



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 26th April 2024

"rooted and grounded in love..." Ephesians 3:17

Friday 26th April 2024

Mrs Gow's words for the week



We've had a very outdoor focused week with the Anderton Centre, orienteering in Owl class, Forest Friday for EYFS and netball matches. There have been definite signs of spring's arrival this week, with some lovely sunshine. It was an absolute delight to spend quality time with Fox class, Mrs Riddell, Mrs Burton and Mrs Lorgat at the Anderton Centre. It is fabulous to see the children grow so much in confidence as they face outdoor challenges, push themselves outside of their comfort zones and, for some children, stay away from home for the very first time! The centre has the most amazing outdoor leaders who really have a sense of fun. A huge thank you to the staff who gave of their own time to help the children make memories.

We have had a few parents mention that their children have been sniffly or have a temperature after playing out or after Forest school sessions. I spoke to one of our resident parent GPs this morning and they absolutely reassured me that being outside (in all weathers) is good for you (in fact, it is healthier than being indoors). Colds, fevers etc are caused by viruses and bacterias, not being outdoors. She stated that the key to staying healthy in all weathers is layering and proper clothing, as if you stay warm then your immune system will stay in peak form! As a school we are deeply committed to being outdoors in our learning as much as possible, so do please make sure that your child has warm clothes, a waterproof coat, spare clothing and wellies in school to help us facilitate this.

Over the coming few weeks we are continuing to develop the outdoors area in EYFS and outside Squirrel class. Many thanks to the parents who have donated items for the resourcing of this - pots, pans, dressing up real life clothes, balance bikes etc. School is investing a pot of money to help restock and resource this area, which we hope will be well-used in the coming term.

Thank you to Miss Lee, Mrs Chand and Mrs Burton for this week's pre-school, toddler and EYFS parent lunch. It was super to see our children, parents and Year 6 buddies chatting with one another. We love having our toddler group join us for lunch and seeing our school family in action.

Owl class enjoyed a wonderful visit from Abdullah and Amirah's aunty, an optician, who taught us all (including Mrs Cast and Miss Perkins) lots about the human eye, vision and light! A HUGE thank you to her for giving so generously of her time and helping bring our learning to life.

Have a wonderful weekend and let's hope the sun continues to shine!

Every blessing,

Mrs Gow

Anderton Centre 2024



Anderton Centre

Outdoor Learning & Activities

Our Fox class residential was a triumph. We enjoyed an action-packed itinerary and spent practically all our time outside (which was a joy thanks to some rather kind Spring weather). The trip began with a visit to the woods, goit and lodge in Brinscall. Mrs Riddell had made us a treasure hunt to complete as we walked and we loved solving the clues. We also got to have a play on the adventure playground (and their rather fab zip line) and have a picnic together before setting off to the Anderton Centre. We also had a surprise guest - Mrs Banks was walking her dog Poppy in the woods so she came and walked with us for a while.

When there we got there we split into our three groups and got to do tree climb, low ropes courses and climbing/traversing wall. All this before tea!

The children (and staff) were outstanding at tree climbing, pushing themselves beyond what they thought was possible. We were so proud of all of them for being brave and determined. It was heartening to hear the children cheering each other on and supporting those who were a bit nervy.

One of the most challenging activities of the residential was making our own beds! We had to put on our own duvet cover, pillowcases and bottom sheets. Mums and dads - please make sure that the children are in charge of all beds at home now, as they have had to learn how to be independent (just with a little help from their friends and teachers!)

After tea, we were off out again for our evening activities - we had to make a creative, small den to house a hedgehog or squirrel (including some fun items - a chimney, a sofa and a comfy bed). The dens were so creative and used natural materials in really inventive ways. Then we had a campfire and toasted marshmallows.

It was then inside time - Mrs Gow's legendary hot chocolate (made this year by Mrs Gow and Mrs Burton), story time, PJ time and then bed.... and then sleep.....after a while....and a bit more giggling....and a bit more chatting..... and more giggling....

Thursday was our watersports day - this year it was rafted kayaking (two kayaks lashed together to make a raft). In our teams of 7/8 off we went onto the reservoir to learn how to paddle. Then we played a range of challenge games, including a chase the floating ball/water polo game too. Everyone managed to learn to paddle forwards and backwards.

The opportunities afforded at these outdoor pursuit holidays are invaluable - they help us to bond, learn how to work as a team and also how to deal with challenge. Thank you to all the children for being such wonderful company and for making the stay so fun and thank you to our amazing staff team for giving so generously of themselves. Sleep well this weekend everyone!



























Forest school - baking apples



Year 5 enjoyed a campfire with baked apples and toasted marshmallows at Forest School this week. They also loved playing, exploring and exploring the brook!







What a Marathon Success!



A huge congratulations to Mrs Johnstone's son, Andy, who completed the London marathon last weekend. As you know, we helped raise some money towards his chosen charity of Marie Curie. Mrs Johnstone went down to cheer him on last weekend and we sent him a huge Balderstone well done for his courageous advocacy for this charity. Our very own Mr Moji also completed the Manchester marathon a couple of weeks ago, again to raise money for a charity to support the Palestine relief effort. What great role models for our school family!

F.O.B.S meeting this week - Thursday 2nd May 7pm



Our Friends of Balderstone School (parent, carer and friends association) needs your help. We are meeting this week to review our events and plan our biggest annual event 'The Balderstone Summer Fun' day in June. This is an amazing family and community event and we need as many families to volunteer to be involved to make 'many hands make light work'. Please come along to this week's meeting to meet the team and to see how you could support this ESSENTIAL work for our school. The money raised by FOBS is absolutely crucial for providing the additional enrichment things that our school offers our children - Year 6 leaver's party, iPad provision, coaches for school trips subsidised etc. The money they raise makes a huge difference to the life of the school, so PLEASE do try to support their work and get involved in our school community.

Could you be our next football kit sponsor



We are looking for new sponsors for our football kit and our new athletics kit. We would love to support our own family businesses and companies. We are looking to purchase a new football kit which consists of:

10 long sleeved jersey tops

12 pairs of shorts.

12 pairs of football socks.

2 goalkeeper jerseys.

12 tracksuit tops/rainproof coats

12 pairs of tracksuit trousers.

The school will pay for all of the printing/embroidery on the jersey tops, goalie tops, tracksuit tops. If you know of anyone who might be able to help with the sponsorship then please do come and see Mrs Gow. We are happy to split the jerseys and tracksuit tops between sponsors if this helps with costs.

Welcome to Rosie - the newest member of the EYFS team!



In order to bring their Under the Sea learning to life, our EYFS have their very own class pet to learn to look after. Today, the children used their voting and democracy skills to come up with a name for their new friend and it is now officially called.....Rosie. The children had initially come up with Pops or Bubbles but then Charlotte came up with Rosie and EVERYONE loved it.

Can you help with our outdoor provision?



Over the coming term we are going to be developing the zones in our infant outdoor provision and we are looking for some help. We are desperately trying to become more authentic, sustainable and use less/limited plastic in our indoor and outdoor provision. That means that we are looking to stock up on lots of reusable, natural and real-life resources for our children. We are looking to gather and buy in reusable and authentic resources that are open-ended and the children can use in lots of the different areas of learning. We are particularly looking for:

- tin/stainless steel - bowls, teapots, cups, pans etc for our mud kitchen areas - big pans, mixing bowls, jars
- wooden/metal spoons, utensils, spatulas, pestle and mortars etc
- real life dress up clothes - eg, handbags, hats, walking sticks etc
- pebbles, rocks, shells
- old (no longer working or defunct) toaster, kettle, microwaves, clocks, telephones, typewriters
- milk crates, cable drums, pallets (safe ones), wooden planters
- guttering offcuts, drainpipes, tubes, trellis
- soil, herbs and scented plant cutting eg - lavenders, herbs
- clean offcuts of wood, drain pipes, cones
- tree stumps, offcuts, branches, logs, small tyres
- outdoor rugs, cushions etc
- decking pieces

Guitar lessons in school



This morning we met Barney from Lancashire Music service. He is going to be our new acoustic guitar teacher. We heard him play at the start of worship and he also went around each class to give the

children a chance to explore the guitar and have a go at strumming. Please do consider signing your child up for instrumental lessons - they make a massive difference to your child's concentration, self-esteem and also have an impact on their overall learning capabilities.

We have the opportunity through Lancashire Music Service of running acoustic guitar lessons for Years 2 to 6 with one of their instrumental teachers. We know many of you have been interested in guitar lessons for your children and we're pleased that we can offer this within school.

The guitar lessons will take place on Tuesday mornings and the children will come out of class lessons for these. We will try and move the music lessons around so the children are not missing the same class lesson each week.

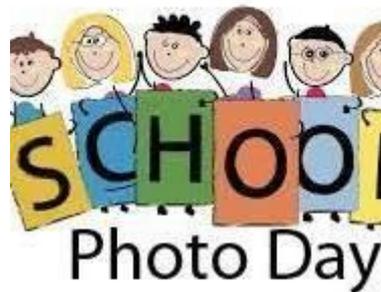
You can choose for the children to be taught in small groups or individually and the price will vary depending on your choice. The children will need to provide their own guitar or you can rent one from Lancashire Music service. Payment for these lessons will be direct to the Music Service.

To register an interest please click on the link below and scroll down to Acoustic Guitar. Information about price and instrument rental is on the website.

<https://uklancashire.speedadmin.dk/registration/>

Please feel free to talk to Mrs Riddell if you have any questions.

Class photos day



It is our annual class photo day on Wednesday. The ten children who are going to the School Games in Year 3/4 will be having their photos taken **first** on the day (these children need to come in to school in their uniform and bring their PE kit in with them please).

All children will have their photo taken with the rest of their class, so make sure full school uniform is worn and brush that hair (and that's just for the staff!)

Sports Round-up - Netball



WOW – Our teams did us proud at this week's netball competition.

Mrs Heyworth and Mrs Burton took our two teams to compete and our A team (what amazing results!)

Won 5 – 0 against Sacred Heart

Won 9 – 0 against St Mary's Osbalderson

Won 1 – 0 against Baxenden A

Won 10 – 0 against Baxenden B

Lost 3 – 5 against West end.

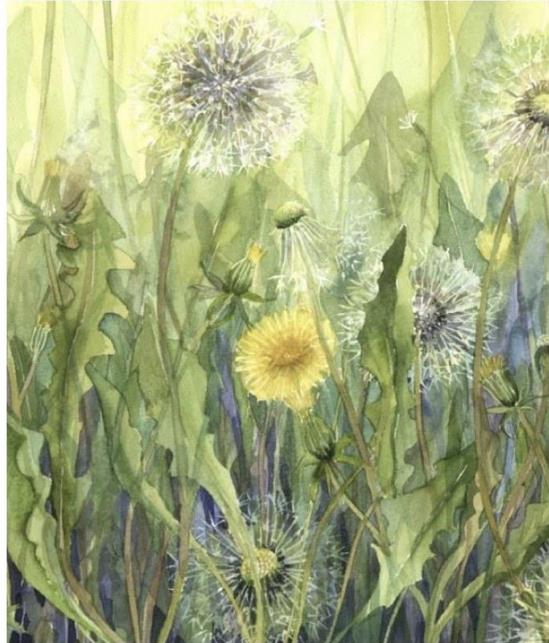
B Team... had to work hard and dig in with some challenging competition, but WOW some great teamwork, defending and communication. You kept your heads and kept going.

Amazing goal scoring from all girls - Aleena was our highest goal scorer with 12 shots on target.

The team were so fast and determined! What an improvement since September. We finished off 4th overall...2nd, 3rd and 4th places were tied on points after the penultimate game and it went down to points difference. So proud of both teams.

Forest Church - Come and join us this Sunday for some flowery fun!

Join us at Balderstone Church
Forest Church
Sunday 28th April 4pm



Save the Dates Summer Term 2024



Reminders for the coming week:

Monday - Forest school Year 5

Tuesday - Tri-golf after school

Wednesday - Class photo day

Thursday - Cross country event for junior children at St Michael & St John, After school frisbee

To help you plan at this busy time of year, we have tried to include key dates till the end of term. Most of the dates are subject to change but the events in **BOLD** impact/involve whole school. Please note, that the events are subject to change dependent upon high school transition days (we have only been given these dates for 2 of our secondary feeder schools so far).

Weekly reminders	Martial arts sessions now every Tuesday
22nd April	Netball Year 5/6 after school
23 rd April	Toddler, Pre-school and Reception lunch 11.45am
24 th to 25 th April	Anderton Centre – Fox class
	Reception children vision screening 10.30am
26 th April	Friday EYFS in rainbow colours dress up for Rainbow Fish book.
1 st May	9.00am Tempest class photo day
	Youth games 19 children from Year ¼ @ Accrington Cricket club during school day
2 nd May	Juniors Cross Country event after school St Michael & St John
Week Beginning 7 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
7 th May	Animal Olympics – Y1 and 2 whole class during school day.
10 th May	Y5 and 6 parent lunch
	Pirate day EYFS and Parent stay and play
11 th May	Walking Day 2.15pm meet at Community centre
Week beginning 13 th May	SATS week in school for Year 6
13 th May	9.15am Paper 1 Grammar paper
	10.30am Paper 2 – spelling test
14 th May	English Reading paper
15 th May	Maths Paper 1 9.15am
	Maths Paper 2 10.30am
16 th May	Maths Paper 3 9.15am (40 minutes)
22 nd May	York trip Owls. 7.30 – 7.30pm
24 th May	INSET day – no pupils in school
HALF TERM WEEK	
3 rd June	INSET day – no pupils in school
6 th June	Parent Lunch Year ¼
Week beginning 10 th June	Phonics screen week
	Multiplication tables test week
10 th June	Year 5/6 boys' football tournament
11 th June	Phonics screen test day, New Reception lunch and parent information session (12.30 – 2.30pm)
12 th June	Netball tournament CRGS
14 th June	Orienteering whole class Year 5/6 during school day
15 th June	Church summer tea party
Week beginning 17 th June	Sports Day (dependent on weather)
21 st June	Year ½ parent lunch
22 nd June	Mellor Brook Bicentenary celebration
23 rd June	Confirmations 3pm Mellor St Mary's
Week beginning 24 th June	Themed lunch week
27 th June	Ribblesdale transition (evening)
29 th June	FOBS summer fun day
1 st July	Ribblesdale transition days
2 nd July	Ribblesdale transition days
	Day to Create Year 3/4
3 rd July	Aladdin Arts trip
5 th July	Coffee Creative 2pm
Week beginning 8 th July	Transition week in school
	Euros dinners week
9 th July	Move up morning
	School garden open after school
10 th July	Move up morning
11 th July	Move up morning
	Year 6 moving up session pm
15 th July	Dress rehearsal for school play
16 th July	Performance day 1.30pm and 6pm (all children involved in the show to attend both performances please)
17 th July	Talent show
19 th July	Year 6 parent/leavers' lunch
	Leavers' service 10.30am in church
	Leavers' lunch 11.45am
	School finishes at 1.30pm

Contact Us



**A small school
with a big heart**

We are currently accepting
applications.

Join us for our Open Week 31st
October – 4th November. Ring
school to book a tour.



For more information visit
 www.balderstoneschool.co.uk 
or contact **01254 769150**

Keep in touch with the school family using the details below (or call into the school anytime to see us)

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