



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary  
Newsletter

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

*Friday 5th May 2023*

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## Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



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*This week culminated with our Coronation Celebrations in school - our Community Coronation tea party and our whole school Coronation lunch. What joy!*

*Throughout our worships this week we have explored the attributes of a successful leader and the role of a leader of faith. We decided that humility, service, justice, equity and love were the most important things a leader can show. This coming week, we shall look at the symbolism of the artefacts used in the coronation and how they demonstrate all these virtues. We discussed how our new King is the King for all people and how he particularly wants to be known as the defender of the **faiths** and how he also needs to represent every part of our nation and communities. Reverend Karen joined us for Celebration Worship on Friday to tell us how King David (the most unlikely hero) was chosen by God to defeat Goliath and then serve the people of God.*

*Today during the coronation service I was particularly moved by the anointing ceremony, where the king with all his splendid robes, was derobed, down to his basic white shirt and trousers and then had time alone with God. It stripped down all the pomp and ceremony to the core of the matter - one man leading, through and with, the power of God. It backed up the key message we tell the children - that with God all things are possible. The other resounding moment for me (apart from his son's pledge and kiss) was the involvement of all faiths in the service, showing King Charles' commitment to being the protector of the Church of England but also of ALL faiths, representing the diversity, inclusivity and democracy of our country.*

*We had a fabulous day on Friday (thank you to Miss Lee, Mrs Chand and Mrs Burton especially for all their hard-work preparing our Coronation lunch). What a great celebration, street party spirit as*

*always in our school hall! The children have learnt the National Anthem this week and also a special Coronation Song to commemorate the event.*

*Year 3 and 4 learnt more about monarchs this week, ordering all the British monarchs from 1066 onwards! We also explored King Charles' key interests and learnt about his passion for the environment, stewardship, farming and also lemon ice-cream! EYFS have been on the River Thames this week, in their very own cruise, tour boat in their immersion area.*

*As part of our Community tea party, many of our children showed their God given talents through some inspired performances to keep our community entertained - dancing, singing, poetry and piano performances. A huge thank you to all the children who had the courage to share their talents. It is always a delight to see you shine and lots of the party-goers came to say how marvellous you all were.*

*Between all the preparations and celebrations, our Year 2 and Year 6 children have been preparing for their statutory assessment tests too. We know each and every one of our children incredibly well and do not need tests to let us know what they can do! We do not talk about testing to our infant children, as this is just a normal part of our assessment process in our school and kept very low-key. Our Year Six children have worked incredibly hard throughout their time at school and next week is simply a snapshot of their culminated knowledge. I have made it very clear to the children that this is a chance for them to shine, but it is also not their 'whole picture.' The way they treat others, represent their faiths, serve the wider school community, work cooperatively in teams, represent the school in the Arts and sports, the way they care for their buddies and younger children, their love of computing, dance, drawing, rapping, cricket and God is not measurable by the SATS. We pray for all our Year 6 next week.*

*Enjoy the bonus bank holiday weekend.*

*Blessings,*

*Mrs Gow*

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## Coronation Celebrations

























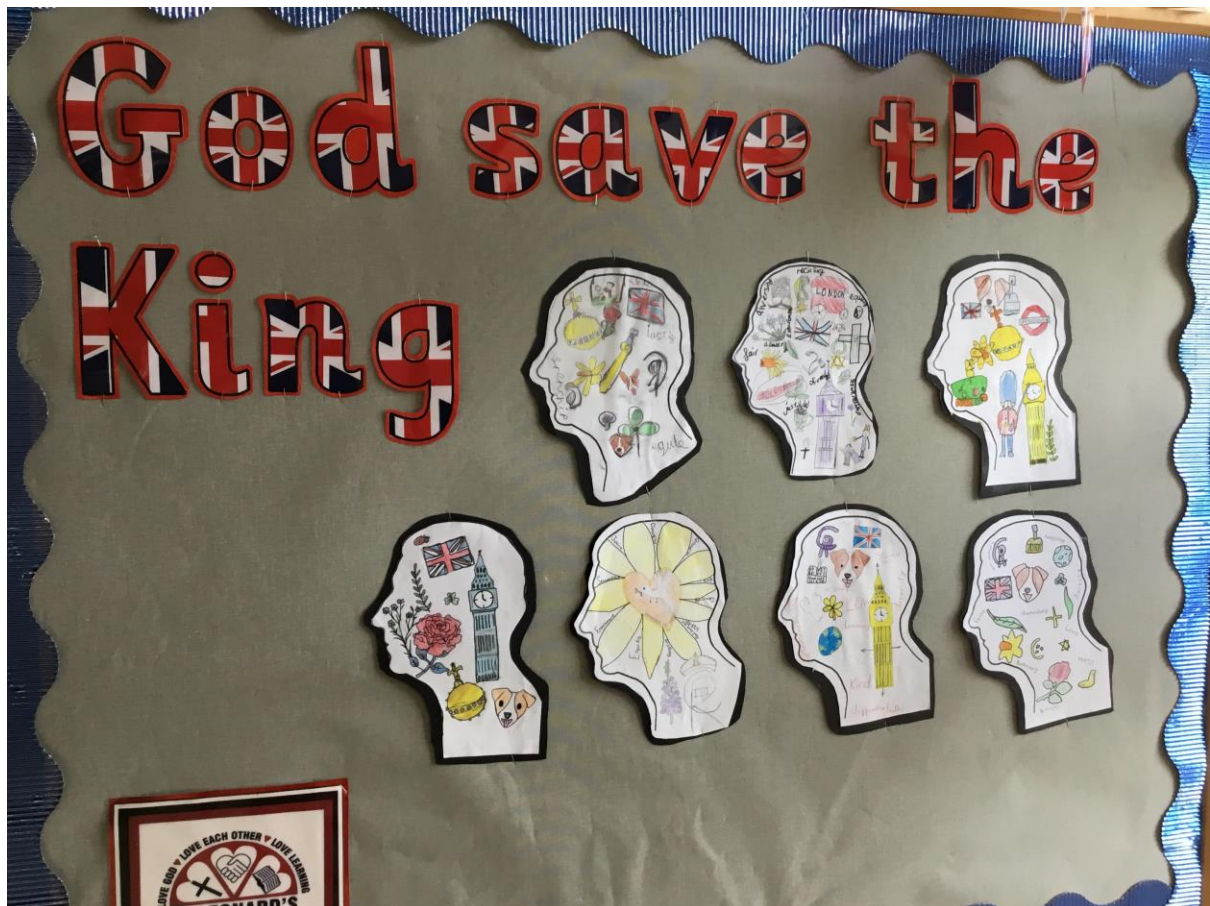
























Coronation Community Tea party



*1 - Thank you so much to all our performers!*





*2 - Amazing dancers from Owl class!*



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<https://sway.office.com/XVioUE0oDplmexS1#content=AbL1ktxVlo9jRI>



## Open the Book



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Can you help our Benefice bring the Good News to our children?



**As a Benefice we are holding some training from the Bible Society to facilitate 'Open the Book' in our local primary schools. We launched this just before COVID hit and we were unable to get the team into school. Now the time has come for our relaunch..... If you have 10 minutes to spare every week (or even every few weeks) then this is how you can help our school with its mission to let every child hear about the life of Jesus. Everyone welcome.... (if you are from a different faith, we would ensure that the story you are reading is in line with your personal faith beliefs too eg, a miracle of Jesus or an Old Testament story)**

Open the Book offers primary school children an opportunity to hear key Bible stories told by a team from local churches/communities, who present the stories during assemblies or acts of collective worship. Each presentation (reading of a story) takes around 10–15 minutes and is incorporated into

a wider school worship, or can stand alone. For more information see <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>

Training to be held at **Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary** at **1pm- 4pm on Wednesday 10th May**. Please email Vicki Gow on [head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk) or ring **01254 769150** to book your place.

**Together we can make a difference to the faithful of the future!**

Places still available....



*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.



## RE Conference



Matilda, Falak and Mrs Draycott attended the Blackburn Diocese RE conference this week to learn all about stewardship, courageous advocacy and how to inspire the children back in school. Matilda and Falak were incredibly enthused by the day - especially after the rather yummy lunch! The girls are going to lead school worship to tell us more about their day and how they impact our school worship! Salt and Light group - I think they are going to keep you very busy. Here is the video they made of the day.....



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## Coronation Courageous Advocacy - The Big Help Out



We've had a couple of ideas and suggestions for ways we can help but we need some community contacts - for places/spaces and events we could attend 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](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

### Arabic speakers - help out our newest pupil!



On Friday I had the pleasure of showing a new family around our school - a newly arrived BAE Samlesbury worker and his family who have recently arrived from Saudi. He had heard good things about our school (from local people) and would like his son to join us whilst he is working in the area. However, we may need your help in making sure that our newest Year 2 pupil settles well into school. If there are any of our school family who speak conversational Arabic and could spare us half an hour, to help us settle this young man into school life and to help him converse with his new friends. Please come and see Mrs Gow if you might be able to help, or know someone who could. Thank you.



## Courageous advocacy - Loving others!



Our very own Abdullah has been living out his faith last weekend, showing how (even if you are young) you can make a huge difference. Abdullah was an absolute star when he helped his mum raise over £1000 for the victims of the Turkey earthquake last Saturday. They held a play session for little babies and toddlers and he was an outstanding helper - looking after the toddlers, playing games, emptying the cars and setting up and serving food and drinks. He was amazing and we would like to celebrate his courageous advocacy. Well done indeed Abdullah! Your Balderstone family are very proud of your charity work.



## Martial Arts - Join Now



We really would like some more children to join our martial arts club. It will be staying as a breakfast club (thank you to the parents who replied to the questionnaire). Please let Mrs Gow know asap if you would like your children to have a taster session of the club.

If you want a place, fill out the Microsoft form using this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ndURPr5XSUua0QkYwmpZTmOtgN9iypEpG41HdzI9iFUNU5KSzQ3UIY2SkxNR1M5QzhNQTUwRVBDSS4u>

or scan the QR code below.

### Martial Arts Club Consultation





## All-Age worship and Coronation Brunch



Join us for all-age worship tomorrow morning at 9.30am in church. EVERYONE welcome and the children shall be singing the coronation song that we learnt in school this week. After the service, join us for a celebration brunch. There will be lots of mums/grannies singing in the ladies pop-up choir too.

## Dates for the diary



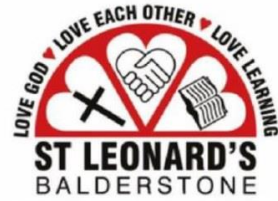
**Tuesday 9th May** - start of SATS for Year 6 (please be in school on time, after a super sleep!)

**Wednesday 10th May**     Squirrels (Year 1 & 2) at Animal Olympics Oakhill.

Open the Book training in school 1pm

**Friday 12th May.**     Celebration worship in church **2.30pm**

## Contact Us



**A small school  
with a big heart**

**We are currently accepting  
applications.**

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



For more information visit  
 **[www.balderstoneschool.co.uk](http://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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