









PRIMARY DIVISION REVIEW 2025-26

BOLTON
SCHOOL
PRIMARY DIVISION

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From the Head of Primary Division

2025–26 was once again a busy, productive and thoroughly enjoyable year across the Primary Division. I have particularly enjoyed spending time with the children and their teachers, seeing first-hand the excitement they gain from their experiences both in the classroom and beyond.

The children speak with such enthusiasm about the trips they have enjoyed, the concerts in which they have performed and, at the heart of it all, the fun they have shared with their friends. It has been wonderful to see the different parts of the Primary Division come together throughout the year: from our Nursery and Beech House Pre-School children visiting the farm and playing together on the trim trail, to musicians from all three schools coming together for Orchestra Day, and everyone donning their antlers for the Reindeer Dash.

That sense of camaraderie across the Division, while still allowing each setting to create the opportunities and experiences that are most appropriate for its own children, is what makes our Primary Division such an exciting and special place to be. It is a privilege to lead such a vibrant community, and one that I continue to enjoy enormously.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, I do so with a real sense of enthusiasm and excitement. I look forward to seeing the children embrace new opportunities, make new friendships and, most importantly, create many more happy memories together.

Mrs Sue Faulkner
Head of Primary Division



Primary Division

Kidzone's 25th Birthday

25 years of before and after school care and holiday clubs at Bolton School! No birthday is complete without cake, so children and families joined staff for delicious cupcakes to celebrate.









Blooming Daffodils

Back in October, pupils across Bolton School planted daffodil bulbs for Mental Health Week, with new pupils planting something that would become part of their new school. By March, the children finally got to see their bulbs burst into flower, filling the grounds with a lovely splash of spring colour.






Careers Fair

Year 6 got a taste of working life at our Careers Carousel! They met a dentist and a psychologist, alongside people working in business and manufacturing. The children had plenty of questions and enjoyed thinking about what they might like to do one day, as well as how our Hesketh House Habits and Park Road Principles can help them get there.





Hesketh House Cookery Club

Cookery Club has given pupils plenty of opportunities to get stuck into the kitchen this year. They put their chopping skills to the test making fruit kebabs and wraps, before turning their hands to pizza bagels and fridge cake. Cookies and decorated cupcakes also made it onto the menu! The children enjoyed cooking alongside boys from Park Road too, working together and building friendships as time went on.













Lexus Junior International Tennis Finals

Primary Division pupils had front row seats for the action at Bolton Arena, watching two brilliant tournament finals! They even got to quiz the players afterwards before heading onto court to have a go themselves with the Arena coaches.







Cross Country

Over 400 pupils took on our Primary Division House Cross Country in October, racing around the course to earn points for their House. With lots of cheering along the way, it was a great afternoon for our runners!











National Year of Reading 2026

2026's National Year of Reading gave us lots of different ways to enjoy books. January began with comics and humour, showing that reading can be great fun. In February, we created reading trees and celebrated the magic of stories during National Storytelling Week. March brought World Book Day, with everyone dressing as favourite book characters, as well as a visit from the Book Fair.

For International Children's Book Day in April, we celebrated Danish author Hans Christian Andersen and the fairy tales that are still enjoyed around the world today. May brought Reading Rivers, where children recorded a whole month of their reading, before we signed up for the Read to the Beat Summer Reading Challenge in June to keep those books open over the holidays!






Park Road Gymnastics

Year 2 from Beech House headed over to Park Road to watch the gymnastics final and cheer on the boys who had qualified. They really enjoyed watching the routines and are now looking forward to having a go in their own PE lessons!









Primary Division Orchestra Day

Our young musicians took over the Girls' Division Great Hall for Primary Division Orchestra Day, coming together for just one day of rehearsals before performing for their families. Year 2 joined in on the fun too, singing *Wimoweh* from *The Lion King!*






Reading Buddies

Year 2 readers met up with their Year 5 reading buddies from Park Road each week to enjoy some challenging books together. The children got to visit the Park Road library, with a picnic at the end of the year to celebrate all their hard work.











Reindeer Run

More than 650 children from across Primary Division pulled on their antlers for this year's Reindeer Run in support of Bolton Hospice, joining nearly 12,000 children taking part across the local area. The cold weather did not put them off as they made their way around the School grounds, with a surprise high five from Cyril the Squirrel waiting along the route! Everyone then came together for a big rendition of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* to round off a very festive fundraiser.









The Hulton Lecture

Old Girl Megan Goodall (née Bowden, Class of 2011) returned to Bolton School as keynote speaker for this year's Primary Division Hulton Lecture. Now a commercial pilot flying Boeing 737s, Megan spoke to Year 6 pupils and their families about the unexpected route that took her from plans to study medicine and Japanese to working in television, teaching snowboarding and eventually becoming a pilot.

Megan shared how the setbacks along the way helped shape the person she is today, reminding pupils that life does not always need to follow a set plan.





Remembrance Service

Remembrance Day is an important occasion in Primary Division, when we come together across our schools to pause, reflect and remember those who lost their lives in the World Wars. It is a time to honour their courage and sacrifice, while helping our pupils understand the importance of remembrance, kindness and respect. As we remember the past, we also look to the future with hope for peace around the world.





Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Young artists from Park Road and Hesketh House had a brilliant day out at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. There was so much to see, including William Kentridge's enormous sculptures and work by famous artists such as Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. The children loved exploring the park and seeing just how big art can be!





Scouting

Squirrels

There has been no shortage of adventure, with trips into the Leverhulme Woods and lots of chances to get stuck into something new. The children created large scale artwork using natural materials and also helped look after the School environment with some litter picking.

New Squirrels joined the drey during the year too, learning more about Scouting and getting ready for their investiture.

The Summer Term kept the fun going. The children learned how to pack for an adventure and spent more time outdoors, including around the campfire. They also cared for the planters and explored different countries through team activities.

The year finished with a well earned picnic, followed by ice pops. A very happy ending to a very busy year!

Miss D Findlay
Squirrel Lead Volunteer























Beavers

The Autumn Term got off to a brilliant start with the Year 3 sleepover. The Beavers learned more about Scouting around the world and headed out on a hike, before ending the day with marshmallows around the fire. Year 2 had their own adventure at Bibby's Farm, where the cave bus proved a real test of nerve and soft tomahawk throwing quickly became a favourite.

In the Spring Term, we welcomed our new Year 1 Beavers into the colony. Some had moved up from Squirrels, while others were joining Scouting for the first time. Before long, they were settling into their lodges and getting to know what being a Beaver is all about.

Summer brought even more excitement. The Beavers practised fire lighting and paid a visit to Cub Camp, where grass sledging caused plenty of smiles. The year finished with a Year 2 sleepover and one final dose of outdoor adventure.

Miss K Stevenson
Beaver Lead Volunteer













Cubs

Another year of Cubs has flown by! Autumn saw the Cubs making apple crumble and discovering the Incan festival of Inti Raymi.

In March, they visited the Quaker Meeting House as part of their World Faith badge, learning more about Quaker history and beliefs. They also headed outdoors to identify trees by their leaves and find out more about the wildlife living in our hedgerows.

June meant Cub Camp! This year's theme was *The Jungle Book*, chosen to celebrate 110 years of Cubs. The weekend included den building and grass sledging, and the Cubs even cooked their own lunches over an open fire.

Plans for 2027 are already taking shape, with the next Cub Camp firmly in the diary!

Libby Hough
Cub Lead Volunteer

Year 6 Scouts

Year 6 Scouts are part of the wider 19th Bolton Scout Group at Bolton School, helping children make the move from Cubs into the senior Scout section.

The School grounds became their base for learning outdoor skills. They built shelters and pitched tents, before getting to grips with knots and fire safety. Archery also made an appearance, while the Scouts learnt CPR and made their own colourful Turk's head woggles. When there was time for a game, Werewolf was still the favourite!

Long Camp near Berwick upon Tweed gave Year 6 the chance to camp alongside the senior Scouts they would soon be joining. There was outdoor cooking and a visit to the PGL site. Disco Bingo proved especially popular, with everyone trying to recognise the songs and shout 'BINGO' first!









Outdoor Learning

Adventures in the Woodlands

The woodlands have been full of adventure! The children let their imaginations run wild, making fairy dresses and mixing up magical potions before taking to their pretend broomsticks. Year 1 also welcomed their grown ups to Leverhulme Woods for a lovely morning together, with seed planting and a scavenger hunt keeping everyone busy.



























Ski Trip

Junior Boys and Junior Girls hit the slopes for a brilliant week of skiing, complete with incredible views from 3,000 metres up on the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier!





Sustainability Conference

The girls had a brilliant day at the Sustainability Conference at Blackburn Rovers, picking up plenty of ideas about how small changes can make a difference.
They also got creative with a poster challenge before the Trashion Show completely stole the spotlight. Seeing outfits made from recycled materials gave everyone plenty to talk about and proved that things we usually throw away can have a very stylish second life!









Patterdale

A trip to Patterdale Hall is always a much anticipated part of the year for pupils in our Junior Boys' and Junior Girls' Schools. Set beside Ullswater in the Lake District, the School's Outdoor Adventure Learning Centre gives children the chance to step away from the classroom and take on something a little different. Through a range of outdoor challenges, they learn to rely on each other and grow in confidence, while picking up skills that stay with them long after the trip is over.





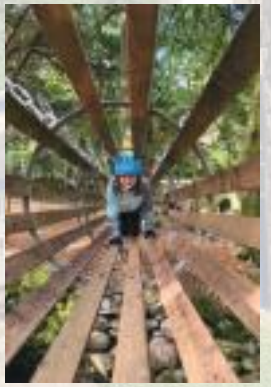














From the Nursery Management Team

Welcome to Bolton School Nursery, where every child is a valued part of the wider Bolton School family.

Our aim is to give every child the best possible start. We want children to feel happy and secure here, while developing confidence and a genuine enjoyment of learning.

Our experienced practitioners provide high-quality care and education for children aged eight weeks to five years. Strong relationships are at the heart of what we do. By getting to know each child well, we can support them in a way that feels personal and appropriate to their stage of development.

Learning at Bolton School Nursery is shaped by the interests of the children and supported through thoughtful adult guidance. Children have regular opportunities to investigate new ideas and become more independent in their learning.

Our outdoor environment is a particularly important part of Nursery life. It gives children the freedom to be active, explore the natural world and learn through first-hand experience. These opportunities help children become more confident in trying new things and finding their own ways to solve problems.

Inside the Nursery, our curriculum is carefully planned to give children a broad range of experiences. As they grow older, they also begin to benefit more directly from being part of Bolton School. Specialist PE sessions and visits to the School Library introduce them to different parts of school life, while time spent with the Pre-School Class at Beech House helps make the transition into school feel more familiar.

We also place great importance on our relationship with parents and carers. Families know their children best, and working closely together helps us provide the right support for each child. We keep parents informed about progress and encourage families to share in Nursery life whenever they can.

As children prepare to move on, we want them to leave us feeling confident about the next stage and proud of how much they have grown during their time here.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated Nursery team. Their experience and commitment make a real difference to our children and families every day, and their ongoing professional development helps us continue to provide a very high standard of care and education.

Warm regards,

Mrs Allyson Hunt, Miss Jill Sunter and Mrs Laura Smith
Nursery Management Team

Special Occasions




Classtonbury

Classtonbury was back! Our little festival goers enjoyed singing and dancing, with families joining in the fun too. Thank you to everyone who made it such a great day!










Easter

The children had an eggs-tra special time hunting for numbers around the garden!







Graduation

The Pre-School class spread their wings and graduated from Nursery in the summer!

Mother's Day Stay and Play

Mother's Day brought some very special visitors to Nursery, as mums, grandmas and other important people joined the children for a fun Stay and Play session!









Father's Day Stay and Play

Dads, grandpas and other special people got to join in the Nursery fun for Father's Day, with a Stay and Play session alongside the children!

World Book Day

World Book Day was a blast, with the children bringing their favourite characters to life!








Everyday Fun

Art
The children love getting stuck into art and exploring different ways to create colourful paintings!







Sensory Play
The children absolutely love sensory play! They've had so much fun getting messy, splashing about and exploring with their hands.












Story Time
Everyone loves getting together to read a good book at Nursery!









Farm Day
There was lots of excitement when the farm animals came to visit Nursery!





Making our Mark
Mark Making at nursery helps children to develop From squiggles and scribbles to their first letters, mark making at Nursery helps children discover the fun of writing.













Gardening
The children loved to plant seeds, water them and watch them grow into vegetables!





Outdoor Play
The children love getting outside, running around and having lots of fun together.











People Who Help Us
Learning about people who help us is even more exciting when you get to climb aboard a real fire engine.

From the Head of Infants

There has been such a wonderful sense of excitement and curiosity at Beech House this year. As the children have gone about their learning, it has been lovely to see how keen they have been to get involved and make the most of each new experience. Watching them grow in confidence, try new things and simply enjoy being at School has been a real pleasure.

Our children and staff have achieved so much together this year and have made the most of an incredible range of opportunities, both within the classroom and beyond. Trips and visits, sporting events and performances have all added something extra to School life, alongside the many extra-curricular activities taking place throughout the year. There really has been something for everyone, giving our children the chance to discover new interests and challenge themselves along the way.

Throughout the year, we have continued to develop our Brilliant Beech House Behaviours, helping the children to think not only about what they are learning, but about the qualities that help them become successful learners and thoughtful people. Our eight themes, Challenge, Collaboration, Commitment, Communication, Compassion, Creativity, Curiosity and, of course, Celebration, have become increasingly embedded in everyday life at Beech House. It has been wonderful to hear the children using this language themselves and beginning to recognise these qualities in what they do each day.

Our Houses, Badgers, Foxes, Hedgehogs and Owls, have brought another exciting part of School life. House afternoons have been a great success, with children from across the year groups working together and enjoying different activities. House spirit was also very much in evidence on Sports Day, while throughout the year children have proudly earned nuggets in recognition of their work and effort. The year culminated in the presentation of the House Cup to [House name], whose members were understandably delighted!

As another busy and happy year drew to a close, there was much for us to celebrate. Above all, it is the enthusiasm and kindness our children bring to School each day that make Beech House the special place it is. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved and how much they have grown over the year.

After such an exciting year, we can only wonder what next year will bring!

Mrs Sue Faulkner
Head of Beech House

Arts





Great Fire of London and Sensory Story

Year 1 went back to 1666 and found themselves right in the middle of the Great Fire of London! A sensory story helped them picture the chaos before they got stuck into clay and built houses of their own.





International Dot Day

Who knew one tiny dot could cause so much creativity? International Dot Day gave children across Beech House the perfect excuse to make their mark.

Travelling by Tuba

Travelling by Tuba was anything but quiet! The children joined in as the music took them around the world, and just when they thought it could not get any more exciting, an exploding tuba appeared!







Georgia O'Keeffe Flowers

Year 1 looked at flowers in a completely different way after discovering Georgia O'Keeffe. Tiny details suddenly became huge, and the children had great fun turning simple blooms into bold artwork.





Sewing

Year 1 discovered that sewing takes a bit more patience than it looks! Once they had got the hang of threading a needle and using a running stitch, there was no stopping them.





Yayoi Kusama Clay Pumpkins

Year 2 went full Kusama for this one! Clay pumpkins quickly took shape before the children added the most important finishing touch of all: dots. Lots of them.



BBC Bitesize Game Testers

Year 2 got one of the best jobs going when they became BBC Bitesize game testers! They tried out new games and spotted anything that needed fixing. Even better, they got a stationery pouch for their efforts.



House Day: Collaboration

One dot each soon turned into something much bigger on House Day. Every child added their own twist, and the finished piece now brightens up the main corridor for everyone to enjoy.





LS Lowry Collaborative Art Workshop

After learning about LS Lowry, the children worked together to create a huge piece of art inspired by his unmistakable style. Each group added their own ideas until the different sections came together as one large artwork for display at school. Back in the classroom, the children created scenes of their own featuring Lowry's famous Matchstick Men and Women.

Lowry was the inspiration for a brilliant, shared art project, with the children each adding their own little piece to one giant finished work. They had great fun adding their own ideas, and by the end there were Matchstick Men and Women popping up everywhere!

School Life

Curry Making

Year 2 kicked off the year with curry on the menu, made completely from scratch! The children did the prep themselves and learned how to stay safe in the kitchen.











Making Music

Music is part of every week at Beech House, with children enjoying two lessons each week. They also get the opportunity to create music of their own and try different instruments.

Year 2 also began learning either the violin or cello, and some took their playing onto a much bigger stage at the Primary Division Orchestra Day. Performing alongside the older pupils made it an occasion to remember!





Hatching Ducklings

Five little eggs arrived in Pre-School in the spring and the waiting began. When the first ducklings finally started to hatch, excitement swept through Beech House!

Year 2 were particularly delighted. They were reading *"Jemima Puddle Duck"* at the time, so having their very own fluffy version just down the corridor was rather perfect.





Eco Council

Beech House had some very enthusiastic young eco champions! Children put themselves forward before their classmates chose who would represent them on the Eco Council. Once elected, they got busy thinking about how we could look after our School environment and had the chance to action their ideas and start to make a difference.





House Captains

Our Foxes, Badgers, Owls and Hedgehogs each have their own pupil House Captains, nominated by their classmates to take on the role.

The captains have an important job on House Days, helping their groups find their way around School and making sure younger pupils know what they are doing. It is a lovely opportunity for them to take on some extra responsibility and help make House activities run smoothly.





House Days

House Days meant one thing: Foxes, Badgers, Owls and Hedgehogs were out in force!

The afternoons were inspired by our Brilliant Beech House Behaviours, including Compassion and Challenge. One lovely part of the afternoons was seeing older pupils helping the younger children, and siblings sometimes even finding themselves working together! Our Compassion Tree also gave the children a chance to think about what kindness looks like in everyday life.




Year 2 Take on GarageBand

Year 2 went digital and became music producers for the day with GarageBand!

After recording their own voices, they experimented with different sounds and began piecing together tracks of their own. It gave them a completely different way to make music and showed them just how much can go into creating a track on a computer.

From Growing to Eating

Year 2 discovered what it means to 'eat the rainbow', tasting colourful foods along the way. Year 1 made their own fruit salad kebabs and practised their cutting skills as they prepared them. Reception went right back to the beginning by growing their own salad, before picking it and sending it to the kitchen to be enjoyed.







Meet Roger and Reggie

Two furry new faces joined Beech House in 2025 and there was one very important job to do: name them. The children voted and Roger and Reggie were officially welcomed.

The pair quickly became Beech House favourites, and the children loved any opportunity to spend time with them. Thankfully, Roger and Reggie seemed pretty happy with the arrangement too!

Sport





Football Festival

Six Year 2 children spent a morning at Moss Bank Football Club playing three-a-side football. The emphasis was simply on joining in and enjoying the game. As the morning went on, the children really started to find their feet and threw themselves into each match.



Football Matches

Park Road has seen plenty of football action this year, with our Key Stage 1 children taking part in after-school matches, usually against Egerton Primary School. The children certainly enjoy the chance to get competitive, especially with parents and teachers on the sidelines cheering them on!

House Cricket Day

Cricket arrived at Beech House this year with our very first House Cricket Day on the Senior School field.

For many of the children, this was their first time playing cricket, so the games were set up to make sure everyone could join in. Each child had the chance to hit a bowled ball or use a tee if they needed one.

It was clearly a hit, because plenty of children were asking about the cricket festival before the morning was even over!





Ten Pin Bowling

Four children on our SEND register headed to Hollywood Bowl for a ten pin bowling competition. The quieter setting helped everyone settle in and enjoy the experience, with Beech House staff there to support them throughout. There were some very pleased faces when the pins were knocked over.









Gymnastics

Eight of our Year 2 gymnasts headed to Gymfinity for an inter-school competition after spending time practising the floor routines they would perform in front of the judges. They also took on the vault, with scores awarded for both events.

The practice certainly paid off. Four children earned individual placings and even better, the team finished first overall!

Two weeks later, another group visited Gymfinity for its Have a Go Festival. This time, there were no scores to worry about, just the chance to try new skills and see what they could do.

Manchester City Tournament

What a day this was for our Year 2 footballers! Seven boys represented Beech House at the AJIS Year 2 Football Tournament at Manchester City's training ground, and they came home as champions Across six matches, the boys scored 16 goals and didn't concede once! Their attitude throughout the tournament was excellent, and they were great sports on and off the pitch.





Dodgeball

Our Key Stage 1 children headed to Bolton Arena for the Key PE Sports Dodgeball Festivals, organised as part of Bolton's Your School Games. Six children attended each event and joined mixed teams for lots of quick games against pupils from other local primary schools.



Trips





Year 1 at Knowsley Safari Park

Year 1 went wild at Knowsley Safari Park! Their day began on foot, where they spotted meerkats and giraffes. The sea lion show caused plenty of excitement, especially for those who ended up getting splashed! The day finished with a five-mile guided safari, giving everyone the chance to spot some much bigger animals up close.



Year 2 at RHS Bridgewater

Green fingers at the ready! At RHS Bridgewater, Year 2 discovered all sorts of edible plants and found out which parts of them actually end up on our plates. Then it was gardening gloves on as they prepared the vegetable patch and planted seedlings of their own. Everyone took a seedling home too, ready to see how well they could keep it growing!











Year 2 at the Anderton Centre

Year 2 swapped the classroom for the great outdoors at the Anderton Centre, where a day of adventure was waiting for them. With the centre surrounded by woodland and its reservoir, there were plenty of activities available to try.

A Victorian Christmas at Turton Tower

Christmas looked rather different when Year 1 stepped back into the Victorian era at Turton Tower. The children discovered how families celebrated Christmas in the past and learnt about some of the traditions that have changed over the years.

They also made festive treats before a very important visitor arrived. Father Christmas was waiting to see them, making their trip even more magical.





Reception at Imagine That!

Reception had a VERY busy day at Imagine That! The children experimented with slime and bath bombs, before having fun with bubbles and artificial snow.

They also got to add colour to a real car and tried out different roles in the supermarket and construction areas.









Seaside Learning Comes to School

The seaside came to Beech House when Al Fresco Learning visited Year 1 for an outdoor workshop. The children designed and built their own boats inspired by different periods in history, before putting them to the test to see whether their creations actually worked.







Pre-School at Smithills Farm

Pre-School headed to Smithills Farm to meet some of the animals they had been learning about at Beech House. Seeing a working farm in action gave the children the chance to find out how the animals are looked after and discover more about where our food comes from.

Special Occasions





Cressida Cowell

It was lovely to welcome Cressida Cowell back to Bolton School as she launched her new book, *Emily Brown and the Not Very Spooky Halloween*. Children heard the new story from Cressida herself and secured signed copies!









House Days

House Days saw the whole of Beech House mix together, with Pre-School children working alongside pupils right up to Year 2. Each afternoon focused on one of our Brilliant Beech House Behaviours, but the best part was seeing everyone muck in together.



Diwali

Beech House lit up for Diwali as the children discovered the story of Rama and Sita! Then it was their turn to get creative, making clay diyas and filling their rangoli patterns with colour. It was a beautiful celebration and a lovely introduction for the children to one of the world's most joyful festivals.



Number Day

Number Day brought maths out of the classroom, with children dressing up as numbers and getting stuck into practical activities throughout the day. They also raised money to support the NSPCC's vital work with children.











Eid

There was lots to discover as the children learned how families celebrate Eid. After hearing about some of the traditions behind the festival, the children had a chance to create their own Eid cards and even had a go at designing their own mehndi patterns!













World Book Day

Beech House looked rather different on World Book Day, with favourite characters suddenly appearing in classrooms and corridors!

This year, *Little People, Big Dreams* took centre stage and inspired the children to try their hand at biographical writing.

The celebrations stretched beyond Beech House too. Local primary schools joined us for an outreach event with a visiting illustrator, who gave the children a peek into the creative world behind the books they love.







Tea at the Riley

After treating local residents and Old Boys and Girls of Bolton School to songs from their Nativity, the children spent time chatting with their guests over the festive afternoon. A lovely Christmas tradition and one the children always enjoy being part of.

Young Minds: Wear Yellow Day

Sunshine yellow took over Beech House as we marked the 10th anniversary of YoungMinds' Wear Yellow Day.

There was even help from nature. Daffodils planted the previous year had sprung into bloom, adding their own splash of yellow to a day all about raising awareness of children's mental health.





School Council

Our budding councillors explained why they deserved the job of councillor before classmates cast their votes in the School post box. Those elected received their badges in assembly and then got stuck into their new jobs.



Charity



Urban Outreach: Christmas Dinner on Jesus

The Selection Boxes piled up quickly for Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus appeal, and our original target of 3,000 was soon left behind. By the end, almost 3,500 had been collected! Children also helped get everything sorted and packed, ready to make Christmas a little brighter for local families.



Children in Need

Pudsey and Blush made plenty of appearances for Children in Need, along with a whole lot of yellow. The children got involved throughout the day and helped contribute to the incredible £45.5 million raised across the UK.



Easter Eggstravaganza

Beech House was not short of chocolate for the Easter Eggstravaganza! Every child donated an Easter egg for Urban Outreach, with School Council helping to get them packed and ready to go out to local families.



Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day gave the children a chance to pause and think about those who have served during conflict, as well as why remembering them still matters today.



Bolton Hospice Reindeer Run

Antlers on and off they went! Primary Division children wrapped up warm and took part in the Schools Reindeer Run, raising money for Bolton Hospice while enjoying a very festive lap of the School grounds.

From the Head of Junior Girls

Hesketh House is a truly special place: a vibrant and ambitious school filled with joy, where creativity and communication sit at the heart of everything we do. Our Hesketh Habits drive our approach to learning each day, shaping pupils who are curious, resilient and ready to embrace new challenges. A defining strength of our school is the girls' exceptional oracy skills and their ability to articulate their thoughts and feelings clearly and thoughtfully. This focus on communication enriches learning across every subject and equips pupils with skills that will serve them throughout their education and far beyond.

Our pupils thrive in a rich and stimulating educational environment that blends academic excellence with a fantastic range of extra-curricular opportunities. Whether through music, drama, sport, clubs or leadership roles, there is truly something for everyone. These experiences allow pupils to discover new passions while developing character and forming lasting friendships.

One of the most memorable aspects of school life is our Patterdale residential programme. These experiences see pupils embracing adventure and learning to step beyond their comfort zones. The 'have a go' spirit that emerges during these trips becomes part of who they are, encouraging them to try new things and embrace new opportunities.

Each year, we seem to fit more and more into our school calendar, yet the greatest highlight is always the same: spending time with the children. Their enthusiasm and kindness they show to others remind us daily why Hesketh House is such an extraordinary place to learn and grow. To all our pupils, thank you. Your love of learning and sense of wonder brighten every day and make Hesketh House the very special place it is.

We are proud to be part of the Primary Division and the wider Bolton School family. As this review demonstrates, our pupils benefit from an inclusive learning environment where curiosity is nurtured and every child is encouraged to flourish. Our teaching combines strong traditions with innovative practice, ensuring we educate girls with all of the skills they need for life in the 21st century. We strive to develop independent and caring young people who are ready to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

As we look back on another wonderful school year, it has been a joy to reflect on all that our pupils have achieved. The final week of term was particularly memorable, and our Summer Concert, *Little People, Bigger Dreams*, an inspiring journey through our Hesketh Habits, was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year. The uplifting singing and inspirational poetry, accompanied by rhythmic percussion and fabulous dancing, made it an occasion to treasure. My sincere thanks go to all the staff and pupils who worked so hard to create such a special event.

This year, our inspection report was a source of pride for everyone. The inspectors' description of the aspirational environment that the Hesketh House team has created, a place where 'difference is celebrated', where pupils discuss ideas 'with confidence' and show 'respect for each others' opinions', is instantly recognisable to anyone who has spent time in our school.

Their praise for the way in which the Hesketh Habits – curiosity, creativity, compassion, collaboration, commitment, challenge, communication and celebration – are embedded throughout the daily life of the school was especially gratifying. Equally encouraging was their recognition of the high levels of motivation and pride demonstrated by our pupils.

Most significantly, the inspectors identified our Creative Thinking Curriculum as a significant strength of the school. Their recognition of its many benefits was a tremendous accolade and a testament to the dedication and expertise of the Hesketh House staff. They highlighted how the curriculum enables pupils to achieve high levels of attainment and engagement while developing a deeper understanding of their learning. Pupils are encouraged to apply their knowledge creatively, undertake independent enquiry and take ownership of their learning. The inspectors' acknowledgement of the positive impact this has on pupils' self-confidence, self-esteem and achievement is an honour of which we are immensely proud.

As we reach the end of the year, I feel incredibly proud of all the girls and staff at Hesketh House. To our Year 6 pupils, as you move on to the next stage of your educational journey, we send you our very best wishes. We are enormously proud of all that you have achieved and excited to see all that lies ahead for you.

Finally, it has been one of the greatest privileges of my career to serve as Head of Hesketh House. As I hand over with immense pride and confidence to Mrs Shingler, I do so knowing that this wonderful school will continue to flourish. Thank you to our pupils and parents, our staff and the wider community for your unwavering support and commitment.

Mrs Helen Holt
Head of Hesketh House

Art



Modelling and Mosaics

Years 3 to 6 have been getting hands-on with all sorts of modelling materials this year. Year 6 created colourful pots inspired by Frida Kahlo and Mexican Day of the Dead celebrations, while Year 5 made rainforest mosaics using ceramic tiles. The finished pieces certainly added plenty of colour!



Eco Artists

Year 5 became eco-artists, using only natural materials to create pieces inspired by the senses. Some made tasty treats for wildlife, while others used lovely smells or different textures to help birds and insects. Once everything was finished, the children proudly set up their own gallery and invited staff and pupils to come and admire their creations.



Printing

Printing has taken lots of different forms this year. Year 3 had a go at 'quick print' using polystyrene blocks, while Year 4 experimented with printing onto fabric. By Year 6, the girls were ready to try lino carving and create prints of their own.



Exploring Identity

Year 6 became the stars of their own artwork for this project, creating half portraits that were all about them. They had great fun adding collage and mixed media, with every piece turning out completely different and full of character!



Designing with Techsoft

Year 4 became designers this year, using Techsoft to create their own products before watching them come to life on the Laser Cutter. They designed LED nightlights and could even join an extra club to make a personalised door sign to take home.



Textiles and Needlework

Needles and thread have been busy at Hesketh House this year! As well as textile projects in lessons, some girls joined crochet and sewing clubs, giving them even more chances to make something by hand and try out new techniques.



Make Do and Mend

Year 6 discovered just how inventive people had to be during the Second World War when new things were much harder to come by. As part of their Home Front topic, they made model Victory Gardens and learnt about the Make Do and Mend idea.

Music and Drama



Year 3 at the Bridgewater Hall

Year 3 headed to the Bridgewater Hall for a brilliant concert celebrating women in music. They heard pieces by female composers, with *Star Wars* and *Encanto* proving very popular when they popped up too!

Hesketh House Music Festival

The Arts Centre was full of music in February as our annual Music Festival got underway! After two busy days of performances, adjudicated by Philip Dewhurst and Emily Divver, our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place musicians were invited back for a special concert in March. With the choir joining them, the girls had another chance to take to the stage and enjoy a well deserved moment in the spotlight!















Orchestra Day

The Girls' Division Great Hall was bursting with music for Orchestra Day! Young musicians from across the Primary Division came together to form one big orchestra, with lots playing alongside new faces for the first time. After plenty of rehearsing, it was time to show proud parents what they could do, and what a performance they gave!

Charity





Raising Funds for Children in Need

Hesketh House was bursting with colour for Children in Need! Bright socks and Pudsey Bear ears popped up all over School, with the girls having great fun dressing up while raising money for a very good cause.



Christmas Concert

Christmas arrived in style as our Junior girls took to the stage for their festive concert! With family and friends filling the audience, the girls loved every minute of performing. The evening ended on an equally lovely note, with a collection in support of Urban Outreach.

Comic Relief

Hesketh House turned red for Comic Relief, with girls swapping their usual accessories for something a little brighter and wearing their funniest Red Noses with pride.

There were smiles everywhere as the girls got stuck in and raised money along the way. It was a brilliantly simple idea and gave everyone the perfect excuse to look a little bit silly for a very good cause!







Remembrance November

Poppies were worn with pride at Hesketh House as the girls came together for Remembrance. It was a quiet pause in the school day, giving everyone time to think about those who lost their lives in war and why remembering them still matters today.



Hesketh House Charity reps visit Urban Outreach

Our Charity Representatives rolled up their sleeves and got properly stuck in during a visit to Urban Outreach. The girls helped pack selection boxes and prepare bags for local families, before helping with getting deliveries ready to head out across Bolton.

It was a busy visit and a great chance to see just how much work goes on behind the scenes to support local people.



Hello Yellow for YoungMinds

Hesketh House was looking extra bright for Hello Yellow, with the girls adding a splash of sunshine to the school day in support of YoungMinds. It was a simple but powerful way to show that mental health matters and that looking out for one another can make a real difference.



Christmas Dinner on Jesus

3,500 selection boxes!

That was the amazing total collected across School for Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus appeal!

Our Charity Representatives helped with the huge effort, gathering box after box ready to be added to Christmas hampers for local families.



Trips and Visits





Year 5 Everest Base Camp Talk

Year 5's mountains topic got a very special boost when Maya's Dad came in to share stories from his trek to Everest Base Camp. The girls loved hearing what the journey was really like, including the challenges he faced and a few dad jokes along the way! A huge thank you to him for bringing the topic to life so brilliantly.



Year 5 Climate Change Rainforests Talk

Year 5 had plenty of questions when Summer's Dad, Mr Armstrong, came in to talk about climate change and his work helping industries reach net zero. The girls were amazed to discover that even sending an email creates CO_2, and they left with lots to think about when it comes to looking after our planet.



Year 5 Chester Zoo Trip

There was plenty of excitement as Year 5 headed to Chester Zoo for a day all about rainforests. The girls loved spotting links to what they had been learning, especially when they came face to face with animals they had only seen in books before!





Year 4 Temple Trip

Year 4 had a brilliant morning at the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir in Bolton, where the girls got to see Hindu worship up close and find out more about what happens inside the Mandir. Rashmita, our Religious Studies Subject Ambassador, joined them too and was on hand to answer their questions along the way!





Year 3 Brockholes

Year 3 headed into the 'Deep Dark Woods' at Brockholes Nature Reserve, putting their mapping skills to the test before learning all about the life cycle of a plant through games and hands on activities.

Year 6 Air Raid Shelters Trip

Year 6 stepped straight into wartime Britain at the Stockport Air Raid Shelters! The girls squeezed into the shelters and found out just how different everyday life could be during an air raid. They also had a go at 'Make Do and Mend', discovering some of the clever ways families made things last when very little could be wasted.









Year 5 and Year 6 Trip to London

Year 5 and 6 girls enjoyed a fantastic half term trip to London, taking in some of the capital's best known sights along the way. A real highlight was an evening in the West End watching *The Lion King*, which made a brilliant end to a very busy few days.







Science Week

British Science Week brought plenty of experimenting and big ideas to Hesketh House this March! The girls designed their own STEM superheroes for our poster competition and tackled a new science challenge each day, earning Curiosity Badges along the way. A huge well done to our year group winners and to everyone who got involved.







Year 4 Bolton Museum

Year 4 stepped straight into Ancient Egypt at Bolton Museum! The girls loved getting a closer look at the artefacts and certainly kept their guide busy with questions. Dressing up in traditional Egyptian clothing was a big hit, while their human timeline helped show just how far back this incredible civilisation really goes.

Around School







Friends of Bolton School – Hesketh House

Breakfast was a real treat thanks to the Friends of Bolton School (Hesketh House)! The girls tucked into a brilliant spread and, even better, the morning raised more than £400.



Author Talks

There was plenty of excitement when Cressida Cowell and Vashti Hardy came to visit! Cressida chatted about her books and signed copies for pupils, while Vashti shared where her story ideas come from before getting Year 5 busy with writing of their own.

Easter

Easter brought plenty of excitement to Hesketh House! Bingo quickly became very competitive as the girls chased a full house, before heading outside for an Easter Egg Hunt created by School Council.

A huge thank you to the Parents' Association for the delicious prizes.









AJIS Chess

Girls from Years 3 to 6 took on the AJIS Chess Tournament at Park Road, with many playing competitively for the very first time.



Bikeability

Year 6 were off on two wheels for Bikeability in May! The girls spent two days out riding with the instructors and quickly got the hang of handling the road safely.

Christmas

Christmas at Hesketh House came with plenty of fun, helped along by our mischievous elf causing trouble around School each day! The Form and Vice Captains also took on the very important job of decorating the enormous tree in the Hall, before the Friends of Bolton School rounded things off with a brilliant Christmas Disco. A huge thank you to all the parents who gave their time to make it happen!







First Aid 2026

First Aid Club proved a big hit this year! The girls got stuck into practising CPR on the mannequin and had great fun learning how to bandage each other up properly. Judging by the photo, they took that part very seriously!

National Poetry Day

The playground became a mini poetry stage as our Year 6 and English Ambassadors took on the role of Performance Poets for the day! Pupils joined in with their own performances, before getting creative with Weaving Poetry and playing around with words and colour.





World Book Day

Hesketh House was taken over by book characters for World Book Day, with the girls and staff fully committing to the costumes! The fun continued with book themed activities around School and a lively assembly to celebrate everyone's love of reading.









Number Day

Numbers were everywhere on Number Day as pupils arrived dressed as their favourite digits, with some fantastically creative costumes on show! Four of our Year 5 and 6 girls also headed to Beech House, where they helped run activities for Pre-School children at a Parent Workshop.





MFL Day 2026

Hesketh House had a real taste of Italy for MFL Day as the girls celebrated the 2026 Winter Olympics! They practised their Italian through games and role play, then got creative designing pizzeria boxes and making their own salt dough pizzas. Over at the caffè, the girls put their Italian to the test as they took turns ordering and serving.







Sport



Cross Country

Ullswater raced into first place in this year's House Cross Country, with Grasmere second and Windermere third. Rydal and Buttermere followed close behind. A huge congratulations to all the girls who raced their little hearts out and gave it everything right to the finish line!







Football

What a result for our Year 5 and 6 footballers! After taking on 15 other Bolton schools, the girls battled through a nail biting final to win the Premier League Primary Stars U11 Girls' Tournament. Next stop, the Regional Finals, where they will proudly represent Bolton!



Athletics

Longford Park brought plenty of medal moments for Hesketh House! Year 5 raced to silver in the relay, with Year 6 taking bronze. Aria added another bronze in the 600m, while Sarah claimed silver in the rounders ball throw. A brilliant day on the track and field!





Netball

Silver for our Under 11 netball squad! The girls worked hard all season and saved one of their best performances for the AJIS Finals, battling through some tough matches to finish runners up. A result to be very proud of!



Tennis

There was plenty to celebrate on court at AJIS Tennis! Sia Shafer won her group and finished fourth overall in the Cup, while Ayah Dawoud went on to win the Plate competition after placing second in her group.

Water Polo

A full season of training ended with a splash as our young water polo players took on five other teams in their end of season tournament. It was a brilliant chance to show just how far they had come and finish the year on a high!





















Swimming

Hesketh House made a splash at the Bolton Schools Swimming Gala, finishing as the overall girls' winners! There was more success at the Year 6 AJIS Gala too, with every swimmer reaching a final and plenty of medals coming home.

From the Head of Junior Boys

This year was my first full year as Head of Park Road, and it surpassed the already very high expectations I had when I began. It has been a privilege to lead such a special school and become part of a community with a real sense of belonging.

I knew before I arrived that there was great learning taking place at Park Road, but seeing it every day with fresh eyes has made me appreciate just how much goes on here. I love talking to the boys about what they are learning and hearing them explain not only what they are doing, but why they are doing it. The pride they take in their work is wonderful to see.

Our Park Road Principles have been an important part of assemblies throughout the year. What has impressed me most is how thoughtfully the boys have talked about what it means to be a great human being, as well as a dedicated learner. These principles are becoming part of everyday life at Park Road, and I hear the boys using them more and more.

There is also so much to discover beyond lessons. Our extra-curricular programme seems to have something for everyone, from coding and knitting to angling, Jujitsu and sailing. Music has been another real joy. I thoroughly enjoyed the individual year group concerts, while the Spring Concert was a particular highlight. Seeing so many boys involved was fantastic, and the musicals medley brought everyone together brilliantly.

Sport is a huge part of Park Road life too. I have loved hearing about the boys' successes and seeing how many different opportunities they have to get involved. Whether it is chess or water polo, athletics or hockey, there always seems to be something happening. Just as importantly, I love seeing that same team spirit appear naturally on the playground and field at breaktimes.

Then, of course, there is Patterdale. Watching the boys try new activities and push themselves beyond their comfort zones is always special. Watching them learn to look after their own belongings can sometimes be slightly more entertaining! Being away from home gives the boys a chance to become that little bit more independent and it is amazing to see how much they grow during the experience.

The Year 6 production of *Newsies* was another unforgettable moment and, as I said at the time, "*the best Year 6 production I have ever seen.*" The boys gave absolutely everything to the show, and the sense of pride on stage was impossible to miss.

Sports Day was another favourite, particularly because it brought the whole of Park Road together. There was plenty of healthy House competition, but what I enjoyed most was seeing the boys cheering each other on.

Looking back on my first full academic year, I am incredibly proud of our boys and everyone who helps make Park Road what it is. Most of all, I feel very fortunate to be part of this community and to see our boys growing into confident and kind young people.

There is plenty to celebrate from the year gone by and even more to look forward to. To the boys who have moved on to their next adventure, we wish you every success. To our new boys and families, a very warm welcome.

Well done, Park Road - good luck for the year ahead!

Mrs Claire Finch
Head of Park Road

Art





Goldsworthy Installations

Year 6 spent time exploring the work of land and nature artist Andy Goldsworthy before having a go themselves. They started small, using natural materials to create tabletop sculptures and see what they could make with a bit of imagination.

The boys then worked together to plan and build their own outdoor sculptures. There was lots of discussion as their designs came together, and they were very proud of the finished results!





Art Club

Art Club got stuck into a brilliant new project for the School canteen, using *Food Glorious Food* as their inspiration. The boys worked together to create colourful wall art, which now has pride of place in the dining room and looks fantastic.

Urban Sketching

Year 6 took their sketchbooks outside and used the School grounds for some urban sketching. The challenge was to work quickly and confidently, capturing what they could see with clear lines.

The boys produced some excellent work in their handmade sketchbooks and discovered a style of drawing they could easily use at home.





Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Pupils from Park Road joined girls from Hesketh House, along with older students, for a trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

There was plenty to see as they explored the huge outdoor artworks and made sketches of their own along the way. William Kentridge's monumental sculptures really caught their attention, and they were still talking about it on the journey back to School!



Quiet Club

Park Road launched its first Quiet Club this year, giving boys the chance to drop in at lunchtime, enjoy some calm time and make art.

They tried still life oil pastels and worked together on football kit designs, all with music by Manchester's own Matthew Halsall playing in the background.

David Hockney in Manchester

Year 5 enjoyed a day out in Manchester, beginning at the Museum of Science and Industry before heading to Aviva Studios for David Hockney's immersive exhibition *Bigger & Closer (not smaller & further away).*

The boys stepped into a world of bright colour and photocollage, while also thinking more carefully about how artists look at the world around them!





Drama

Breaking News: Park Road Produces a Smash Hit!
This year's Year 6 production took audiences to the streets of early 1900s New York, where newsboy Jack Kelly and his fellow child workers took on a powerful newspaper tycoon. Could they do it? Yeah!

The boys threw themselves into the show and brought huge amounts of energy to every scene, singing brilliantly and having great fun with their characters while making sure everyone in the cast had their moment to shine.

It was hard to believe the performers were only 10 and 11 years old. After weeks of rehearsals, all that practice paid off as the boys stepped onto the stage and gave it everything they had.

The action didn't stay on stage either. Parts of the production spilled out into the audience, making everyone feel right in the middle of the story.

It was a brilliant evening and a fantastic way for Year 6 to finish their time at Park Road. The boys should be incredibly proud of everything they achieved!













Music





Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Year 4 had a real treat when they travelled to hear the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra perform live. The boys were not just there to listen either. They joined in with British Sign Language and had the chance to sing along, which made the whole experience even more enjoyable. Seeing the orchestra in action was a highlight too, especially when instruments appeared that some of the boys had never seen played before.





Spring Concert

The Spring Concert brought all eight of our ensembles together for a brilliant evening of music, with everything from Mary Poppins to Queen filling the Hall.

Saathvik Govindu also took to the stage with Elton John's *Electricity*, the song that won him Best Individual Performance at the Music Festival.

To finish, the whole School joined in for a medley of musical favourites before ending on 'Any Dream Will Do' from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.



Music Festival

Our annual Music Festival was bigger than ever this year, with an amazing 102 entries and 12 different instruments being played!

Boys at all stages of learning took part, including some performing for the very first time. This year's adjudicator was violinist and ABRSM examiner Mr Steven Wilkie, who gave everyone helpful feedback after listening to their pieces.

The award for Best Individual Performance went to Saathvik Govindu for his beautiful performance of Elton John's *Electricity*. A huge well done to everyone who took part and helped make the two days so fun!





Primary Division Orchestra Day

Our musicians joined pupils from Hesketh House and Beech House for Primary Division Orchestra Day in the Girls' Division Great Hall.

The boys spent the day practising two pieces and learning what it feels like to play as part of a much bigger orchestra. They worked hard on following the conductor and listening carefully to everyone around them.

The day ended with a concert for parents and pupils, giving everyone the chance to hear how hard they had worked. It was also great practice for next year's big Foundation concert at The Bridgewater Hall!






Young Voices

Year 5 and Year 6 boys headed to Co-op Live to become part of the world's largest choir with Young Voices. After an afternoon of rehearsals, it was finally time to perform, with the boys singing their way through 11 songs and medleys. They even remembered the dance moves and British Sign Language!

Around School

Cookery Club

Cookery Club has kept the boys busy in the kitchen throughout the year. They have learnt how to prepare ingredients safely and tried different cooking techniques, becoming much more confident as the weeks went on. There have been plenty of tasty results too, which is probably the best part of learning to cook!





School Council

Our School Council enjoyed a special visit to the Mayor's Chambers in Bolton, where they met the Mayor and Mayoress in the Mayor's Parlour. The boys were shown around the Town Hall and Council Chambers, with visits to the theatre and Hall of Memories along the way.

They had plenty of questions for the Mayor too, including one very important suggestion about the possibility of a three-day weekend! A big thank you to the Mayor's office for making everyone so welcome and to Jason Gill for helping to organise the visit.

Perhaps the biggest hit with the boys has been the arrival of new outdoor table tennis and table football facilities, which certainly haven't taken long to become firm favourites!














Une Journée Française!

Years 3 and 4 enjoyed a very French day at Park Road! A picnic meant croissants and brioche were on the menu, before the boys had a go at boules.

They also made French flag keyrings and worked together to build a huge Eiffel Tower. It was a fun way to spend the day learning more about France. *Quelle journée fantastique!*



Tom Palmer Author Visit

Author Tom Palmer visited Park Road in November and spent time with Year 6 talking about the First and Second World Wars. He explained how he researches the past and uses real events to inspire his historical stories.

Years 3 to 5 then joined Tom for an assembly where they heard more about his books. The boys had plenty of questions about how he became an author and where his ideas come from. Afterwards, they had the chance to meet Tom in the Library and have their books signed!




Run Club!

Run Club has kept going whatever the weather this year, with pupils heading out each week for a run. Some preferred a quicker pace, while others enjoyed taking things a little more steadily through the woods.

Cressida Cowell

September brought a very special visitor to Bolton School when we welcomed author Cressida Cowell, best known for *How to Train Your Dragon*.

The books are already huge favourites with many Park Road pupils, so there was plenty of excitement when Cressida began talking about how she became an author. She shared how her imagination developed when she was young and how those early ideas eventually grew into the worlds she creates today.

Haroon in Year 6 had an extra reason to be excited, as he was able to show Cressida the incredible *How to Train Your Dragon* board game he had designed and made at home with his dad.




Easter Quiz Time!

Year 4 set off around School for an Easter Orienteering Quiz, following clues and tracking down Easter themed questions as they went.

There was plenty of debate over which way to go next, especially when teams were convinced they had completely different answers! It turned into a lively afternoon with everyone racing around School and putting their heads together along the way.





Quiz Time!

Our Science Quiz Team put their knowledge to the test in a nationwide competition and came away with an excellent 10th place finish.

The boys held their own against schools from across the country and should be really proud of how well they did!





Sacred Threads

The boys have loved learning about Hinduism and some of the stories and beliefs that are important within the faith. They were especially interested in the different Hindu gods and the powers associated with them.

As part of their learning about Raksha Bandhan, the boys made their own Rakhi bracelets and found out why they are given as a symbol of love and protection within families. They took great care with their designs and really enjoyed creating something connected to the festival.













World Book Day

Park Road was almost unrecognisable on World Book Day, with boys and staff turning up as some very familiar faces from the world of books.

The morning began with a surprise story performed by children from across the School, before things became a little more mysterious with The Masked Reader. Disguised teachers read extracts from favourite books while the boys tried to work out who was behind each costume.

Later in the day, teachers swapped classrooms to share a story with a different year group.




Remembrance Day

Year 6 led a moving Remembrance Assembly on 11 November, helping the whole School pause and reflect together. The boys spoke with real care, and everyone observed the two minute silence beautifully.

A special thank you goes to our Cubs and Beavers, led by Mrs Hough, who carried the flag and laid the wreath during the service.




Inspiring the Next Generation!

Pupils were fascinated to hear Victoria Connelly talk about her adventures in the desert and what it takes to travel through some of the world's toughest environments. The boys had plenty of questions about how she prepared and what kept her going when things got difficult. The visit gave everyone a real sense of just how much determination an expedition like that takes.







House Days!

House Days have been a real highlight this year, bringing boys of different ages together and adding a bit of friendly House rivalry into the mix.

One day might mean decorating bauble biscuits, while another sees everyone heading outside for the House Cross Country. There have also been quieter sessions, with friendship bracelets proving just as popular as the more energetic activities. The nicest part has been seeing the older boys naturally looking out for the younger ones and everyone throwing themselves into supporting their House.

STEM Engineering Challenge

Our STEM Team had a big challenge on their hands this year as they designed and built a sustainable spiral building. The boys measured each piece carefully and worked out how their structure would fit together. It was great to see their ideas slowly turn into a finished model.



Sport





Cross Country

Years 5 and 6 had a fantastic run in the Bolton School Games Moss Bank League, joining Hesketh House to finish second overall. Toby Lloyd picked up bronze, while Thomas Owen went on to represent Bolton at the Greater Manchester Championships. Boys across Years 3 to 6 also took on races at Rossall and Stonyhurst, giving Park Road plenty to cheer about this season!





Athletics

There was plenty of action on the track and field this year, with the boys giving all sorts of athletics events a go. Some were chasing faster times, while others were seeing just how far they could throw or jump. There were lots of personal bests to celebrate and plenty of encouragement coming from the sidelines too.



AJIS Football

The under 11 AJIS team have had plenty of match action this season, with some tough opposition keeping them on their toes. As the weeks went by, the boys started to click as a team and play someenjoyable football. Whatever the result, they kept going and clearly loved being out there representing Park Road.









Bullseye!

Darts Club made its Park Road debut this year and quickly became a fun way to spend time at lunchtime. The boys practised their aim and learnt how to improve their throwing technique. It has been great to see the club get off to such a good start and we hope there will be plenty more bullseyes next year!

Cricket

Cricket season brought plenty of excitement to Park Road, with boundaries to chase and wickets to celebrate. The boys had lots of chances to put what they had practised into action during fixtures, and there was never much shortage of encouragement from the side.

Some days went their way, some did not, but the boys kept coming back ready for the next match and really enjoyed every minute out on the pitch.





National Primary Schools' North West Chess Semi Finals

Our Under 9 chess team of Austen, Leon, Nuh, James, Veeraj and Tai travelled to Birkenhead School for the National Primary Schools' North West Chess Semi-Finals and came incredibly close to reaching the National Final.

The boys finished fourth overall, scoring 15 out of 25 and missing out on a top-two qualifying place by just half a point! They won four of their five matches and even beat one of the eventual finalists in Round two.

A huge well done to the whole team, including three of our youngest players from Year 3.





Hockey

Our hockey players were straight into the action this season, with match days giving them the chance to put all that practice to good use. There were some great battles on the pitch and plenty of moments to celebrate as the boys got more and more stuck into the game

Swimming

Our swimming team represented Park Road at the ESSA North West Championships, the Bolton Schools Swimming Championships and Greater Manchester competitions this year. The competition was fierce, but the boys were up for the challenge and learned a lot with every race!



















Reel Fun!

The boys spent plenty of time by the water learning how to cast and picking up new fishing skills along the way.

There were some fantastic catches to celebrate, including first-ever fish for some of our anglers. Of course, fishing also means plenty of waiting, but the boys soon discovered that a little patience can be worth it when something finally bites!





Lexus Junior International Tennis Tour

Primary Division pupils enjoyed a brilliant day at Bolton Arena, where they watched the Lexus Junior International under 14 Finals. Both the boys' and girls' finals went to three sets, so there was plenty of exciting tennis to watch.

After the trophy presentations, the children even got to ask the players some questions. They wanted to know how school works when you are travelling on tour and what players eat before a match.

Feeling inspired, the children then had the chance to practise their own tennis skills with coaches Jake and Oscar. A great way to finish the day!

Rugby

The rugby team had a busy season and got stuck into every match. The boys became much better at reading what was happening on the pitch and got better at making decisions under pressure. It was great to see them backing each other up and keeping going right to the final whistle.





Football Festivals

Our Football Festivals meant even more boys got the chance to pull on a Park Road shirt and get stuck into a match. With lots of football to enjoy and new teams to play against, the boys had a brilliant time putting their practice into action.

Charity

Children in Need

Park Road was covered in spots for Children in Need, with pupils wearing spotty accessories and making donations to support children and young people across the UK. A big thank you goes to all our families for getting involved and helping us raise money for such an important cause.






Year 6 Charity Day

With the Entrance Exam finally behind them, Year 6 could turn their attention to something much more fun: Charity Day. The boys came up with their own activities for the rest of the school, then took charge of running them on the day. It was noisy, busy and great fun, all while raising money to help children around the world.






Hello Yellow

Park Road once again turned yellow for Hello Yellow, supporting YoungMinds and raising awareness of young people's mental health. Pupils and staff wore yellow for the day and took part in activities that encouraged everyone to think about wellbeing and the importance of talking when something doesn't feel right.



Urban Outreach

Our Park Road community once again supported Urban Outreach's Christmas Dinner on Jesus appeal by collecting selection boxes, and we managed to gather more than 3,500! Miss Fletcher and a group of boys helped load the huge number of boxes onto the vans, ready to be distributed to families across Bolton at Christmas. Well done to everyone!








Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival brought everyone together for a lovely celebration, with Dave from Urban Outreach joining us to explain just how much our families' donations help people here in Bolton. Year 6 added their own touch with a Harvest poem, and the whole School joined in with some favourite Harvest songs to round things off.

Trips and Visits





Cuerden Valley

Year 6 spent half a day at Cuerden Valley putting their Geography knowledge to the test. The boys went river dipping to look for creatures that could help show how clean the water was and they even held a duck race to measure the speed of the river.

The education leaders were very impressed by how confidently the boys used the river vocabulary they had learnt in class.




Ski Trip to Austria

Over the Easter holidays, 44 Primary Division pupils travelled to Zell am See in Austria for the annual Ski Trip. Before heading out, the children had lessons at the Snow Centre in Manchester, giving beginners a chance to get started and helping more experienced skiers brush up their skills.

By the end of the week, pupils were tackling a mix of blue and red runs, with some even taking on a black run. The beautiful weather made the mountain views even better as the group explored the slopes of the Schmittenhöhe.

Later in the week, they skied at the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier and visited the Top of Salzburg, Gipfelwelt 3000, sitting 3,029 metres above sea level. Quite a view after a week on the slopes!







Christmas Tree Festival

Year 3 were invited to take part in Barrow Bridge Mission's Christmas Tree Festival as part of their religious studies learning. The boys made their own decorations based on the theme of *Silent Night*, creating a beautiful tree to sit alongside the other community displays.




Tudor Day at Ordsall Hall

Year 5 stepped back into Tudor times during a visit to Ordsall Hall. They met Lady Beatrice and servant Maggie, who showed them just how different life could be depending on your place in society.

The boys made spice mixes and learnt about the food people ate. They also explored the gardens and discovered how herbs were used at the time.

Edinburgh

During the October half term, Year 6 had the chance to visit Edinburgh and explore one of Britain's most historic cities. The boys visited Edinburgh Castle and climbed Arthur's Seat, before seeing a very different side of the city on an evening Ghost Walk. They got to test their bowling skills too, with a ten pin bowling evening adding a bit of friendly competition to the trip.








Brockholes

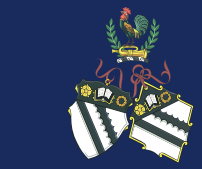
Year 4 visited Brockholes Nature Reserve, where the water cycle was brought to life through a game. Some boys became sunshine, while others took on the role of water droplets or clouds, helping everyone understand how evaporation works.

The boys also tackled an orienteering challenge before exploring more of the reserve and spotting some of the wildlife that lives there. And, of course, there was still time for the park at the end!




Year 4 at Port Sunlight

Year 4 headed to Port Sunlight for a day full of history and a little bit of soap making! The boys explored the village and found out how soap used to be made before having a go themselves. They even got to take their own creations home, complete with very tempting bubblegum and candy floss scents.



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