

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

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'To love, live and learn together'

Newsletter Friday 9th January 2026

Our Christian value this half term is 'Love'

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term On behalf of the staff and myself, thank you for all the wonderful cards and gifts we received at Christmas. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
John 15:12

This week we have been thinking of the journey of the Three Wise Men and the season of Epiphany in the Church calendar. We have reflected on our new Christian value for the half term which is **Love** and have thought about how we care for one another and how we show love, kindness and compassion to others. We celebrated a wonderful Christmas in school finishing with our visit from Father Christmas on his tractor, our parties, Christmas lunch and KS2 led Carol Service in St Mary's Church when our children sang, read and performed so confidently. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. Thank you for all your support.

Curriculum Letters and Topics for the term All the classes have new topics for the term. **Classes 1 and 2 are looking at the The Great Fire of London and People who help us. Class 3 is studying the civilisation of Ancient Egypt and Class 4 The Victorians.** Each class teacher has outlined other topic areas in the curriculum letters sent home in book bags on Friday. Homework continues to go home on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday.

Diary Dates for this term Key dates have been emailed with this newsletter and will be sent home in paper form and uploaded to our website. **Please note Parent Consultation and Class Assembly dates.**

PE Kit Day for this term: Class 1 wear PE Kit on **Tuesday and Friday**; Class 2 wear PE Kit on **Tuesday and Wednesday**; Class 3 wear PE kit on **Tuesday and Thursday**; Class 4 wear PE kit on **Tuesday and Friday**.

Thank you to everyone and to Friends of School A huge thank you for supporting our Christmas fundraising activities especially the raffle and refreshments at our Nativity performances. Thank you for the ongoing organisation and support for our Pre loved uniform shop. Our visit from Father Christmas on his wonderfully decorated tractor, driven by our farming helper elves was a Christmas highlight. A huge thank you to The Green Frog Garden Shop at Ellerton Lake for their kind donation of our beautiful Christmas tree once again. We all enjoyed our last day Carol Service in St Mary's Church and Christmas services in the parish. Thank you to Rev Simon and the parish.



Staffing news

Congratulations to Mrs Smith who is expecting her third child and will go on maternity leave at Easter. Class 2 will be taught full time by Mrs Dutton during the maternity leave. Miss Cooper continues to work full time in Class 2.

Clubs will start next week Clubs are offered to children in Y1 to Y6 and change half termly. **Thank you for booking on Parent Pay.** There is no cost: staff give their time generously and Sports Premium funds our sports coaches.

Clubs this half term are:

Tues: Y1, Y2, Y3 Dodgeball till 4.15pm

Tues: Choir Y1-Y6 till 4.15pm

Thurs: Eco Team KS2; Lego Club Y1-Y3 till 4.15pm

Friday: Recorders Y1-Y6 8.15am-8.45am

Y6 SATs Club starts Thursday mornings at 8am.

Y6 SATs week 2026 Monday 11th to Friday 15th May

Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting Mr Ramsbottom will be contacting Year 6 parents shortly with a date for a Year 6 Parent's SATs meeting.

Instrumental Lessons Class 3 violin and cello lessons and individual/small group piano, violin, cello with Mrs Jameson started back this week. **A reminder from Mrs Jameson to bring your music and practice book.** We currently have a waiting list for lessons. Please contact the office to be added to the list. It may be possible to organise lessons on other instruments. Please speak to us.

Special Mentions Assembly Reminder A reminder that each Friday afternoon we meet as a whole school to celebrate and reflect on our week in school. We remember birthdays and share in the children's successes out of school also. Please do bring in or email any details about things you would like to share with us.

How can I support my child in making good progress in their learning?

Reading with your child For children of all ages - all research shows that hearing your child read, reading to them or discussing their reading with them is one the most important things you can do to ensure good progress in school. Helping them to make time at home to read is helpful too! Do this everyday if possible and discuss tricky words and meanings with them.

Maths and learning times tables Learning times tables is an area in which you can really help your child make progress in Maths. The curriculum states that:

In Year 1 children should practice counting in 2's, 5's and 10's.

By the end of Year 2 children should know: x2, x5, x10 tables. eg. $2 \times 7 = 14$; $11 \times 10 = 110$.

By the end of Year 3 children should know x2, x3, x4, x5, x 8, x10 tables eg. $4 \times 8 = 32$; $8 \times 9 = 72$.

By the end of Year 4 your child needs to know all their tables to x12 mixed up, with a quick response eg. $9 \times 9 = 81$, $7 \times 8 = 56$, $9 \times 7 = 63$.

If your child is in Year 5 and 6 they need to be fluent and confident in their times tables knowledge to x12 including division facts eg. $49 \div 7 = 7$, $132 \div 11 = 12$.

Year 4 children received information in their curriculum letter about the national Multiplication Check in June

Copy and paste the link below for a practise website your Year 4 child can use at home to prepare for the Multiplication Check.

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Keeping your child safe online and setting parental controls Some children may have received new electronic devices at Christmas. Please keep your child safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

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

With my best wishes,

Nicola Dobson

Pictured below: Class 1 join hands and learn to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' as they celebrate the New Year!

