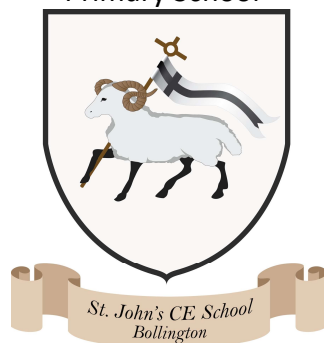


Bollington St. John's Church of England
Primary School



Where talent grows

Head Teacher: Mrs M. Walker

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

'Christian Value' – Joy

"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I whom you have delivered"
Psalm 71:23

11th December 2020

Head's Message

One of the highlights of this week was the gorgeous Christmas lunch we all shared together on Wednesday. Despite being in our bubbles, the children still had a marvellous time and enjoyed mountains of festive food. On Wednesday, we also had our annual Health and Safety Audit, for which we have received a glowing report. Teachers have all finished recording their Christmas shows and nativities, which will be available on a private YouTube channel from the 15th December. Today has been a wonderful (and fun) non-uniform day, and the children have all taken part in the national Santa Dash initiative. Many thanks for all your kind donations to St Oswald's. Class 2 also posted their very important Christmas letters to Santa today. As well as this, Reception and Year 5 participated in their last Forest Schools session this term. It was a very busy Friday! Finally, we are very grateful to the PTA for purchasing the virtual pantomime Cinderella for the children. The Co-op has very kindly donated goodies for the children to enjoy as they watch the pantomime on the last day of term. What a lovely end of term treat.

End of Term Date

You may be aware that the government has allowed schools to swop an INSET day and finish the autumn term a day early. Due to the timing of the announcement, we do not see any merit in doing this. We feel that making last minute changes to term dates can cause parents practical difficulties; and we do not wish to add to the stresses that families are already experiencing during this pandemic. Therefore, please note we are NOT changing our closing date, and school will remain open until 3.30pm on Friday 18th December. School will reopen on Monday 4th January 2021.

Track and Trace During the Holidays

During the pandemic, schools have taken responsibility for Track and Trace where children (or staff) have Covid-19 symptoms and have received a positive test result. It is important that we continue this essential work for the first part of the Christmas holiday. Please report any symptoms and/or positive cases to head@stjohnsboll.cheshire.sch.uk This email will be constantly monitored, with a final check being made at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Other school email addresses **will not** be monitored during the holiday to ensure that school staff get a proper break.

For clarity, the latest DfE guidance states:

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.
- Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (Covid-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
- School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a school's last teaching day is on Friday 18th December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24th December. Schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email).
- Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

We all have our fingers crossed that our school community manages to enjoy a safe and happy Christmas without infection or the need for isolation.

New Starters September 2021

Remember to apply for a Reception place if your child is due to start school in September 2021. The closing date is 15th January 2021.

Forest Schools and PE in January

From January 8th, Class 2 and Class 3 will have a Forest Schools session every Friday, for the duration of the spring term. Class 1 will be having PE on a Monday afternoon and so will need to come into school in their PE kit. Class 2 will be switching to a Wednesday PE session. Class 3 and Class 4 remain unchanged.

School Council Initiative

The School Council has decided they would like to have a non-uniform day to support children's mental health charities. We will hold this day on Friday 12th February 2021.

Coronavirus Advice

Please do not send your child into school next week if they have **any** of the following symptoms:

- A new continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours and/or
- A high temperature – this means feeling hot to the touch on the chest or back (if a temperature cannot be taken) and/or
- A loss, or change, to their sense of smell or taste – this means they have noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms. You should only get a test if you have one or more of these symptoms. To book a test call the NHS on 119 or go online to <https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

News from Reception

This week, in Reception, we have put our phonics in to practice and written and created cvc words and simple sentences. In maths, we have continued to focus on the number 5, labelling hands with each number to practise our formation. We have been very busy recording our nativity and enjoying the festive crafts that our kindness elves have been leaving for us.

News from Class 2

This week, in English, we have learnt how to write a summary. We broke our class story down into its main parts and wrote a summary about it. We concentrated on time connectives and using punctuation correctly. In maths, in Year 1, we have continued to look at part-whole models and we made our own using colourful card. In Year 2, we have looked at place value up to 50 and done one more and one less. In IPC, we have been thinking about everything we already know about pirates and have started our own pirate glossary. In PSHE, we have thought about people who are special to us and looked at the story of 'Lost and Found'. We have also been super busy filming our special episode of Happy Valley. We are so excited to share it with you.

News from Class 3

This week, in English, we have started to plan our newspaper report based on the events of Shackleton's Journey. In maths, we have continued to look at multiplication and division, focusing on creating equal groups and multiplying and dividing by three. We have been busy recording our special Christmas play, looking at how Christmas is celebrated around the world. In IPC, we labelled a map of our school.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, we have been learning to multiply fractions and mixed numbers by integers, and the year 6 children have been dividing fractions by integers. In English, we have been completing comprehension activities, focusing on using evidence from the text to justify our answers. In IPC, we have been learning about the causes and consequences of light pollution and finding out about the possible solutions.

Sports News

Class 1 – This week, we took part in the Santa Dash and pretended to be snowmen, reindeer, Father Christmas and Christmas trees, whilst listening to Christmas music.

Class 2 – In PE, we got the apparatus out and learnt how to use it safely. We did mat work and jumping skills.

Class 3 – In Hockey, we played small sided games, and in circuit training, we enjoyed multiple sessions working on different body parts.

Class 4 – This week, we had a mini hockey tournament and took part in circuit training.

Star Performers

Class 1: Scarlett Burrough

Class 2: Ella Jones and Thomas Woolley

Class 3: Isadora Aguilar and Jessica Walton

Class 4: Holly Lewis, Leo Whitehead and Olivia O'Sullivan

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