

# Pupils hope to bowl over opposition in competition

BY CATHERINE SMYTH

**E**XCITED Rossendale pupils are eagerly awaiting their chance to represent Lancashire in a national 10-pin bowling competition.

The team of four from St James' CE Primary School, Haslingden, won the local event in November, which was organised by Rossendale School Sports Partnership and the national charity Panathlon Chal-

lenge, and held at MFA Bowling in Burnley.

That secured them a place in the regional final in Blackburn on Tuesday, January 28, when they took on 13 other Lancashire schools.

St James' finished in the top four places so Scarlet-Rose, 11, Selena, 10, and nine-year-olds Noah and Yaseen will now go to the North West national final in Bolton on March 19.

They were all excited about the forthcoming

final, but Scarlet-Rose also admitted to being a bit nervous as she would be against schools and pupils she didn't know.

Scarlet-Rose picked up two certificates at the Blackburn competition, for the school's fourth place and also because she scored 104, earning her a 100 Club certificate.

The other team members described Noah as the 'biggest cheerleader' as he enthusiastically encouraged everyone to



● Medal winners – from left Selena, 10, Scarlet-Rose, 11, and nine-year-olds Yaseen and Noah from St James' CE Primary School, Haslingden

do their best.

Noah, who first tried bowling when he was five, said: "It was really good fun."

Yaseen said: "Some people say that football and other sports are better but when it comes to bowling it is very competitive, but it is not the winning it is about having fun and team work."

Selena enjoyed that she got to have fun with her friends and she taught them how to bowl properly.

She also gave Noah advice on how to bowl which meant he got a spare when he knocked the remaining three pins down with his second bowl.

Scarlet-Rose said: "The

encouragement we got from Noah was helping us to focus."

"No matter if you win or lose, it is still fun to play with your friends."

SENDCo teacher Kathryn Jamil said the competition also promoted the Schools' Values of koinonia - community - along with friendship and kindness.

She said: "It was lovely to see the children supporting each other, growing in confidence and cheering each other on."

"They got a chance to represent St James and do a sport they would not

normally get to do."

Panathlon Challenge runs events to give children with disabilities a chance to represent their school, win a medal and get certificates, just like any other sporting team does.

St James' headteacher, Frances Brady added: "I am very proud of our children; they were great ambassadors for our school."

The national final will take place in several venues around the country and the winning team will be the one that scores the most points.



● St James' CE Primary School in Haslingden was the winner of the Rossendale Panathlon 10-pin bowling competition in the primary school category in November

*'It was lovely to see the children supporting each other, growing in confidence and cheering each other on. They got a chance to represent St James and do a sport they would not normally get to do'*

SENDCo teacher Kathryn Jamil



**Coun Scott Smith**  
Conservative Group Leader

IT'S not often I find a reason to thank Keir Starmer.

Whether it's stripping thousands of pensioners of Winter Fuel Payments, pushing farmers to the edge with Inheritance Tax, or making it more expensive to employ people, there's plenty to criticise about his first six months in office.

But, to give credit where it's due - he has done us all a service in reminding our MP that elections are actually quite important.

He did so after Andy MacNae stood up at

Prime Minister's Questions to call for elections to be CANCELLED here in Lancashire.

It is the second time that our MP has stood up to make such a request and I want to explain why, as Rossendale's opposition party, we in the Conservatives welcome the coming Lancashire County Council elections, and the message we will be sending to Andy MacNae and the Labour Party in May.

Because you only need to contrast the Labour

record at County Hall with that of the Conservatives to see the real choice that will soon face all of us here in the Valley.

When Labour last had control of the County Council they closed libraries and museums left, right and centre.

They left a £200m black hole in the county's finances.

And they left Children's Services in a dreadful state - letting down some of our most vulnerable.

Meanwhile, since 2017, the Conservatives have turned around the

county's finances - with balanced books year after year while other councils go bust.

We are investing more than ever in properly resurfacing our roads.

And since 2021, the Valley has had four brand new schools approved, all supported by the Conservative-run county council.

The difference couldn't be starker.

And that's before you get to Labour's record of running Rossendale Council - with millions upon millions of pounds

wasted on vanity projects while the things that really matter to us, like our leisure centres, are cut back year after year.

Perhaps given all this, it's understandable that our MP doesn't want these elections to go ahead.

Andy MacNae can hide behind his argument that it's all about devolution all he likes, but that is nonsense.

Lancashire has a devolution deal already - with powers and funding coming back here from London as we speak. So my message to

everyone living here in the Valley is this: if you don't want to see what's happened across the country since July last year happen here in Lancashire too, make sure you vote in May, and make sure you vote Conservative.

I have a message for Andy MacNae too - stop running scared.

Face your constituents and let them have their say - on your record as our MP and on the decisions of your Government. You may not like the results, but that's democracy.