

# 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 12th January 2024

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 again for all the wonderful cards and gifts we received at Christmas. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. This week we have been thinking about 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 can show love and kindness to others and how we can work to use our gifts and talents to help others. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

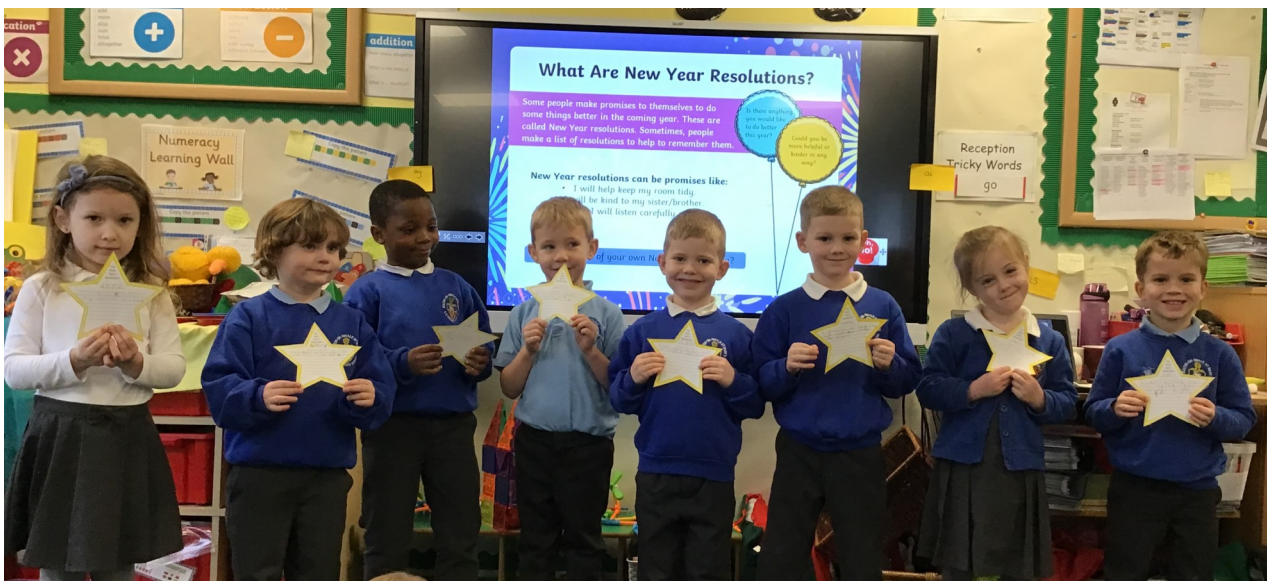
"This is My commandment,  
that you love one another,  
just as I have loved you.  
John 15:12

**Curriculum Letters and Topics for the term** All the classes have new topics for the term. **Classes 1 and 2 are looking at Weather in the UK and around the World** and later in term **'The Great Fire of London'**. **Class 3 is studying the continent of North America** and **Class 4 is exploring the Victorian period in history**. Each class teacher has outlined other topic areas and days for Class PE in the curriculum letters sent home on Friday. Homework continues to go home on a Friday to be returned by Wednesday.

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

**Thank you to everyone and to Friends of School** A huge thank you for supporting our Christmas fundraising activities; final totals to follow. Everything raised will be used to enhance learning for all our children in school. We are looking forward to a whole school theatre performance of 'The Secret Garden' later this term which will be funded by this.

**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.**



**Class 1 and 2 wrote New Year Resolutions. Pictured here are some of our Y1 children sharing these with their Class.**

**Clubs start week beginning 15th January** Clubs are offered to children in Y1 to Y6 and change half termly. **Please book your child's place on Parent Pay.** There is no cost: staff give their time generously and Sports Premium funds our sports coaches. **All Clubs finish at 4.15pm apart from Y6 SATs Club which finishes at 4.30pm.**

**Clubs this half term are:**

**Tues: KS2 Dodgeball; Choir Y1-Y6**

**Wed: Y6 SATs Club; Dance Y2, Y3,Y4**

**Thurs: Eco Team KS1; Eco Team KS2**

**Friday: Recorders Y1-Y6 8.15am-8.45am**

**Lunchtime Clubs** We encourage our older children to take on leadership roles in school. Class 4 children run a Thursday **lunchtime Art Club** which children love to attend. Our Service Pupils are also running a **lunchtime Military Kids Club** this term. Children are supported by school staff when running these. This half term we have a Sports Coach running a football 'skills and tricks' session each Wednesday lunchtime which all children are free to drop into.

**Y6 SATs Week 2024 Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May**

**Year 6 SATs Parents Meeting Thursday 25th January at 5pm in school** This is for parents of Year 6 children; please put the date in your diary and make it a priority. We will be sharing important information on how you can best support your child, both in preparation for SATs and for the important skills they need for Secondary School.

**Instrumental Lessons** Class 3 violin and cello lessons and individual/small group piano, violin, cello with Mrs Jameson have started again. **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 in other instruments. Please speak to us.

**Open Pantry in the Parish** Food/toiletry items are freely available to anyone who might need them. Please visit St Mary's Church, Bolton-on-Swale or St Paul's Church, Brompton-on-Swale between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday where you may freely select your own items.

**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. Do this everyday if possible and discuss tricky words 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 will take the National Times Tables 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. Class 4 children can use it for revision too.

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

**Discovery Education Espresso** This is an online learning resource your child can access at home. It has a huge range of resources directly relevant to your child's learning in all areas. There is great weekly news; online safety information; games and exciting videos linked to all primary curriculum areas. [www.discoveryeducation.co.uk](http://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk)

Username: student23945 Password: bolton

Please see the next page for highlights from our first week back in school.

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

With my best wishes,

Nicola Dobson

**Class 1** have had a great first week back and have enjoyed making their New Year Resolutions. In Maths they have focussed on number and ordering and counting forwards and backwards in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. In Geography and English they have enjoyed researching polar regions and penguins in particular. We always enjoy building models.



**Class 2** have settled back into school very well and are enjoying having Mrs Smith as well as Mrs Dutton. Mrs Smith teaches Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and Mrs Dutton teaches Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. Miss Cooper continues to work full time as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant in Class 2. They have also written New Year Resolutions and in Maths they have been counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. Their new RE unit is Judaism and they have started their Weather topic in Geography.



**Class 3** Mrs Wright says: 'There has been a real 'buzz' in Class 3 this week as we launched our new Topic of North America with pen pal letters sent to us from Michigan, North America. Our focus in English this week has been letter writing to our pen pals. In Maths we have been looking at the relationship between multiplication and division. In Dance we experimented moving to music as if we were in an earthquake. Pictured here, Class 3 enjoyed our lunchtime football skills Club.

**Class 4** have started their Victorian topic in History. Mr Ramsbottom has been very impressed with the high quality of the research homework tasks completed in preparation for the start of this topic. These are all displayed in class including some excellent photos sent in from children who chose to bake a Victoria sponge cake. Well done to everyone for excellent homework. Class 4 have also been researching the detective Sherlock Holmes and his assistant Dr Watson in preparation for their writing about what makes a good detective. In Maths they are revising division which requires very speedy times tables knowledge. They have started their Class reader: 'Street Child' which is also set in Victorian London.

