polar bear called Leaf, who feels like a bit of an outsider and in maths, we will improve our understanding of division and multiplication. In topic, we are particularly excited to explore life in Roman Britain! Mr Etherington

Outdoor Learning in Year 6!

In Year 6 we have had a sensational experience this half term at PGL. There was incredible food, thrilling activities and we loved staying with our friends in the cabins. While we were away, we had to be brave, independent, put our trust in others, be encouraging, courageous and overcome our fears. We had to work together in our Year 6 team to do all of these things.



A moment of prayer...

We thank you Lord, for this half-term. For our challenges, our successes, and the mistakes from which we have learnt. Be with us as we spend our time with family and friends. Give us strength and courage to do what is right: to be witnesses of our faith. Help us to be a practical Christian these holidays, to appreciate what others do for us, to give time and effort to help others. To be peacemakers in our family. Keep us safe in our activities; give us good rest and good fun. Bring us back refreshed and ready for a new term. We thank you for our classmates, teachers, parents and a community that cares for us. Amen.

