

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' – Forgiveness

"And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:38

14th March 2025

Head's Message

What an honour to welcome Bishop Sam to St John's today. He had a sneak preview of our Easter assembly, met with the School Parliament and governors, and finished off with a school tour watching an RE lesson in each class. Class 4 asked him, 'Who is Jesus to you?' as this is the question they are currently exploring. We were all so thrilled he asked to spend the morning with us. Full details of his visit can be found on the website and on our FaceBook page. Also this week we celebrated British Science Week, which this year had the theme of 'Change and Adapt'. On Monday, Mrs Jobbins led a Phonics Workshop for parents, explaining all about our new Read Write Inc phonics scheme. Thank you to all who attended. Open the Book delighted the children with the tale of Naaman on Wednesday. Yesterday, PCSO Lorcan came into Class 4 to talk about online safety with the children. Next week we have lots going on! It starts on Sunday when we have two teams of children taking part in the annual Swimathon. Good luck to all involved. All day Monday we have a Read Write Inc audit by our school phonics consultant. On Monday and Wednesday we are interviewing for the Class 2 vacancy. On Wednesday we will be welcoming our Year 4 families to join us for lunch. To round off the week, on Friday we have Comic Relief Day, a Road Safety assembly and a PTA cake sale. Finally, today is Holi, the Festival of Colours. Usually lasting for two days, Holi is a time when Hindus welcome the spring. To mark the event children from Class 3 celebrated by throwing colourful rice in our woodland area.

Mobile Phone Initiative by Mrs Walker

This week I sent the following Home Contact to Class 4 parents:

I have been made aware of some rather unpleasant communications on WhatsApp, which I am taking extremely seriously.

I am firmly of the opinion that our precious youngsters are too young to be navigating such a potentially negative online minefield. When they are accessing WhatsApp groups they can be exposed to bullying, isolation, name calling and peer pressure that is simply not acceptable. I have met with a group of Class 4 pupils today and we have had a wonderful discussion about privacy, feeling pressured and doing the right thing.

As a result, in order to lift burdens and worries from them, I have told them that St John's group chats on WhatsApp are banned. They were both delighted and relieved.

I do hope you will support this measure, which I have taken for the sole purpose of protecting the pupils in our care.

However, this matter has made me ask myself if this move of banning WhatsApp groups is going far enough, or could we do even more to protect our children. When posting in these groups the children often use language and say things that are almost alien to how they speak and act offline. I am of the opinion that children in primary school do not need the stress and complications that come with owning a phone. Parents have often remarked that the only reason they buy their child a phone is because of peer pressure. So how about this as a proposal. We could rally together and do something about this. If we committed to not allowing our children to have a phone until high school, then the fear of peer pressure would be gone. We could make a mark in the sand, and I really believe that together we could make a difference. If you are interested in supporting this measure, please let the Class Reps know so we can have a meaningful discussion about it in the summer term. I realise for some of the children, they already have a phone and so the genie is out of the bottle, but we could look to implementing this move with our infants in mind.

Governance News

We now have Co-Chairs of Governors at St John's, Mike Akerman and John Rogers.

Forest School Update by Marcella

The older of Class 3 have spent the afternoon learning about the Hindu festival 'Holi'. Following our learning in the classroom, we continued the celebration during our forest school session, where we sang and danced to religious music and threw coloured grains and water onto the fire in honour of this special day. Our youngest forest school children made giant seesaws and focused on the comparative language of heavier and lighter. The children made pancakes to enjoy round the campfire.

Diary Dates

16th March – Swimathon at Macclesfield Leisure Centre (2 teams of volunteers from Class 4)
18th March – PTA meeting, 7pm, at the Church House Inn
19th March – Year 4 Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm. Year 4 families invited
21st March – Non Uniform Day for Red Nose Day
21st March – Road Safety Talk by the Fire Service for Class 4 children at 10am
27th March – Bikeability Level 2 for Year 5 children
28th March – Bikeability Level 1 for Year 4 children
28th March – Class 4 Crucial Crew Trip at 9:00-12:00 noon
28th March – PTA School Disco, 6-7:30pm
3rd April – Class 2 Cake Sale at 3:30pm
4th April – Easter Celebration Assembly at 9:30-10:30am. All families invited
4th April – Last day of term
22nd April – Summer term begins

News from Reception

This week in Reception, we have considered what we'd want to take to space if we were visiting the ISS. We read the book 'Astrogirl' to inspire our ideas. We drew and labelled all the items to go in our space suitcase. We learnt lots about the life of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to travel into space. We painted her portrait to help us remember the incredible things she had accomplished. In maths, we have focused on length and height.

News from Class 2

This week, our highlight was our geography lesson where we continued learning about planet Earth and the continents. We enjoyed learning and writing about the continents. We also discussed the importance of the poles and we located the Equator on a world map. In maths, Year 1 have been learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s, and Year 2 have been grouping equally to help them learn the 2

times table. In English, we have discussed and planned our ideas for a character's new adventure. In RE, we enjoyed discussing and writing about why spring is a new beginning and why Easter is a new beginning for Christians. In design and technology, after lots of planning and resourcing, built their Ferris wheels.

News from Class 3

This week in maths, we have continued our work on fractions and have learned how to order fractions on a number line. We have also started to learn how equivalence works. In English, we continued reading the BFG and started writing a description of a giant and where it lives. In science, we classified invertebrates using a classification key. In RE, we looked at a selection of paintings showing parts of the Easter story and which emotions these paintings made us feel. We started learning months of the year in French and enjoyed illustrating the words.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, we have been learning how to convert between fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, we have been writing recounts based on the animation, 'Lighthouse', focussing on including great setting and character descriptions, dialogue which moves the action along and creating an atmosphere. In geography, we have been learning about how humans are impacting coral reefs and oceans, and, in computing, we have been exploring barcodes and QR codes.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Class 1 – Eva for fantastic writing and for always looking for a challenge.

Class 2 – Rosie for working so hard and being resilient in maths.

Class 3 – Cora for trying so hard in maths.

Class 4 – Jessica for excellent work on converting between fractions, decimals and percentages.

Good Citizen

Class 1 – Liam for being a gentle friend to others.

Class 2 – Ivy for being kind and caring to all of her peers.

Class 3 – Scarlett for always being so cheerful and positive in school.

Class 4 – Ella for a positive attitude to her learning and for always being helpful and polite.

Ethos Award (Forgiveness) – Class 2: Guy for showing such forgiveness in class.

House Points – Oak Bank are currently in the lead.

Sports News

Class 1 – This week, we looked at working in a big team using communication and awareness. We used a big parachute to play various games.

Class 2 – In RE this week, we completed a circuit in which they rotated around six different stages practising skipping, jumping, running, throwing and catching, agility course and lastly ladders. They also competed in small fun games using awareness and co-ordination.

Class 3 – We have completed a circuit involving six stations. We worked on agility, speed, co-ordination and teamwork whilst completing a circuit to our highest standard, with swimming on Tuesdays as part of their physical education.

Class 4 – This week, we completed a six-station circuit where they worked for thirty seconds at a time full intensity and had a ten second gap in-between change overs. They then completed the

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circuit again for twenty seconds with a five second break then lastly ten seconds on each circuit. They finished with a four-team tournament of dodge ball.

Star Sports Performers

Class 1 – Callum

Class 2 – Jonas and Ruby

Class 3 – Gruff and Ena

Class 4 – Megan and Talia

