

Bollington St. John's Church of England
Primary School



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

Head of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Mrs E. Watson

'Christian Value' – Joy

"So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

John 16:22

15th November 2024

Head's Message

Christmas plays have been cast and rehearsals have started. In a primary school, this is by far the most wonderful time of the year. Sitting in my office I can hear the children on the stage below, already learning lines and practising their scenes with friends. However, this time of year can also add extra stress to families and so please do remember that if you are experiencing difficulties at home, you can always email us and just say 'Handle with Care'. Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let us know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day. I am in the process of switching to a Bollington St John's Facebook page, and parting ways with the school Twitter (or X) account. I do hope you will follow us on Facebook, where you will be able to see all the exciting activities that are happening at St John's. So far I have uploaded our Remembrance Day commemorations from Monday, and a post about Reception celebrating Diwali. As mentioned in regards to our new Instagram page (Grow in the Woods), I will assume all parents who gave social media permission for Twitter also give permission for Facebook, but please do contact the school office to change your preferences if this is not the case. Finally, many thanks for all your support for our Children in Need non-uniform day, which has currently raised £76.

Kitchen News

This week we thought we would share with you some quotes about school dinners written by some of our junior children. We are thrilled they love their lunch so much!

'School dinners are great because they are freshly cooked, not burned, taste nice and are warm!' by Nate Year 6

'I like school dinners because of the nourishing food that entices my taste buds and the warm, soft potatoes that encounter my mouth!' by Olivia Year 6

After School Polite Request

Now that winter is upon us, could we politely ask you that once your child has been dismissed from school at 3.30pm that children do not linger on the yard. This week staff have had to deal with a number of accidents after school, and some children are making their way on to the field where Mr Di Marco is leading clubs. In order to ensure everyone is safe and accounted for, we appreciate your support in this matter.

Forest School Update by Marcella

The older children have made a chocolate cake on the fire using a Dutch oven. They learned how to safely use the oven, and how burning the cake bottom can be avoided. Children are feeling so confident now to start a fire, some are even in charge of doing it at home now!

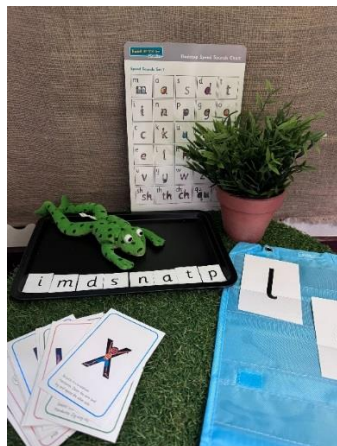
Our autumn woods - children discovered fungi and a moth cocoon hidden in our autumn rainbow-coloured leaf carpet! They gently investigated their shapes and colours, and said how fabulous nature was... the adults couldn't agree more! We placed the moth in a safe dark place so we can watch in the spring as it emerges – we may even set up the camera to observe it.

Pancakes were made, as usual, by our younger children. They kept us warm and gave us energy to enjoy playing in the autumn sunlight. The children also built more dens and declared they were learning skills for life.



Read Write Inc

All the children started their new Read Write Inc phonics lessons this week. As Mrs Jobbins explained in her letter to parents, the scheme is very different to Monster Phonics and letters and sounds are taught in a different order. The children make speedy progress as the scheme is very precise. There is also a greater emphasis on fluency. Thank you for your support as switching scheme mid-term has been quite the challenge!



Attendance Reminder from the LA

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, the following changes came into force on 19 August 2024. Penalty notices will be issued for:

- **Term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.**
- **10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 school week period.**

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a term time leave or irregular attendance, the penalty notice will be charged at £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution.) When a second Penalty Notice is issued to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty

notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days, with no reduced fee for paying early. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution.) The third time an offence is committed within 3 years of the first Penalty Notice, for either a term time leave or irregular attendance, the case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.

Diary Dates

18th November – School tour for families with children starting Reception in September at 4pm
23rd November – PTA Christmas Fair at 12-12:30pm
27th November – Reception Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm
29th November – Last day of After School Clubs (teacher and volunteer led)
29th November – Year 6 Forensic Science Workshop at 12:30-2:30pm at Tytherington School
29th November – PTA Wreath Making evening at 7pm. Please note booking is essential via PTA
10th December – Infant Nativity Play at 2pm. Families invited
12th December – Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime (juniors) at Buxton at 12-4:30 (approximate)
13th December – Arthur Christmas at The Rex Cinema (infants) at 9-12noon
17th December – Junior Christmas Production at 2pm and 6pm. Families invited
18th December – Christmassy Clothes Day and Christmas Lunch for the children
20th December – Last day of term

News from Reception

Reception we have used the book 'Tree' to help us learn all about the seasons and how they change. We focused on the key features of each season and discussed what we might see, feel and hear. The children created tree paintings inspired by the beautiful artwork in the book. In maths, we have looked at the different ways of representing numbers to 5 and the number bonds to match.

News from Class 2

This week, our highlight was our science lesson where we explored different areas of our school to find objects that are made out of different materials. Once we had identified many different objects, we returned to our books to document our findings. In maths this week, Year 1 have been using number lines to complete calculations. Year 2 have been using numbers up to 100 to estimate on number lines, and we have explored 'one more and one less' with our key representations. In English, we have been reading 'The Bear and the Piano' and we have discussed, considered and written about the bear's feelings at different stages in the story. In geography, we enjoyed learning about features of landscapes and features of our playground. In computing, we used iPads to create a media story of what happens in our 'Favourite Toy in School' story.

News from Class 3

In maths, we have been learning how to do exchanges in column addition across tens and hundreds, and the children have picked this up really well. In science, we investigated the properties of gases and liquids and explored how we can compress a gas. In English, we thought about how we would feel embarking on an exciting but perilous journey, and we wrote a telegram home to describe how we might feel upon arriving at South Georgia, on the edge of Antarctica. In art and design, we used our knowledge from last week on shading and tinting, and painted some objects using this knowledge. In RE we are learned more about why many Christians think Jesus is the light of the world, and we started singing our two nativity songs.

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News from Class 4

This week, in maths, we have been working on using common denominators to add, subtract and order both proper fractions and mixed numbers. In English, we have been continuing our work on 'Otto: The Autobiography of a Teddy Bear'. We have been writing a newspaper report about the part of the story where Otto saves a soldier's life. Other highlights this week have been our computing lesson, where we have been exploring how AI processes and responds to text prompts, and our science lesson, where we have been investigating air resistance.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Class 1 – Isabel for her fantastic effort in phonics.

Class 2 – Arthur for taking such pride and care over his work in every lesson.

Class 3 – Asher for always working so hard in maths, and remaining focus at all times.

Class 4 – Heidi for a wonderful newspaper report, including quotations.

Good Citizen

Class 1 – Deborah for her consideration of others.

Class 2 – Florence for being her happy, kind self in everything that she does.

Class 3 – Abby for being such a positive role model in the classroom.

Class 4 – Johnny for an excellent attitude to learning, always listening well and doing his very best.

Ethos Award (Joy) – Class 3: Henry V for always being so joyful and enthusiastic.

House Points – We started again this week, and Lowerhouse are currently leading.

Sports News

Class 1 – This week, we looked at colours, using different objects to identify colours and sorting colours into correct orders. We then took part in activities linked to these colours.

Class 2 – The children focused on gross motor skills and jumping. We set different circuits up, including jumping at speed and different directions. We also looked at sending and had competitions to see who could send objects to their partners using throwing.

Class 3 – We have focused on hockey passing, using our front foot to step and push to add power. In netball, we looked at possession overloads and creating space.

Class 4 – This week, we looked at hockey passing, focusing on the weight off pass and direction of passing. In netball, we looked at creating overloads and how to use angles and different passes to create space.

Star Sports Performers

Class 1 – Kit

Class 2 – Viktoria and Sasha

Class 3 – Emme and Lola-Rose

Class 4 – Jessica and Louie