



Newsletter

Spring 1 2025-26



***Waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert***

Isaiah 35 v 6

Spring is here



We have had such a lovely and lively few weeks at Bulwell St Mary's, with so many wonderful opportunities for our children to learn, celebrate and come together as a community. From our inspiring World Book Day visit with Joanna Adeyinka Burford, to special Collective Worship led by our visiting Faith Ambassadors, a Year 5 trip the National Space Centre, a recording of the Official RSE Day song, the Listen Up Collective Worship Conference and a whole programme of Easter activities across the school, there is so much to share.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates about upcoming events, celebrations across EYFS, KS1 and KS2, important reminders, and details of the exciting activities organised by our fantastic PTFA. We are so grateful for your continued support and hope you enjoy reading all about what's happening in school this half term.

Diary Dates



Friday 20th March 3.15-4.15pm – Year 5/6 Easter Disco

Monday 23rd March 9-10am – EYFS Easter Crafts

Wednesday 25th March 9-10am – KS1 Easter Crafts

Friday 27th March – Last day of Spring Term

Monday 13th April – First Day of Summer Term

Thursday 16th – KS2 Easter Service at St Mary's Church

All our term dates can be found on the school website [HERE](#).

Please note our INSET days for the academic year 2025-26 are as follows:

Friday 3rd July 2026

Friday 24th July 2026

Monday 27th July 2026

What's Up!



Bulwell St Mary's had a wonderful World Book Day celebration as we welcomed CBeebies presenter and author Joanna Adeyinka Burford into school. Joanna led a joyful and reflective Collective Worship where she spoke to the children about her life, her faith, and her journey with Jesus. She also shared one of the devotionals from her book *What's Up – 30 Encouragements to Fuel Your Faith*, offering our pupils uplifting messages of hope and encouragement.

The children were thrilled to meet Joanna afterwards for a special book-signing session, making the morning truly memorable. It was inspiring to see how engaged and enthusiastic our pupils were as they asked questions, listened intently, and connected Joanna's stories to our school's core values. We are grateful for the positive impact her visit had on our whole school community.



We were delighted that our celebration was also featured in the Hucknall Dispatch, showcasing the joy and excitement of the day:

<https://www.hucknalldispatch.co.uk/education/cbeebies-presenter-and-author-helps-bulwell-school-celebrate-world-book-day-5629407?r=3642>

In addition, Transform Trust celebrated World Book Day across its family of schools, highlighting a range of fantastic activities taking place, including ours. You can read their round-up here:

<https://www.transformtrust.co.uk/news/?pid=9&nid=2&storyid=22>

At Bulwell St Mary's, we place a high value on reading and work hard to ensure every child develops a lifelong love of books. Reading is woven through our curriculum, our daily routines, and our wider school culture. From high-quality



texts in lessons to inviting library spaces, author visits, and family reading events, we aim to create an environment where stories spark curiosity, imagination, and joy. We firmly believe that reading opens doors—for learning, for wellbeing, and for the future—and we are proud of the strong reading culture that continues to grow across our school.

Visitors from Bluecoat Wollaton

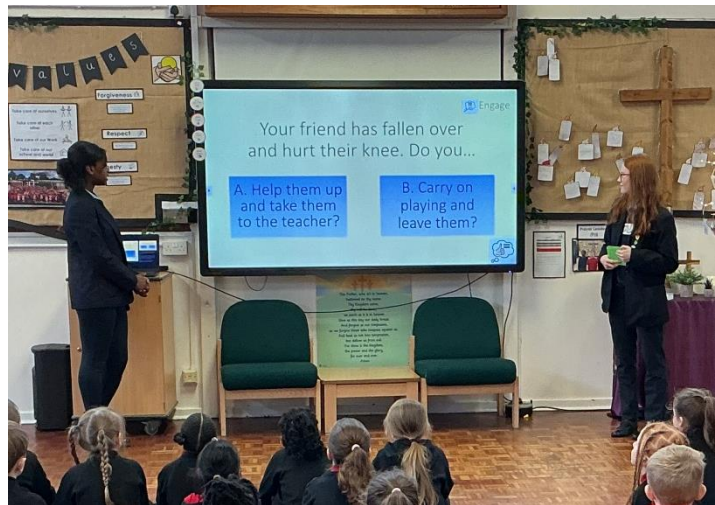
Earlier this half term, we were delighted to welcome two Year 10 Faith Ambassadors who led our whole-school Collective Worship, helping our children reflect on our Christian Values and Take Care Ethos. Their message was engaging, age-appropriate, and a wonderful example of older pupils living out the values we promote at Bulwell St Mary's.



Bluecoat Wollaton
believe in yourself, in others, in God

They then spent time with our Year 5 and Year 6 classes, delivering sessions about faith and answering thoughtful questions during an honest and open Q&A. Our pupils particularly enjoyed the chance to ask about life in secondary school, helping to ease worries and spark excitement about the transition ahead.

We are so pleased to be building strong relationships with our local secondary schools, and this visit was a fantastic opportunity for our children to learn from positive role models while looking forward to the next stage of their educational journey.



Listen Up! Conference

Our Year 5 and 6 Prayer Leaders had a truly inspiring day at the Listen Up Conference last week. The event, held for pupil leaders across the Diocese, is unique in that every speaker is a child or young person—no adults allowed! Throughout the day, pupils shared how they live out and lead their school's Christian ethos, offering powerful examples of young people making a real difference in their communities.



We were incredibly proud that our Prayer Leaders were invited to lead the delegates in Collective Worship. They did this with confidence, reverence, and genuine joy. Afterwards, they answered questions from the audience, speaking thoughtfully about the role they play in shaping worship and supporting the spiritual life of our school.

They represented Bulwell St Mary's beautifully and demonstrated the very best of what it means to be courageous advocates, leaders of faith, and positive role models. They did a fantastic job!

Easter Events



We have a wonderful programme of Easter activities coming up over the next few weeks, and we warmly invite our families to join us in the celebrations.

On **Monday 23rd March, 9–10am**, our **EYFS Easter Craft Morning** will take place, followed by our **KS1 Easter Crafts** on **Wednesday 25th March, 9–10am**. Parents and carers of children in EYFS and KS1 are very welcome to come into school and enjoy making Easter crafts together. We are also looking forward to our **KS2 Easter Service** at **St Mary's Church on Thursday 16th March at 2.15pm**, where families of KS2 children are invited to join us for this special time of reflection and celebration.

Our wonderful PTFA have also organised several exciting events to help us celebrate the season. Our **Year 5 & 6 Easter Disco** will take place on **Friday 20th March**, and children may come to school in their party clothes (payments should be sent to the office by **Thursday 19th March** in an envelope with the child's name). Pupils can also take part in our **Design an Easter Card** and **Design an Easter Bonnet** competitions, with entries due to the office by **Wednesday 25th March** and prizes awarded in each phase (N/F2, KS1 & KS2). Finally, families can enjoy our **Easter Holiday Scavenger Hunt**, with letters hidden in local shop windows from **Friday 27th March**. Children can collect an entry form from the office (50p per entry), find the hidden letters over the break, and return their completed sheet by **Wednesday 15th April** for the prize draw.

Year 5 Trip to the National Space Centre



Our Year 5 children had a fantastic day at the National Space Centre in Leicester, where they were able to deepen their understanding of their current Space topic through a range of exciting, hands-on experiences. One of the highlights of the day was ascending the iconic 42-metre Rocket Tower, where the children were amazed to see the real *Blue Streak* and *Thor Able* rockets up close – an unforgettable moment that brought their learning about space travel to life. The Rocket Tower is one of the most recognisable features of the Centre and houses some incredible artefacts, including a Gagarin experience, an Apollo Lunar Lander and even real Moon rock.

During the visit, the children also had the opportunity to explore several of the Centre's six interactive galleries, discovering rockets, satellites, meteorites and many other fascinating exhibits. They loved learning how astronauts live and work in space and enjoyed the hands-on activities that helped them think like real space scientists. The Space Centre is also home to the UK's largest domed planetarium, and the children were inspired by the immersive shows and displays that helped them understand more about our Solar System and the wider universe. It was a truly memorable trip that sparked curiosity, excitement and plenty of "wow" moments!

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March

We will be marking Red Nose Day in a simple but meaningful way across school. As this half term is already incredibly busy – and with families having just supported World Book Day – we didn't want to place any additional pressure on parents with another dress-up day or fundraising request. Instead, each class will enjoy a small in-class activity to celebrate the spirit of Red Nose Day and help the children understand the importance of kindness, fun and helping others. We hope this approach allows our pupils to take part and enjoy the day, while keeping things manageable for everyone at such a full and exciting time of year.



Recording the Official RSE Day Song!

Our children were thrilled to take part in The Official RSE Day 2026 Song! This is a city-wide creative project led by the Achieve Well Team, Nottingham Music Service and ChalleNGe. This year's theme is, *"It Starts with Me"* which explores the importance of self-esteem and positive relationships.



The real highlight was the professional recording session, where our talented singers used specialist microphones and headphones while working alongside two sound engineers—an exciting experience they absolutely loved! We feel incredibly privileged to be part of a project that will be shared nationally, and we couldn't be prouder of how confidently and creatively our children represented Bulwell St Mary's.

Collecting Children at the End of the School Day

For the safety of all our children, we kindly remind families that pupils must be collected at the end of the school day by a **responsible person aged 16 or over**. Keeping our children safe is always our top priority, and having an appropriate adult collect them ensures we can dismiss pupils confidently and securely. If you have any questions about this or need to discuss your family's arrangements, please do not hesitate to speak with Mrs Burge or a member of our Senior Leadership Team—we are always here to help.



Health & Safety Visit

We were very pleased to have a successful Health and Safety visit in school last week. The inspector was extremely happy with the high standards maintained across our site and commented—once again—on the diligence and care shown by Mr Hurst and our fantastic Site Team. Their hard work ensures that our building and grounds remain safe, clean and well looked after every single day. A huge thank you to Mr Hurst and all our Site Staff for their ongoing commitment to keeping Bulwell St Mary's a safe place for our children to learn and thrive.



Thank you!

Thank you again for your continued support.

Mrs Burge and the Bulwell St Mary's Team

