



Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued vigilance for symptoms of Covid 19 – we really appreciate the care you are taking, especially as more of you are mixing, having play dates etc. Please can we ask you to continue to test at least twice a week and be cautious if your child is at all unwell.

All our hands – face - space rules are still in place, and will continue to be until we finish for the summer, so let's try to ensure we make it to then Covid free – thank you.

Two weeks ago we had Mr Neil Dixon the CEO of CDAT come into school for an inspection day – it was really good to have his views on our work as he was an HMI and is an Ofsted inspector and also for him to get to know us better. I take great pleasure in sharing aspects of his report.

Reading and Phonics -

I saw lots of positives. School have adapted their approach to phonics to fit in with Covid restrictions, and so are working hard to differentiate work even when it isn't possible to split children into groups as they would have. Staff show good phonics knowledge when delivering phonics sessions.

Very good practice seen in the teaching of reading: particular strengths noted in (a) strong emphasis on vocab and (b) pupils' understanding of the need to justify their responses by reference to the text. The Subject Lead feels that Literacy Company 'Read to Write' materials have had a very positive impact on teaching of English – this certainly seems to be the case from evidence seen in classrooms. English overall looks to be in a secure place with good, consistent plans/schemes in place and plenty of evidence of good practice.

Maths –

I dropped into two maths lessons in KS2 and interventions being run with KS1 pupils. In all three sessions, pupils were enthusiastic and keen to learn. In Class 5 there was a lovely, purposeful atmosphere. This was mirrored in Class 3. In both classes, the teachers demonstrated good subject knowledge and effective questioning skills – drawing answers out of the pupils and encouraging them to use and develop their problem solving and reasoning skills. We also discussed the success of Zoom provision over lockdown – school has catered very well for pupils working at home – and so the gaps in maths seen in many schools nationally are less evident at Little Bollington.

Early Years –

Class 1 covers both Reception and half of the Year 1 cohort – which can be a challenge. However, this is clearly being addressed effectively through careful planning and differentiation. The classroom and large outdoor area are well resourced and provide plenty of learning opportunities. The children had been working from a book called "The Secret of Black Rock" – a lovely book: the children could retell the story well and were full of enthusiasm. There is a lovely atmosphere, and the children were really welcoming and eager to talk to me.

Science –

The school has engaged well with CPD and with the Primary Science Quality Mark, and so the science curriculum is already well ordered. There is good evidence of practical science throughout, and clear progression in terms of how pupils help plan and record experiments.

Pupil's Views –

The group I spoke to were very positive. They said that behaviour in class and around school is typically good and had no concerns at all about bullying. They like their teachers and trust them to deal with any issues that do arise. They said that most of the children in the school were caring and friendly – they say that friendliness of the school as a whole is one of its biggest strengths. Pupils enjoy a range of subjects, particularly maths, science and art and can recall much of their learning well. They had positive views of reading and could talk enthusiastically about books they'd looked at in school. The only negatives that they came up with were all Covid-related: they miss some of the clubs that used to be run, as well as school trips and residential.

Overview –

It was lovely to spend the day at Little Bollington and to get to know the school a bit better. There is lots of good practice going on and the atmosphere around school was lovely – very welcoming, but also calm and purposeful: the children were an absolute delight. Please pass on my thanks to the staff and children for such an enjoyable day.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in coming to our school – we do have some places dotted throughout the school.

Classes for 2021-22

Following staff discussion and looking at our numbers, we are splitting our classes in the following way for the next academic year:

Class 1 will be our 14 new reception intake who start in September and a group of year 1 with Mrs Hayward

Class 2 will have all of our current Year 1 as our new Year 2 group and a group of our current reception as a year 1 group with Mrs Witter and Mrs Challinor.

(We will contact the parents of children in our current reception group to let them know which class they will be in)

Class 3 will have all the current Y2 pupils as Y3 and ALL of the current Y3 group as Year 4 with Mrs Argent

Class 4 will be a pure Y5 group so our Y4 pupils in Class 3 and 4 will come together as Class 4 with Mr Olver

Class 5 will be a pure Y6 group so all our Y5 children will move through to Mr Walsh in the Eco Class

SOME IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS ...

Sports Day

This **Friday 9th July** we are having our Sports Day – **unfortunately, we cannot invite parents to it due to the current Covid restrictions.** All the children will be in 4 teams red, blue, white and black and your child's teacher will let you know which team your child is in. **Please send them in, in a T shirt of the colour of their team it doesn't matter if it has a pattern or design on it. (Your class teachers will let you/ the children know which team your child is in)** Each class bubble will do the activities separately throughout the day and then their scores will be added up – Groups of Y6 pupils will help supervise the class bubbles alongside the staff as the day goes on. We will also have individual classes come out and cheer on too.

Hopefully, we will have a good day weather wise and everyone should have a fun day!

Reports

This year our reports on your child will be shorter and provide an overall summary of the year rather than reporting on your child's levels – they will be issued during the week of the 12th July. Unfortunately, we cannot hold our usual open afternoon and evening so you can chat to your child's teacher, but you can request a virtual appointment on Thursday 15th July **should you need to discuss your child's report.**

Tuesday 13th July – Class 1 singing performance

Class 1 should have gone to a picnic with other schools to perform a musical story they have been working on, with Sally Dinnis from the 'Love Music Trust'. However, it was cancelled so, we would like to invite their parents to attend

their performance, outside on Tuesday 13th July at 2 pm. You will need to book a seat so we can ensure families can be socially distanced – parking will be on the church car park and further details will come directly to families with children in Class 1

Friday 16th July

We are going to hold a **move up day** for the children to meet their new teachers – how this will work we need to finalise but the children will have some time in their new class to get to know their teacher a little bit better.

Monday 19th July

Each class is going to hold a sharing assembly outside for their parents so that you can get the chance to see some of what has been going on in the classes over the last weeks and months. Seats will have to be booked and you will get a letter specifically with information for your class.

9.30 am - Class 2

11am - Class 3

2pm - Class 4

On **Monday 19th July Y6 will have their 'Leaver's Lunch'** over lunchtime and Mrs Davidson and Mrs Holliday will be back in school

Tuesday 20th July

Y6 Leaver's service will be held outside at 1.30pm and their parents will be invited to attend.

School closes for all children today but they will be collected at different times

We want the pick up to be as smooth as possible as the Y6 leaver's Service will be going on, on the field, so we are bringing the two classes into the hall prior to their pick up time rather than them coming from their classrooms so please help us by being prompt within your pick up slot – thank you.

2pm children on the bus are picked up

2.10pm Class 1 and Class 2 picked up

2.20pm Class 3 and 4 picked up

2.30pm Y6 collected.

School Trips

Class 2 went to Lower Moss Wood and Class 3 spent yesterday afternoon exploring Little Bollington and the Bridgewater canal.

Class 4 and 5 each have an outing coming up – their teachers will send you the information about their individual visits.

ParentMail Accounts

Please make sure all payments and accounts are up to date for the end of term.

Any accounts in credit will roll over to the new year. If you would like your child's account with credit to be refunded instead please email the office and this will be processed as school closes.

Any Year 6 leavers with credit will automatically be refunded any credit.

Holidays

Holidays in term time are unauthorised unless there is a very exceptional reason. Please ensure you complete the holiday request form available on our website and send it to Mrs Massey. Over the last few weeks some children have been telling us about their trips away while they have been off school and yet the messages Mrs Massey has received have informed us of illness or appointments – please be honest and don't put your children in the awkward position of not being able to tell the truth ... it usually comes out!!