

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*

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **Head's Message**

The Christmas tree is decorated, some wonderful Christmas cards have been made for the 'Dear Neighbour' initiative and Christmas plays and nativities are being filmed and edited. What a splendid week in school. Open the Book has very generously supplied all the infant children with a Christmas book and a Bible for our school. We are most grateful. The children have all completed their charity calendar picture, and they have been collected by the Mayor, John Stewart, who will decide which pictures to include. We have bought some new picnic benches for the playground, which the children are making very good use of. Finally, we have sent home tonight the PTA raffle tickets for a Christmas draw. As always there are some super prizes. Please let the PTA know if you didn't receive any or if you would like some more.

### **Class 4 Violin and Cello Lessons with Love Music Trust**

Please note there will be no Love Music Trust violin or cello lesson next Wednesday, as it is our Christmas Lunch day. All the class will need their instruments on the 16<sup>th</sup> December, for the final lesson of the term.

### **Forest Schools and PE in January**

From January 8<sup>th</sup>, Class 2 and Class 3 will have Forest Schools sessions every Friday, for the Spring Term. A separate email will be sent to you regarding suitable clothing. 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**

After a successful School Council meeting last week, the children have decided they would like to have a non-uniform day to support children's mental health charities. We will therefore be having a comfortable clothes/pyjama day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February to raise funds for, and awareness of, this issue.

### **Government SATs and Testing Update**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December the Government announced the following in relation to next year's national tests: *For primary assessments, key stage 1 tests in English reading and mathematics, and the English grammar, punctuation and spelling tests at key stage 1 and 2 will be removed for one year, in recognition of the challenges posed by the pandemic.*

*Schools can take a flexible approach to the administration of the key stage 2 tests and phonics screening check, by extending the original timetable by a week, until 26 May and 25 June, respectively. Although primary performance data will not be published, teacher assessment in English reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1, and all other assessments at key stage 2, will remain. The Year 4 multiplication test will be optional in 2021. There will be no requirement to submit science teacher assessment data.*

### **Christmas Lunch**

We will be delighted to serve Christmas lunch to the children on December 9<sup>th</sup> complete with eco-friendly, 100% recyclable Christmas crackers.

### **Santa Dash and 11<sup>th</sup> December Fun**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December, the children will all be taking part in Santa's Dash. We would also like the children to come to school that day in festive non-uniform. We are asking that all donations for this non-uniform day go to St Oswald's as Rev Veronica is fundraising for her new church kitchen area. It would be wonderful to raise as much money as possible before Veronica leaves. To make a donation please follow the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/revd-canon-veronica-hydon-vicar-of-bollington>

### **Christmas Eve 2020 Together Apart – Bollington Town Council**

This year, the Bollington Carol Concert will be a virtual event, broadcast on Christmas Eve on Canalside Radio. Children from St John's will be recording 'Merry Christmas Everyone' and 'Feed the World' to be included in this very special community event.

### **Coronavirus Advice**

As we are currently in Tier 2 please can we politely remind you that masks should be worn at all times on the school site, that you should remain 2 metres away from other families and leave the school site as quickly as possible. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

As a reminder, please do not send your child into school 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 read the story of Jack Frost by Kazuno Kahara which was perfectly timed for the weather we've had this week! We have focused on speech bubbles and labelling in literacy, and we have created ice sculptures out of cardboard and beads in art. In maths, we have looked at the formation of the number 5, and we've created a range of models using only 5 cubes. We have continued to practise our nativity show each day.

### **News from Class 2**

This week, in literacy, we have been writing and sequencing the story of the Nativity. We broke the story down into 12 parts and wrote descriptive sentences for each one, working hard to remember our capital letters for proper nouns. In maths, we have focused on place value to 100, ordering

numbers and finding numbers in between any given 2 digit numbers. We have also been busy recording our special Christmas episode of Happy Valley "A special delivery". In PSHE, we read through the book called 'The odd egg'. We learnt how we are all proud of our differences and to respect others.

### **News from Class 3**

This week, in literacy, we have created a diary based on the events of Shackleton's Journey. We looked at writing in the present perfect tense and using ambitious language. In maths, we have continued to look at multiplication and division, focusing on creating equal groups. We have been busy recording our special Christmas play, looking at how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

### **News from Class 4**

This week, in maths, we have been looking at subtraction of fractions by finding a common denominator and simplifying our answers, or converting them to mixed numbers, when possible. In English, we have written our final drafts of the stories we have written to go alongside the picture book, 'The Arrival' by Shaun Tan. In IPC, we have been carrying out investigations linked to how sounds can be changed, and we have focused on writing scientific predictions and conclusions.

### **Sports News**

Class 1 – This week, in PE, we have played lots of team games focussing on teamwork and following instructions.

Class 2 – In PE, we practised jumping and hopping in different directions and in Boccia we practised our aiming, to reach various targets.

Class 3 – This week, in Hockey, we played matches, reinforcing the rules and understanding key skills. In Boccia, we were recording scores, endeavouring to beat our previous scores.

Class 4 – We have completed the school challenges for the Virtual School Games Challenge, finishing with bench ball.

### **Star Performers**

Class 1: Henry Langridge

Class 2: PoppyHeathcote and Natalia Walton

Class 3: Lois Cottrill and Poppy Howarth

Class 4: Myles Wadsworth and Joseph Coates

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