

Summer 1st Half-Term 2025



## Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a very positive and industrious half-term and I have been reflecting over the last few days on how far our pupils have come this year and how their confidence, independence, grit and determination have grown: None more so than those at both ends of our school. Our little Reception class move around school so confidently these days and interact in such a lovely, friendly way with every grown-up they see. They seem super-happy whenever I see them and always have great things to tell me about themselves and their learning. At the opposite end of the school, our Year 6's have grown so much this year and their added maturity and drive led them to perform to their best standards during last week's SATs. Every single one of them did themselves proud, with their attitude and focus. I would like to thank the Year 6 parents for their support in ensuring the children were well prepared in terms of sleep, attitude and outlook. Our Year Six team of Mr Valentine, Mrs Flynn and Mrs Potts have been incredibly instrumental and supportive for the Year 6's this year and I know the pupils appreciate this. Seeing pupils thrive in the right environment, culture and atmosphere around school is a real privilege and that feeling doesn't diminish after nearly 8 years of headship at Bollington Cross.

Anyone who has spoken to me at length (and I can certainly go on about this!), knows I am really passionate about the Primary Years/Phase as being a magic window in time for children to discover and develop passions and interests that support their happiness and well-being into their adolescence and their adult years. Much to the surprise at times (in the past) of our Midday Assistants, I've been keen for children to safely explore their interests at lunch times. Instead of stopping the children building dens—we've invested in loose parts play equipment which helps children build dens, boats, salons, obstacle courses, forts, cars, trains and many other things! In using the equipment, children are developing their ability to risk assess and it looks like we have some budding engineers, builders, team-leaders and maybe even health & safety inspectors. It is great to see their creative ideas in action. Up until recently, the children have enjoyed me allowing them to do chin-ups on the branch of a particular tree. They were having competitions regarding who could do the most consecutive chin-ups. Therefore, our next investment is....an outdoor Gym! The Gym should be fully installed by lunch time tomorrow and the pupils are really excited to get using it. Please keep in mind that the children should be supervised if using the equipment before school and that it is designed for those under 11 years—so no grown ups working out on it please!

Summer 2nd Half-Term is always an exciting one and I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming events. Thank you all for your support this half-term and I hope you are able to get a break next week at some point.

*Mr Y Donbavand*



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## Learning in Year 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed our design technology project this half term, where we have been learning about the work of ceramic artist Ranti Bam, and sculptor Rachel Whiteread. We have learned some important skills for working with clay, including how to shape clay, join pieces of clay together and create patterns, designs and textures. Finally, we designed and created our own 3D pieces of art, using the techniques we have learned.



## Learning In Reception

Despite it being a short half term, we have been busy in Team Reception! It's been lovely to see the children growing more and more in confidence and independence- they have all come a little long way since September!

We have been blessed with the wonderful weather and enjoyed lots of outdoor learning - one of the highlights has to be VE Day Celebrations- one of the children said it was the best day ever!



## Evening Workshop: Sensory Strategies

We are really excited to be hosting another evening Workshop for parents on Tuesday 17th June at 7pm, led by Occupational Therapist Lucy Griffiths.

A Deeper Dive into Sensory Processing - Strategies to Positively support your child

Come join us at Bollington Cross C of E Primary School for a valuable event focusing on supporting your child's sensory needs. Learn effective strategies and tips to help your child reduce their sensory overload and become calm. Occupational Therapist, Lucy Griffiths (Sensory Wise Owls), will provide you with insight and practical strategies for supporting an overwhelmed child. Don't miss out on this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and support!

tickets available for free/donation here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/practical-strategies-to-support-your-childs-sensory-needs-tickets-1374405085609?aff=oddtcreator>

Any donations will cover the cost of the event and also contribute towards the purchase of sensory resources at our school.







## Learning in Year 1

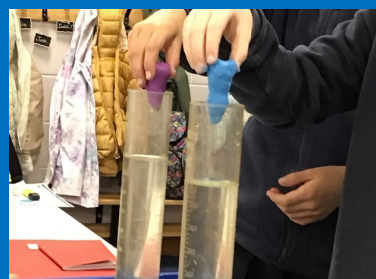
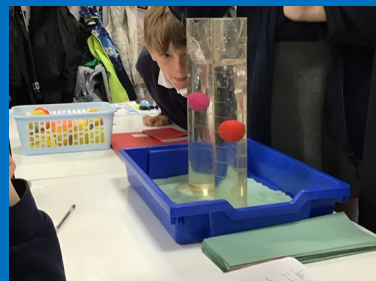
Year 1 have had a great half term and I am so proud of them for how hard they have worked. In Maths, we have been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, measuring in centimetres and even started multiplying and dividing! Our Read-to-Write lessons have focussed on the book, 'The Secret of Black Rock' and we have enjoyed describing different sea creatures, writing post cards and trying really hard with our joined up writing! We have become experts in all things plants-deciding if plants are deciduous or evergreen and labelling different parts of a flower. We've also produced some amazing artwork based on the artist Kandinsky and found out some fascinating facts about the famous explorer Christopher Columbus. We also had fun celebrating the 80th anniversary of V.E Day where we made and flew paper 'Spitfire' aeroplanes.

What a busy half term!



## Learning in Year 5

This term in Year 5 we have been exploring the ancient Maya civilization. We have been learning about how the Mayans learnt to harvest chocolate, what their beliefs were, as well as create our own version of a Maya city state. Within science, we have been exploring the unseen forces of our universe. We replicated Galileo's experiment of dropping a hammer and feather, as well as conducted our experiments to measure gravity, air resistance, water resistance and friction. In English, we have been diving into a book called 'The Lost Book of Adventure' which gives survival instructions and daring adventures. The children took inspiration and wrote their own survival narrative which kept their reader on the edge of their seat. In Maths, the children have explored Shape. We have learnt to use protractors for the first time to measure angles, as well as used our knowledge of right angles, straight lines and full turns to calculate missing angles.



## Learning in Year 6

Year 6 have worked their socks off this term. With the big push towards SATs last week, the children have been focused on revision. They were a credit to themselves and the school with the manner in which they entered and completed the week. There was plenty of time to celebrate and relax in the afternoons too!

## A moment of prayer

Dear God,  
Thank You for this Whit break. Bless our time with joy, rest, and peace. Keep our families safe and happy. Help us return refreshed, ready to learn and grow. Let kindness and laughter fill our days. Guide our hearts with love. Amen.



## Learning in Year 3:

Year 3 have gone back in time and looked at the Egyptians. We have created a zine and filled them with information that we have found interesting. The children have taken great care with the illustrations!

We have also enjoyed finding out a lot about mummification, counting and the afterlife. The children have started to write their own Egyptian based story and created authentic maps with a secret



## Learning in Year 4:

What a half-term it's been in Year 4. From writing setting poems in English to creating our own printing presses in art, it's been fun-filled half-term jam-packed with exciting learning opportunities. Immersed in nature, children collected objects to inspire their own print in the style of William Morris. We were also captivated by V.E. Day and our exploration of life in WW2 for our community and the wider world. It was remarkable to see how many family connections our community has to the war and how the children developed a deeper appreciation and understanding of the war effort and the sacrificed made by millions of people so that we can live with the peace and freedom that we have today.

