

Bolton on Swale St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School

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Headteacher Mrs Nicola Dobson

'To love, live and learn together'

Newsletter Friday 1st March 2024

Our Christian value this half term is 'Forgiveness'

Congratulations to Class 1 on their excellent Class Assembly Well done to our youngest children who performed so confidently in front of the whole school and their parents and carers. We loved their dramatisation of Goldilocks and the Three Bears; their clear speaking and wonderful songs and actions. We were impressed with their number knowledge and their time line and art work for the Great Fire of London. Pictured below are Class 1 with their action songs.



Thank you to Class 4 for an outstanding 'Victorian' Class Assembly last week

Everyone was delighted to be able to learn about their work this term on the Victorians. They used drama and song to explore the way the Victorian era impacted on life in Britain today.

Victorians for the day! Class 4 are pictured below in their wonderful Victorian costumes. They worked with an actor recreating life in Victorian times; learning and about life in schools and the Workhouse; the inventions of the Great Exhibition and Isambard Kingdom Brunel.



School Clubs this half term

Tuesday: Choir; KS2 Tennis

Wednesday: Y6 SATs Club; KS1 Dance Club

Thursday: KS1 Eco Club; KS2 Eco Club

Friday: Recorders

Lunchtime Clubs Our children run a lunchtime **Art Club**; **Military Kids Club** and a **Reading Club** for younger children. The children are supported by school staff and display really good leadership skills. Well done!

Pictured below is our Reading Club supporting our younger readers.



Book Fair is back in school from Wed 28th Feb to Monday 4th March, open before and after school. Our autumn term book fair raised £300 in commission for new books in our school library. Thank you for your support.

World Book Day 2024 Celebrations

The Importance of Reading: Mrs Wright led an excellent whole school assembly on Wednesday this week where we thought about the importance of developing good reading for pleasure habits. This helps pupils academic success in other subjects; their well being; their future life chances as well as being lots of fun!

My Bedtime Story Diary Homework to promote reading with your child and reading for pleasure. **This is going home in book bags with all children for homework this week and needs to be returned by Friday 8th March or sooner.** See attached to the end of this newsletter.

World Book Day vouchers All the children have now received these. They are worth £1 and can be exchanged for the special £1 World Book Day books from supermarkets and book shops. We have a selection in school for children to browse.

Dressing up on Friday 8th March Please note that **official World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March but we dress up in school on Friday 8th March.**

We will be celebrating our love of reading by dressing as a character from a book for the day. **Plan ahead for your costume.** It doesn't need to be complicated; lots of books have characters with very ordinary clothes. Charlie from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; a Victorian from Street Child; Hansel or Gretel; a farmer from Fantastic Mr Fox.

Class Assembly Date reminders this half term:

Class 3 Parental Assembly 9.30am Thurs 7th March

Class 2 Parental Assembly 9.30am Thurs 14th March

Easter Activities in school

Decorated egg and Easter bonnet competition

Decorate an egg or Easter 'hat' at home and bring them to school on the morning of **Wednesday 20th March.** They will be judged and everyone will be able to view the eggs and bonnets. FoS organise an Easter egg tombola for the children also.

Egg rolling 2pm Wednesday afternoon, 20th March in the playground Parents and carers are welcome to join us in the playground to watch. FoS will be serving refreshments. Donations of cake welcome.

Easter Service in St Mary's Church at 2pm on Friday 22nd March. All the children lead and take part in this service. Everyone is welcome to join us in Church.

FoS planning ahead It has become a tradition that a local business or two sponsors our Bouncy Slide at the Summer Fair in July each year. This is a free activity for all the children to enjoy at the Fair. **Please contact Mrs Dobson if you may be interested in helping us.**

Parish Confirmation Group Children who are in Year 5 or Year 6 currently and might be interested in being confirmed are invited to join a new group Rev Mary is running. Sessions will run from 4.30-5.30pm starting on Wed 6th March for 5 weeks at St Paul's Church, Brompton-on-Swale. Please contact Rev Mary on 07306 092569 to discuss.

Shelley's Easter Holiday Club will run in school on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd April. Please book directly with Shelly. shellyschildminding7@gmail.com

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

With my best wishes,

Nicola Dobson

Please see highlights from around the classes on the next pages.

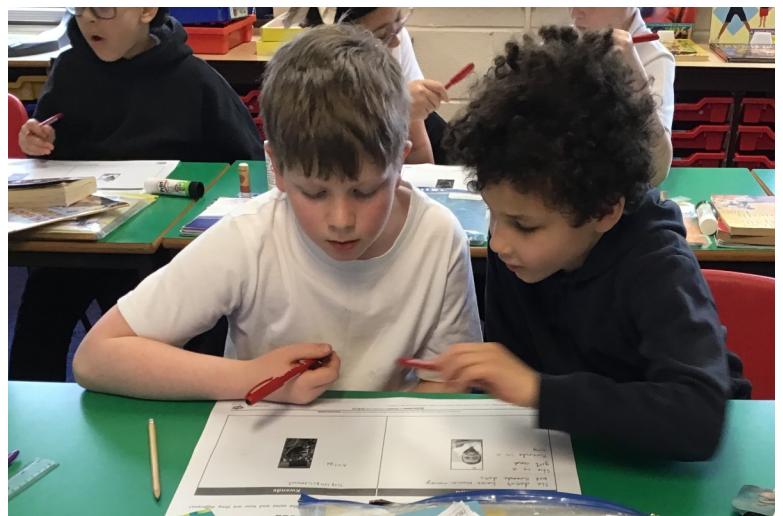
Class 1: have been busy preparing their Class Assembly. They have enjoyed exploring materials in Science and testing for waterproof properties. They have also loved their History work on The Great Fire of London. Pictured below: 3D model building; creating Great Fire of London collage art work and testing materials in Science.



Class 2: have been working on division skills with 2's, 5's and 10's and focussed on 2D shapes also. In English they have re told the story of the Gingerbread Man and in History they have been exploring the time line for The Great Fire Of London. Pictured below working with 2D shapes in Maths.



Class 3: In English they have completed their Dragon report writing and have started work on the text the Rainbow Bear by Michael Morpurgo. They are enjoying their PE; Tennis and Gymnastics. In Science they are exploring skeletal structures. We take it in turns to represent school in sporting competitions and pictured below are our volley ball teams. In PSHE we have opportunities to discuss important issues relating to living in the wider world.



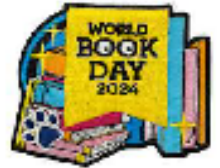
Class 4: have been working hard on their History work on the Victorians era. They have also completed a course in Mini First Aid which will help to keep them and others safe. In Maths they have focussed on Fractions and in English they are researching and drafting their Mystery stories. Pictured below are highlights from their Victorian Workshop Day. They completed drama activities in the morning and researched Isambard Kingdom Brunel's suspension bridge in the afternoon. Then they worked in teams as a DT project to build their own suspension bridge.

The photo below, which we have in school, is of pupils at Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's School (the Old School House near the church) dating back to 1898 when Mr Toyer was Headmaster and Miss Simpson (who later married Nick Barker) taught the Infants. Class enjoyed comparing their Victorian costumes with these!





Why reading at home with your child is so important



You need to read with your child daily until the end of Year 6.

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success - more than their family background, parents' educational background, or income.

Fifteen is fantastic

Young people who read for 15 minutes a day...



To support you child in reading for pleasure you need to do these 6 things:

1. **Read to your child regularly** - bedtime is a good time, even when they are in Year 6!
2. **Have books at home** - we have lots you can borrow from our school library for free
3. **Have a choice in what to read** - we have books on lots of topics, something for everyone
4. **Make time to read** - help your child with this, limit screen time and make bedtime into story time
5. **Have trusted help to find a book** - we give lots of advice in school, you can too
6. **Make reading FUN!** - the more your child reads the more they will enjoy it. All children love being read to even when they can read themselves.



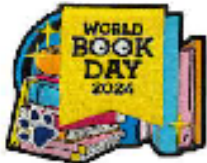
My Bedtime Story Diary for World Book Day 2024

Read your child a bedtime story and complete the chart below with them. Please return it to school on Friday 8th March. (In school we are keeping the Friday as our World Book Day and are dressing as book characters on Friday)

Child's Name: _____

How did your adult do?!

Make sure you have fun together

Day 1	✓✓✓	Day 2	✓✓✓
My adult read to me with expression		My adult read to me with expression	
My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story		My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story	
Day 3	✓✓✓	Day 4	✓✓✓
My adult read to me with expression		My adult read to me with expression	
My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story		My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story	
Day 5	✓✓✓	Day 6	✓✓✓
My adult read to me with expression		My adult read to me with expression	
My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story		My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story	
Day 7	✓✓✓	<p>World Book Day 2024</p> <p>Please return this to school completed.</p> <p>Enjoy World Book Day!</p> 	
My adult read to me with expression			
My adult talked with me about the characters, information or events in the story			