

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

"For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17

11th November 2022

Head's Message

Thank you on behalf of the PTA for all your Christmas Fair donations today. I do hope you all managed to meet with your child's class teacher this week, and were able to view their books. It was wonderful to see you in school for this face-to-face parents' evening. We once again welcomed Rev Nancy into school yesterday to lead worship. Today, the children have attended Forest School (Class 3), worn their non-school uniform and smartly observed a minute's silence at 11am. Next week, is Anti-Bullying Week with activities taking place in all classes linked to this. Sue Noakes, the Assistant Director of Education for the Diocese, will be visiting St John's on Thursday. Then, on Friday 18th November, we have our Children in Need non-uniform day. Staff have been busy with professional development meetings this week, and I thought it might be interesting to share with you what they have been doing. Mrs Watson, our maths lead, has attended maths meetings linked to her role within the Developing Mastery maths group. Mr Timmis, our science lead, has started the application to achieve the Quality Mark in Science at St John's. I have attended a LA course on metacognition, which we are very proud to have introduced to our children at school. Metacognition describes the processes involved when pupils plan, monitor, evaluate and then make changes to their own learning behaviours. I have also attended a meeting led by Dr Margaret James, National Director of SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). As a church school, St John's has a SIAMS inspection as well as an Ofsted inspection, and the SIAMS framework will be changing from September 2023. At present, following our 2018 SIAMS inspection, St John's is currently rated an outstanding church school. From September 2023 schools will no longer be graded, and will instead be awarded a J1 or J2 judgement. Finally, I am attaching an information leaflet about the Year 4 Multiplication Tests, which will take place next June, with this newsletter.

News from Reception

This week, in Reception, we have celebrated the tradition of Bonfire Night. We read the story, Sparks in the Sky, and shared our own experiences, linking these back to the Hindu celebration of Diwali from last week. In Literacy, we focussed on onomatopoeia words to describe how fireworks sound before writing down our favourites. In maths, we have focused on the key words 'more' and 'fewer' to describe a quantity of objects. In history, this week the children have loved learning about Guy Fawkes and the reason we actually celebrate Bonfire Night; we sequenced the story and recreated the Houses of Parliament in the construction area. In art, we have created beautiful firework scenes using paint and glitter.

News from Class 2

In Class 2 this week, in English, we have started a new book, 'The Owl and the Pussycat.' We made a prediction about the story and wrote a list of the things the Owl and the Pussycat took on their journey. In maths, Year 1 have learnt number bonds to 10 and written addition number sentences. Year 2 have practised counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and started counting in 3s. In RE, we talked about Joseph and why he is important in the Jewish faith. In IPC, we designed a uniform for a service worker and a healthy lunch to provide energy for a busy worker. We discussed a balanced diet and each of the food groups we need for a healthy meal.

News from Class 3

This week, in maths, we have continued our topic of addition and subtraction. The children have started to look at additions that involve exchanges. In English, we have been exploring our class book, 'Shackleton's Journey'. We have looked at using the present perfect tense when writing a diary entry. When creating a setting description, the pupils have thought about how they can choose relevant vocabulary. In our new topic of 'Island Life', the children have built on their learning from Class 2, thinking about human and physical geography and researching the different continents. In RE, we have looked at symbolism in Hinduism.

News from Class 4

This week, in maths, Year 5 have started working on multiplication and division, starting with looking at multiples and factors. In Year 6, we have been learning about the order of operations and mental calculations and estimation. In English, we have continued work on 'Firebird' by Saviour Pirotta. We have been writing multi-clause sentences linked to the book and exploring how the author adds detail, and develops cohesion, using adverbial phrases. In IPC, we have been comparing the decline of the Maya with other civilisations that we have explored previously in school. We have also been allocated our parts of the Christmas Play- we are very excited to get started with our rehearsals!

Sports News

Class 1 – This week, the children have been focussing on ball skills – rolling, bouncing and throwing towards friends and targets.

Class 2 – The children have been taking part in team games to successfully bring cones back of their home colour using different movements and skills. Also, they have been using gross motor skills to move round obstacles.

Class 3 – This week, the class has been working on gymnastics, practising the tuck, star, pike and straddle jumps and landings from these moves.

Class 4 – A busy week in class 4! We have been playing hockey and practising our passing techniques and weight of the passes we make.

Star Performers

Class 1: Joseph and Harriet

Class 2: Sophia, Lola-Rose and Sophie

Class 3: Johnny and Talia

Class 4: Laurie and Airon