

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

13th December 2024

Head's Message

We have reached the last newsletter of the autumn term, and indeed the last newsletter of 2024. This time of year can often be a time to rejoice, and also to pause and reflect. Whatever Christmas you have planned this year, please know that we hold you all in our hearts. The children are certainly brimming with excitement. On Monday, Rev Jenny led the infants on a path to Bethlehem as they participated in Advent Spirals. The workshop will be repeated for the juniors on Tuesday. The infants performed their wonderful Christmas play, 'Bethlehem Bake Off' on Tuesday, and it was wonderful to see so many of you there. I do not think we have ever had a better infant Nativity, and certainly we have never had better singing. I think the infants realised that the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. A huge thank you to all the staff involved in making it such a magical show. I must also add a special thanks to Mr Woolley for the marvellous banner he made for the production. I feel certain he may regret making that for us, as I for one am full of ideas of how to fill the school with more of them. Yesterday, the junior children went to the Buxton Opera House to watch Jack and the Beanstalk, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Today, the infants went to the Rex Cinema in Wilmslow on their Christmas excursion. Next week, we have our junior production of 'Scrooge' to look forward to at 2pm and 6pm on Tuesday. The rehearsals sound amazing, and I know you are all in for a treat when you come and watch it. Finally, on Wednesday we have our school Christmas Lunch and all the children can wear something Christmassy for the occasion. Please note that school shuts at 3.30pm on Friday and re-opens Monday 6th January 2025. All that remains is for me to wish you every blessing this Yuletide, and to thank you for your continued and much appreciated support.



'Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.' Isaiah 7:14

Kitchen News

The kitchen is busily preparing for next week's whole school Christmas lunch. Our thanks to the PTA for once again providing plastic free crackers for the children to enjoy. With all the meat and vegetables sourced locally, and freshly prepared on the day, this is sure to be a dinner like no other. Merry Christmas from the kitchen.

Complaint from a Resident

A resident has contacted school this week to complain about cars idling at pick up and drop off. Could we politely ask you to please refrain from doing this.

Visyon Message

Visyon offers free workshops to parents and carers of school age children on common mental health topics. The workshops are designed to inform and empower parents in supporting their children as well as providing an opportunity for parents to meet each other and gain mutual support. The workshops are hosted at Visyon's base in Congleton. For more information please visit: www.visyon.org.uk/parents

Forest School Update by Marcella

The older children made some St John's super ganache... with an improved recipe, taster testing and serving methodology... it was fun and delicious! Our young people explored the trapeze system we made two weeks ago. It's our last session and so we celebrated all we love about our St John's woodland sessions, the adults who support us and the challenges we overcome. It's just EPIC said one young person... 20 out of 10 others shouted.

Our youngest St John's classes watched with delight as Kevin the crow, our regular visitor showed how to move safely around the fire circle -he's a good listener for a bird!! We saved Bob the worm from Kevin, and built a tall structure for insects to shelter from Kevin. He visited us again whilst we toasted apples, but alas none were left for Kevin... we did sing carols to him though.

Winter Bugs Information from the NHS

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside is sharing guidance for parents and carers on common winter illnesses that often start circulating at this time of year, and asking them to think twice before treating these conditions with antibiotics, which rarely speed up recovery. Instead, the 'Super Bodies' campaign provides a guide on the simple things they can do to treat these common ailments at home, as well as helping them to spot the signs of a more serious illness, and knowing when and where to go for medical help. Find out more at: www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/super-bodies

Diary Dates

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

This week in Reception, our big focus was our Nativity and the children performed the play amazingly well. After the triumph of the show, we have spent the rest of the week role playing different characters from the story using the costumes and props from the play. We have created some beautiful collagraph prints using cardboard and ink; we chose simple shapes to build a Christmas picture.

News from Class 2

This week, our highlight was the Christmas play. After weeks of hard work and coordinating, it all came together so well. Each pupil performed fantastically and I am so proud of them! In maths this

week, we have been identifying 2D and 3D shapes, as well as counting their sides, faces and vertices. In art, we made Christmas cards and in computing we used the ipads to continue our digital media story. In geography this week, we identified features of landscapes and matched them up to aerial photographs. Our cinema trip on Friday morning was a huge success and it definitely helped us get into the Christmas spirit. As this is the last newsletter of 2024, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

News from Class 3

This week, in maths we started our final unit on multiplication and division. The children are developing their understanding of arrays, division and inverse operations. In English, we have finished our timeline for our newspaper report, and we have enjoyed practising our nativity performance and songs. The children used water colour paints to make some beautiful Christmas cards and the highlight of our week was most definitely our trip to Buxton to see Jack and the Beanstalk. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were beautifully behaved.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, we have been practising converting tenths, hundredths and fifths from fractions into decimals. We have also been plotting coordinates in all four quadrants to create some Christmas pictures. In English, we have continued our work on 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan, writing recounts in role as the main character. In science, we have been exploring levers, pulleys and gears, and, in art, we have been creating artwork inspired by Yayoi Kusama, focusing on using her unique style.

Celebration Awards

Good Work

- Class 1 – Theodore for excellent blending to read words during phonics.
- Class 2 – Bertie for super geographical skills.
- Class 3 – Tabby for persevering so hard in maths.
- Class 4 – Shiri for wonderful artwork inspired by Yayoi Kusama.

Good Citizen

- Class 1 – Kit for his great enthusiasm during our lessons.
- Class 2 – All of Class 2 for an amazing Christmas play performance.
- Class 3 – Henry Valentine for much improved resilience, especially in PE.
- Class 4 – Harry for always showing enthusiasm to his learning and participating very well in class.

Ethos Award (Joy) – Class 4: Cora for having had such a great term in all areas of school life including behaviour, hard work and resilience.

House Points – Lowerhouse are currently in the lead.

Sports News

Class 1 – This week, we did gymnastics, creating shapes, balances and practising rolls using our bodies either alone or with a partner.

Class 2 – We did circuit training this week, working for two minutes at a time on star jumps, burpees, squats, planks and mountain climbers, taking it in turns with friends to collect a score. We then had a dodgeball tournament, following on from a previous week with different teams and games involved.

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Class 3 – In PE this week, we played both a hockey and a netball tournament with extra points scored for good sportsmanship, teamwork, enthusiasm and encouragement.

Class 4 – This week, the class played in both a hockey and a netball tournament, focusing on all skills used throughout the past term. Bonus points were awarded for good sportsmanship, teamwork, enthusiasm and encouragement.

Star Sports Performers

Class 1 – Deborah

Class 2 – Guy and Rosie

Class 3 – Henry V and Aaruhi

Class 4 – Hugo and Heidi