



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

Friday 12th May 2023

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



It has certainly been a very busy four day week, especially for our Year 6 pupils. A huge congratulations to our Owl class for the way in which they have handled their Statutory Assessment tests this week. We are so proud of the way they approached the tests and especially when the fire alarm decided to make an unexpected interruption to proceedings (they were amazingly professional). A huge thank you to Janet Leaver, Jonathan Greenwood and Louise Dixon (school governors) who gave their own time to come and help support the children & staff and invigilate the tests. I want to reiterate to you all that SATS are simply one part of our overall school assessment process and they do NOT define our children's achievements over 7 years, but are a marker of one day's performance.

This Saturday afternoon (from 2.30pm) would like to rally our whole school family to support Walking Day. This is an event where our school community walk alongside members of our church

and local community to show the solidarity, friendship and our positive working relationships. This is an even where a brass band leads the walk and we get to walk, chat and mix with one another all the way down to school. Our uniformed services such as the Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Guides walk too. Reverend Karen will pray for the community when we get down to the school playground and we might sing a song the children know from school too (you don't have to sing!). Then there are refreshments and races for the children on the field (like a mini sports day) and certificates are awarded. There is always a tug-of-war girls v boys which is very competitive! It would be fantastic to have all classes, faiths and members of our school community present at the walk. I'm going to bring Moo too. It's very casual - no school uniform needed and it is a chance to get to know each other. Please walk with us to show our community that we are united in our school family and that Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and those with no faith belief can come together in a walk of witness celebrating our commonality.

I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Mrs Gow

Animal Olympics



Year 1 and 2 had a fabulous time at Oakhill at the Animal Olympics event. The three teams all performed amazingly well and we had some Bronze medal winners! All three of our teams came in the top 10 of all the schools. The Animal Olympics are simply athletics style activities - running, jumping, throwing, bouncing, catching and each event has an animal name - eg, Rabbit relays, Cheetah sprints etc. The children gather points for every time they complete a circuit of a game.

	School	Score
1	Oakhill A	247
2	Whalley	238
3	Balderstone B	229
4	Balderstone C	215
5	Simonstone	211
6	St James	209
7	St Josephs	206
8	Balderstone A	171
9	St Marys Osbaldeston B	197
10	Waddington A	191
11	Waddington B	190
12	Salesbury	187
13	St Marys Osbaldeston A	176
14	Oakhill B	173
15	Whiteash	101

























Meet our new school mascot!

Name : Hannah

Design a mascot for Balderstone St Leonard's or for your own class


A mascot is a thing, or person, that is supposed to bring good luck.

For The Commonwealth Games this year, a character named Perry has been created and is the official mascot for the Birmingham 2022 Games. His patchwork of multi-coloured hexagonal patterns represents the many Commonwealth nations from around the world coming together for The Commonwealth Games, as well as the communities of Birmingham and the West Midlands. You may also notice his kit of red, yellow and blue stripes, which represent the colours of the Birmingham flag.

You are going to design your own mascot for school or your own class, using inspiration from our school/ class/ local area. Write some sentences to describe your mascot and explain why you chose this person or thing to be your mascot

Mascot Name: Ribble

Description of your mascot: My mascot is called Ribble after the River Ribble. It has 98 spikes representing the school children. It also contains the saint leonards chains lancashire rose and the school name. I choose a hedgehog



Last Summer term, as part of the Cultural sports competition, we asked our children to invent a new mascot for our school sports. The entries were amazing and we struggled to shortlist the designs. However, we did and chose - Ribble the Hedgehog as our new Sports mascot. He unites all of our classes and house teams in the design and Mrs Johnstone in particular is very happy that a hedgehog was chosen! Hannah (year 6) created the fabulous design and very apt name too. Ribble shall join us at our sports events and competitions as our new mascot.

Find the other shortlisted designs at [competitions/https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk/cultural-competitions/](https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk/cultural-competitions/)



Open the Book - coming to our school soon



A huge thank you to the members of our church and Benefice community who gave up their afternoon on Wednesday to be trained as official Open the Book leaders. This team will be going into our three local schools to read and act out Bible stories with the children in a fun, interactive and inclusive way. They will also be reaching out to our local community schools too, so children can find out more about the life of Jesus.

We are still looking for additional members for this team OR people who could sew simple costumes/tabards to make our Bible characters come to life. Please let Mrs Gow know if you could help.

Places still available....some for Reception 2023 too!



Please spread the word.... Unusually (and primarily due to the next year being a low birth rate year in the whole of Lancashire and it being a no sibling year for us) we have places still available for September in Reception 2023 and also **limited** places throughout school. If a relation or friend has not received their preferred first place for their child for Reception September 2023 or would like to know more about moving to Balderstone instead for a September start, then please let them know and I would be more than happy to show them around our wonderful school family. We may be a small school but we have a big heart for excellence, God and each other - so let's celebrate our school family and spread the word. We don't serve a particularly large population, so do definitely depend on **your** support and word-of-mouth recommendations of the school. This is especially important given the current financial climate in schools - as a full school is a fully funded school - so send out the message loud and clear that we are here and ready to welcome new members to the school family.

Parking politely



We have had a couple of incidences on the car park this week, where cars have been parked outside the bays or obstructing the free-flow around the middle section of the car park. This then has the knock-on of creating frustration and impeding clear vision of the safe walkway. Please try to park in the bays and remember Lancashire are definitely on the prowl for all people stopping or parking on the zig-zags (which I found to my own cost - £35 to be precise!)

Transition time - sharing with our cluster schools



Over the coming weeks we shall be thoroughly preparing our Year 6 for the transition to secondary school (if we actually decide to let them go!)

One part of this process is our cluster school transition day - where the children from Balderstone, Mellor, Osbaldeston, Salesbury, Langho, Samlesbury etc all get together and meet the other children who will be going to their secondary school. This means that the children already have a group of friends ready-made when they start.

We are going to be taking the children to Langho St Leonard's on Wednesday 24th May from 10am - 2pm. Children will be wearing their leavers hoodies.

If there are any parents from Year 6 who might be able to help with transport on this day, then please speak to Mrs Gow.

Balderstone - Live on Ribble FM



New Tuesday afternoon our radio project with Clitheroe Grand Theatre and Ribble FM as our 4 girls present live on the radio. Abigail, Georgia, Khadijah and Imaan have worked really hard putting together their segment for the show all about the importance of Fairtrade in Lancashire. You can hear their interview with the owner of the Shop of Hope, Clitheroe live on Ribble FM 106.7 between 2 and 3pm next week. We can't wait to hear your presenting girls.

Coronation Courageous Advocacy - The Big Help Out



We need some community contacts - for places/spaces/faces and events we could attend or visit to make a difference in our community.

Please let Mrs Gow know any contacts or ideas of how we could help out our local community.

Email any suggestions to head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

Flourishing Friday Award Winners!



A huge congratulations to the following children, who have been chosen as our Flourishing Award this week. You have been chosen for living out the mission of our school in: Loving God, Loving Learning and Loving Each other. truly you have been rooted and grounded in love.

EYFS Khadijah

Year 1. Primrose

Year 2. Muhammad

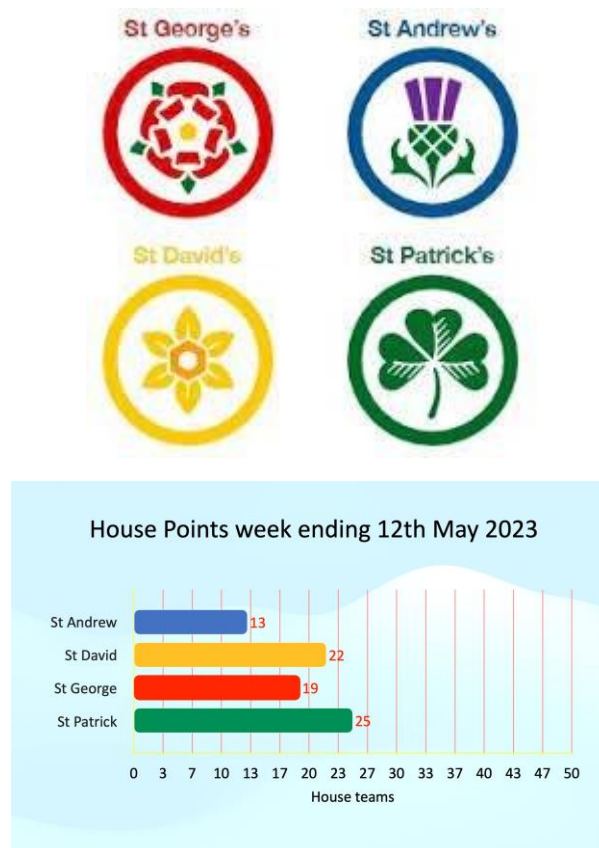
Year 3. Eleanor

Year 4. Abbas

Year 5. Abigail

Year 6. The Whole class!

House points



1 - Congratulations to St Patrick - it was a close one!

Busy Bees - Wraparound care



We are thrilled that our Busy Bees club has been such a success over the course of this year and we would like to continue this wraparound care offer to our parents for the coming year. We are exploring need for Friday morning and afternoon care and would really appreciate you letting school know if you would be interested in reserving a place in club for next academic year. Existing club members will get a form to complete (in the coming fortnight) to secure your hours for September.

Dates for the diary



Friday 19th May. NO CELEBRATION WORSHIP today as all junior children are out at the Science Festival

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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