

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

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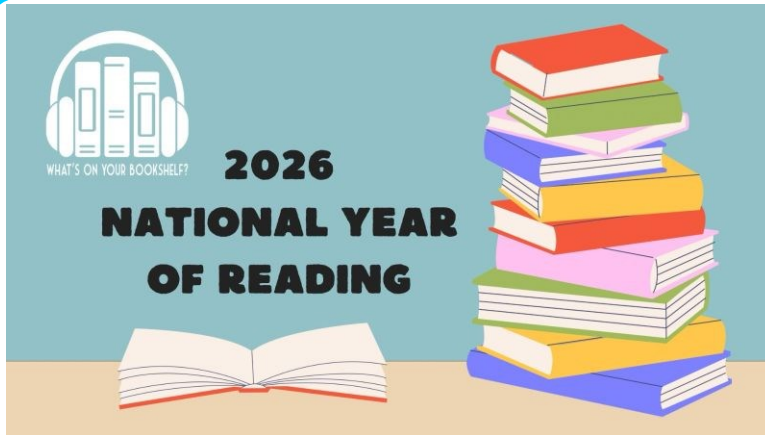
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Headteacher Mrs Nicola Dobson

'To love, live and learn together'

Newsletter Friday 16th January 2026

Our Christian value this half term is 'Love'



National Year of Reading 2026 We launched this with the children this week in a special assembly led by Mrs Wright our English lead. We hope to plan lots of special events to continue to develop further our school of already enthusiastic readers!

We have a school, classrooms and library, full of wonderful books by many well known authors. **Please make time for your child to read at home; please share and read stories to them (including when they reach Year 5 and Year 6). Please encourage your child to read their reading book, their reading for pleasure book or free choice book which they can borrow from school.**

Book amnesty! We have many wonderful books in school and they usually have a school stamp in them; it may be that you sometimes forget to return these. If you find any school books, at any time, please do return them to school.

Reading events coming up this term **Friday 6th March Dress as your favourite book character for World Book Day** (please note that World Book Day nationally is Thursday 5th March but we choose to dress up on Friday 6th March). **Also on Friday 6th March we are holding a Book Swap. Please bring a book you are happy to part with to school and choose another one to take home.**

Diary Dates for this term Key dates have been emailed; they were sent home in book bags on Monday and can be found on the school website under Parents/Diary Dates. **Please note Parent Teacher Consultation dates and Class Assembly dates coming up this term.**

Parent Governor Election Ballot Information about how to vote in this election for one parent governor was sent home in book bags last week. Information about the 2 candidates was emailed to parents. **Ballot papers must be returned to school by 9am Friday morning 23rd January.**

Home to school transport for Secondary Aged Pupils for many years children in Year 7 and above who attend Richmond Secondary School have been provided with free bus transport. From September 2025 Year 7 pupils travelling to Richmond School have needed to apply for a bus pass costing £818 per annum. This was because Richmond School was no longer calculated as their nearest secondary school (Risedale School was instead). **It has now come to light that distances to the nearest school were incorrectly calculated for Year 7 children living in Scorton and an appeal is being launched. If successful, this will result in children living in Scorton, once again having Richmond School designated as their nearest school and therefore receiving free transport.**

The School Transport Action Group will hold a meeting in Bolton-on-Swale St Mary's CE Primary School on Wednesday 28th January at 6pm to share further information Please try and support this meeting. More details are also available by contacting: SchoolTransportAG@gmail.com or vanessa.bell@gmail.com

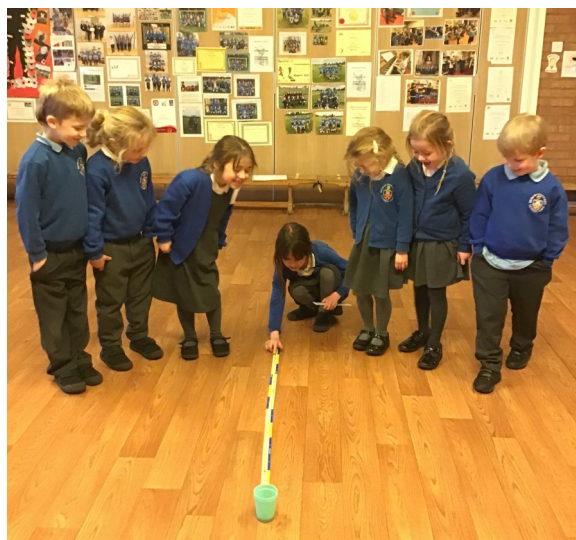
KS1 Multiskills Festival All the children in Year 1 and Y2 will take part in this at Richmond School on Thursday 22nd January. They will need to wear PE kit. Please return your consent slip. **PE kit days for Class 2 next week only will be Tuesday and Thursday. PE kit days for Year 1 in Class 1 next week only will be Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.**

Around the classes this week:

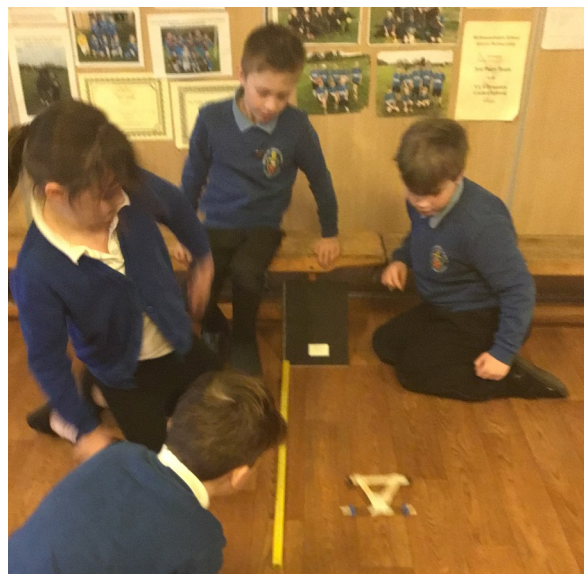
In Class 1 Mrs Reynolds says: 'we have all really enjoyed the start to our Great Fire of London topic. In English we are reading traditional tales and this week we focussed on The Three Little Pigs. In RE we have explored baptism in the Christian Church for our Reception children and Judaism in Year 1.'



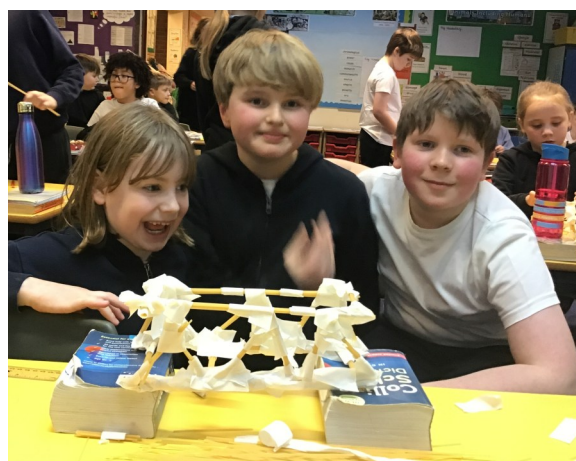
In Class 2 Mrs Smith and Mrs Dutton say: 'we have also made a great start with our History work on the Great Fire of London. In English our writing has been based on the story of The Gingerbread Man. In Science we have carried out an investigation into how far different smells can travel.'



In Class 3 Mrs Wright says: 'we are enjoying our English writing around dragons inspired by our very own dragon eggs. In Geography we have used an Atlas to locate Egypt. In Science we are exploring how we hear sounds. In PE we are developing our Hockey skills and in Dance we are creating our own beach motifs. In our Design Technology work we built and tested our own vehicles.'



In Class 4 Mr Ramsbottom says: 'we have worked hard on addition and subtraction of fractions. In English we are exploring the characteristics of a detective linked to the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes. In History we have placed key events in the Victorian period on a timeline. In Science we are learning about the life cycle of humans. Our Design Technology work looks at structures and bridges.'



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

With my best wishes,

Nicola Dobson