

Summer 2nd Half-Term 2025



Bollington Cross C.E. Primary School Newsletter



FEELING ON TOP OF THE WORLD AT BOLLINGTON CROSS!



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Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the diverse learning opportunities and outdoor experiences we've enjoyed. Bless our Class of 2025 with success and happiness in their new journeys. Guide and protect them always. Bless our teachers, staff, and families who support us. Amen.



See you all on Tuesday September 2nd! Have a great Summer!





Dear Families,

I take great pride in addressing you in this Newsletter at the end of what has been a very successful, but at times very challenging year. Anyone who is kind enough to ask me how I am, is often met with the following response, “Do you want the short answer, or the long answer?” Of course, the short answer is, “I’m fine.” The longer answer is more obviously more nuanced and more reflective—hence us still being stood there 10 minutes later!

Any school leader will tell you that there is always a pressure to ensure all news coming out of the school is positive and that it all, whilst enhancing people’s perceptions of the school, makes things seem and look calm and in order. I remember once looking at a 1950’s Job Description of a Headteacher and it was pretty much— ‘to maintain good order’ - which again points towards ensuring everything sounds positive and calm. Although I am a positive person, I also want to ensure that I am authentic too, for everyone in the community, not least of all myself!

So this year has had its challenges. We lost the lovely Mrs Day in October, a much loved member of staff and a parent at our school. The community, especially amongst the Year 4 parents, came together and showed great compassion, kindness, generosity and care. We also lost another parent in our community and again the show of love and kindness, not limited too, but again centering around Year 4, was truly heartwarming to see. I am so grateful to all of you who played a part in supporting those we care about in these difficult circumstances. On a less important note, financial aspects which affect Cheshire East (as one of the lowest funded authorities – on average -5.9% in terms of core operational budget in 2025-2026) also impact on schools directly, with many schools striving to balance a difficult budget. You’ll know from the national press that budgets are tight across the UK, but we have great hope—especially in how our fantastic new Office team of Mrs Carole Nelson (Office Administrator) and Mrs Jill Jones (School Business manager) have settled in. They have, and I’m sure will continue to be, a great asset to the school and help us ensure that we can continue to be very efficient and effective with our budget and channel funds into the right key priorities to ensure we can provide the best resources and environments for all of our pupils to achieve the best outcomes.

Speaking of outcomes, we are *extremely proud* that given some of the challenges we have faced together this year we have been able to achieve an amazing set of results across the school. All of our outcomes in the 2024-2025 academic year are either at, in line with, beyond or significantly beyond national expectations (With Greater Depth Writing as our only outlier...we are working on it!).

Outcomes	Bollington Cross	National Average
GLD EYFS	74%	68%
Y1 Phonics Screening	84%	80%
KS2 Grammar Punctuation and Spelling Expected Standard	74%	73%
KS2 Grammar Punctuation and Spelling Greater Depth	29%	31%
KS2 Reading Expected Standard	94%	75%
KS2 Reading Greater Depth	41%	28%
KS2 Maths Expected Standard	87%	74%
KS2 Maths Greater Depth	32%	23%
KS2 Writing Expected Standard	70%	72%
KS2 Writing Greater Depth	0%	13%
Combined Expected Standard R,W,M	71%	62%



These outcomes have been achieved by a fabulous team and I am privileged to work with them to create an environment and a culture in which the grown-ups and children are enabled to thrive.

In terms of the team, we are saying goodbye to some members of the team. As you know, Miss Purcell left at Easter and she has maintained a link with us through running Forest School Clubs and Holiday Clubs so we are still seeing her from time to time. I know that she is enjoying her new role too. Miss Mansfield left just after Christmas and we wish her well. Miss Braddock, who joined us on a temporary basis last September has secured a new role for next September and we thank her for her hard work and diligence at Bollington Cross and wish her all the very best for the future. Mrs Wiseman retired at Christmas and has such a long association with the school. Would you believe that she attended Bollington Cross as a pupil and then came back here as a member of staff in ...1981! In her time here she has been a Play-leader, Lunch Time Supervisor and a Caretaker at the school. We wish her a restful retirement and hope that she turns her attention to doing more of the things she loves and spending more time with family.

We have had a number of fun events this year and once again have tried to stick to our value and principal of being inclusive and making sure all of our families can access them. I have to tip my hat to our PTA and in particular, Kelly, Danika and Bex, who are just three of a brilliant wider team who have been amazing at galvanizing the school community and ensuring everyone felt they could, and more importantly, wanted to—be a part of what the PTA have created in terms of people volunteering, donating or attending their events. Our Summer Fair was a brilliant example of this and the culmination of such a big year of fundraising in terms of determination and hard work. The Summer Fair was lots of fun and so many of you made the special trip out on a Saturday to support our PTA and your child’s school. I think the PTA put on a great range of free elements to keep the children happy and The Soak The Headteacher was again (worryingly ;-)) popular—with even our kindest and quietest pupils lining up to pelt me with wet sponges! Thanks again to you all for attending and helping to get us over the line with a staggering £10,000 towards the target of approximately 36k for our outdoor / forest school classroom. I am really blown away and appreciative of this amazing hard work! What a community!

Today, it is time to say goodbye to our departing Year 6s. Right up to their last day they have shown how colourful, enthusiastic and full of character they are. It is important that they have had time in these last couple of weeks to lean-into the rites-of-passage events that this time of the year brings. They have blown us all away with their learning and their brilliant results and rightly deserve to feel that wind-down towards the Summer holidays. I hope they leave Bollington Cross as confident and happy children and I thank all of the team who have supported, harnessed , coached, encouraged, disciplined and motivated them throughout their time here. As highlighted in our Leaver’s assembly, they get on amazingly well and have bonded even more closely as a result of their challenges encountered—which included home learning during Years 1 and 2, which I thanked their families for: They do say it takes a village to raise a child. I’ll be really excited to hear what this cohort of Year 6 go on to achieve as they have shown us such a diverse set of amazing skills, talents and abilities.

Our Year 6 pupils have been able to be themselves and that’s our hope for all of our team and our pupils. When we create an emotionally-safe environment where people feel their voice is heard and valued, even if it is speaking up about a change that’s needed or something that went wrong, we can ensure that our team and pupils feel safe to open up and be themselves and I really hope that we are achieving that here at Bollington Cross. We are back to my first point here regarding not trying to paint a perfect picture, but being open, honest and positive!

I will finish by thanking all of our Governors, Staff, Parents and not least pupils for creating such a lovely environment, which I hope you feel is a great place to come and learn every day. Have a brilliant Summer and thank you for your support.



Mr Y. Donbarand