

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' – Peace

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give it as the world does. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

John 14:27

7th June 2024

Head's Message

Our 2024 Academy Programme is up and running and was such a lot of fun. My thanks to all the staff, parents and community volunteers who have worked so diligently to make this the best year ever. For a report on Week 1, please visit the website where our journalists have written their first article. Along with the Academies, there has been so much that has made me smile this week. Our girls secured a historic 4-1 victory in their football match against Rainow. We are now officially on a winning streak. While I am writing this newsletter two girls from Year 6 have brought me a delicious mid-afternoon toasted marshmallow treat. My newly appointed Duck Monitors are visiting me thrice daily to discuss the duck movements on the field (best part of my day without a doubt), and Class 4 are thrilled at the prospect of their parents joining them for a P4C session (please see below). Reception class had a wonderful visit to Bollington library on Wednesday, as we keep up our campaign to ensure the library stays open. Thank you to all the parents who accompanied us. We were delighted this week to welcome PC Marc Harley to school to deliver an online safety talk to parents and then to the junior children. Thank you to all the parents who attended, and I do hope you found it informative. I am aware that a local group has been established to try and encourage a smartphone free childhood, which I think is an amazing initiative. For further details please see: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Yesterday, we were proud to commemorate D-Day in all our classes, and a special poem was read to the children at 11am entitled, 'D-Day Heroes'. Next week is already looking jam packed. We will be administering both the Phonics Screening Check to Year 1 and the Multiplication Tables Check to Year 4. Class 3 have their school trip to Chester, and we have a rounders match against Dean Valley. Looking further ahead, I have also reminded the children that our Talent Shows will take place on Friday 5th July. Finally, please note there are three attachments with this newsletter. Two are in relation to catering and the third is a Family Hub poster.

Catering Update

We are working very hard to end our current contract with the local authority, and take catering in-house from September. We are confident we will be able to do so. This has allowed us to create a menu based entirely on our children's lunch preferences, as we have surveyed every child at St John's. It also means we will be able to offer school meals at a much more competitive price than the local authority can. As it stands the LA are proposing schools meals will have to rise to £3.20 in September with a further rise in January. Some local schools have already moved to this price structure. This is not acceptable to us. At St John's we have worked tirelessly to try to get better

value for our parents. We are confident we will be able to set school lunches at £2.85 from September. Although we will have to slightly raise our prices, I do hope you can appreciate the efforts we are going to in order to keep the school meal cost as low as possible. It goes without saying that we would be able to reduce our prices if more children ate with us and so we do encourage families to think about the benefits of ordering a hot school meal. Please see two attached letters from the LA on this issue.

Class 4 Invite Parents to P4C lesson

Class 4 are very excited to invite their parents to join them (actively taking part) in a P4C session. P4C stands for Philosophy for Children, and is a lesson structure which promotes deep thinking and discussion about big issues. At St John's we have embedded P4C in our RE and PSHE curriculums. The children thought it would be fun for their parents to experience part of their learning first hand. Therefore, we hope to see you all at 9.45 - 10.30am on Wednesday 17th July following the Year 6 Bible presentation.

Sports Day

Please note that Sports Day is fast approaching, and the children should wear a t-shirt that day which is the colour of their house. As a reminder:

Clarence – red

Oak Bank – green

Adelphi – blue

Lowerhouse – yellow

If you are unsure which house your child is in, please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher.

Diary Dates

Monday 10th June – Phonics Screening Check

Monday 10th June – Junior Rounders Match (mixed team) v Dean Valley Primary School at St John's at 3:45-4:40pm

Tuesday 11th June – Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Wednesday 12th June – Class 3's Roman Day class trip to Chester

Monday 17th June – New Family Information Meeting for families whose children are starting Reception in September at 4:30-5pm

Tuesday 18th June – New Starter Afternoon for children starting Reception in September at 1:30-3pm

Wednesday 19th June – Sports Day at 2-3:30pm

Tuesday 25th June – New Starter Afternoon for children starting Reception in September at 1:30-3pm

Wednesday 26th June – Tytherington School Year 6 Information Evening at 6pm

Friday 5th July – Infant Talent Show at 10-11:30am. Families invited

Friday 5th July – Junior Talent Show at 1:45-3:30pm. Families invited

Friday 5th July – PTA School Disco at 6-7:30pm

Monday 8th July – Year 6 Taster Day at Tytherington School at 9:15am

Monday 8th July – Mental Health Information Evening for parents at 4-5pm

Thursday 11th July – Academy Celebration Assembly at 9:30-10:30am. Families invited

Wednesday 10th July – Year 6 Family Lunch at 12-12:30pm

Wednesday 10th July – Sports Day (back up date) at 2-3:30pm

Monday 15th July – Move up Afternoon for all classes

Wednesday 17th July – Bible Presentation to Year 6 at 9:15am. Year 6 families invited. Followed by P4C session with the parents of Class 4 from 9.45-10:30am

Friday 19th July – Leavers Assembly at 9:30-11am. Class 4 families invited

Friday 19th July – Last day of term

News from Reception

This week in Reception, we have started our storyteller project. We have focused on the traditional tale of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. We have learned lots of interesting new vocabulary and created a

story plan ready for us to retell the story in our own words next week. In maths, we have used rekenreks to help us recall the number bonds to ten. We all loved our trip to Bollington library on Wednesday; we spent time with the librarians and shared lots of great stories. It was a fantastic way to round off our dinosaur topic.

News from Class 2

This week, our highlight was our art and design lesson where we made our very own paper sculptures. We used our previous knowledge from maths to make a cylinder and then designed some fantastic sculptures. In maths, Year 1 have been learning about quarters, and Year 2 have been learning about thirds. In English, we have learnt about sequels whilst writing and discussing our predictions for the next part of our text. We have started a new geography unit where we are learning about the coast and all the wonderful things we can find there. Also, in science, our new topic is 'Making Connections' and we enjoyed being observational scientists in our first lesson about tree trunks.

News from Class 3

This week, in maths, the children have continued our topic of time. We have looked at how to tell the time on a digital clock, am and pm and days, months and years. In English, the children have completed reading our class book, 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'. We have written a persuasive letter to the mayor and justified our opinions using evidence. In our computing lesson, the pupils have started to examine computational thinking.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, Year 5 have continued to explore negative numbers, including counting forwards and backwards through them and finding the difference between positive and negative integers. In Year 6, we have been revising long multiplication and division and working on solving problems with many solutions logically. In English, we have written our own stories based on the animation, The Lighthouse. We have also started exploring the book, 'The Long Thing', by Shaun Tan. Another highlight this week has been using Microsoft MakeCode to learn about the basic features of a Micro:Bit and create our own codes.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

Class 1 – Fred for a carefully thought-out story plan.

Class 2 – Emme for transferring skills from school to home which helped her create a wonderful sculpture.

Class 3 – Freja for creating a persuasive letter.

Class 4 – Shiri for an amazing first lesson on Micro:bits, learning the features and creating codes.

Good Citizen

Class 1 – Florence for having a really positive attitude and trying hard even when things are tricky.

Class 2 – Jensen for showing courage and independence with his learning.

Class 3 – Ellie for being a supportive friend to a new classmate.

Class 4 – Aarushi for making such a wonderful start to St John's.

(Mrs Walker gave a special award to Aarushi for her amazing start at St John's too.)

Ethos Award (Peace) – Class 3: Lola-Rose for being a patient and supportive classmate.

House Points – Oak Bank were last term's winners.

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Sports News

Class 1 – This week, we have been practising games ready for Sports Day.

Class 2 – We have been practising cricket, in particular bowling underarm as well as with a straight arm and releasing at a high point. We have also played dodgeball - sending and receiving and using movement to dodge.

Class 3 – We have been practising cricket, in particular bowling underarm/over arm and straight arm. We have also played tennis and increased our understanding of forearm, backhand and direction.

Class 4 – This week, Class 4 have had a bowling competition using under/over arm and bowling over different distances. We have also practised our tennis and used our body to direct shots as well as decision making on shot selection.

Star Sports Performers

Class 1 – Finley

Class 2 – Arlo and Finn

Class 3 – Lola-Rose and Jess

Class 4 – Kit and Scott