





Newsletter 31st March 2023

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

Friday 31st March 2023

In This Issue



In this week's edition of the newsletter

- **Mrs Gow's Reflections on a blessed week**
- **Moo's moments**
- **Contact Us**

Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



Well I can't believe that we have reached the end of another term! Time seems to be flying by so quickly and this week has been a particularly action-packed one! At Lent time, similar to Ramadan in many ways, it is a time for reflection. As I reflect on the last week, it has made me even more resolute to count my blessings every day. This week has made me stop, give thanks and be grateful for those around me in our school family. I thought this week I would take you through each day of the week and give you a taster of the amazing moments our fabulous staff team and pupils got to share together.

Saturday 25th March

Last Saturday, many of our families turned out (in the not so sunny weather) to help clear the car park of litter and to clear the dead leaves from the churchyard. To have so many of our families turn up to help was a real blessing to us, particularly as some of the children had swimming lessons to go to; dance shows to attend afterwards and some of the families were fasting! Our church community were SO grateful for the support of our school wider community and to see our families working alongside one another, raking, laughing and clearing together made my heart sing. One of our youngest children from Reception class, Aminah, was determined that she was going to clean all the memorial stones in the garden of remembrance because she knew it would make the families happy if they passed by! We got to talk about our day, our gardens and learn more about each other's faiths as we worked together - one of the most special and precious elements of our school!

Kathy Evans from the our church asked me to pass on the following message to the families who came to help:

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and effort on Saturday morning at Balderstone Church. We had a great turnout and completed more jobs in and outside the church than we ever expected.

A special thank you to the staff and families from the school and those from the community who joined us. It was lovely to accomplish some tasks for the school, the church and the community together.

Best wishes

Kathy Evans

To all the children who attended - here's some more good news - the duck (from the nest of eggs we found) came back to look after her 12 eggs after we had left! (see photo below)







Monday 27th March

On Monday, all the hard work certainly paid off for our junior children performed magnificently at King George's Hall at the Let's Go Sing concert. A huge thank you to the junior team and to Mrs Riddell for organising the event. The event was really moving as the children sang beautifully and some of the harmonies were outstanding. Have a listen to how wonderful they sounded....I must admit that I had a tear in my eye as I turned to see everyone with their phone lights on and the children singing about the importance of friendship.



<https://sway.office.com/Hn25upcljPlvzLun#content=Y1RFRiTcmp5ssm>

Tuesday 28th March



As if the week hadn't started magically enough, we had a day of quidditch (Harry Potter's favourite sport) on Tuesday. The morning started with a special assembly where the sorting hat made sure that the children were in the correct house teams based on their characters/personalities. Gryffindor - brave and courageous; Ravenclaw - clever and wise; Slytherin - ambitious and determined and Hufflepuff - creative and quick-thinking. Then, with our house teams sorted we started the fast-

paced, high-intensity game of muggle quidditch - which is a mix of netball, dodgeball, handball and tag rugby! WE ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT! In fact, so much so, that Logan and some of the Year 6 boys said that it was even better than football (and that is high praise indeed!). School have purchased our own set for quidditch so watch out for our new club next half-term.









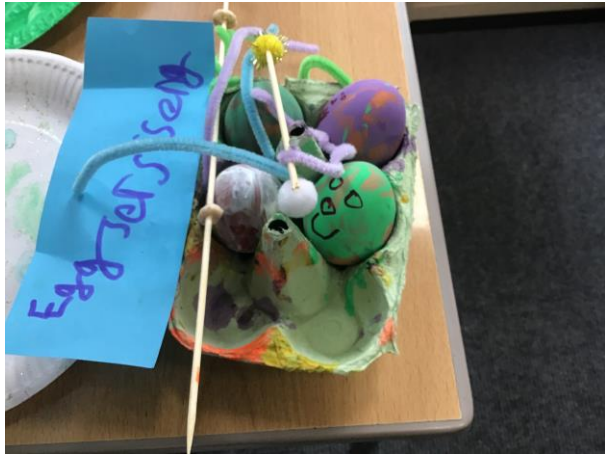


Wednesday 29th March



Wednesday saw our annual, highly creative and competitive Balderstone Egg Decorating morning. Every class was full of glitter, cotton wool, paint and the scent of creativity (and boiled eggs!). The children did an amazing job creating their 'egg'cellent artwork! Mr Holroyd made a guest appearance after school to judge the entries. This is the only day in the school year where all staff bring their hairdryers into school to speedily dry off painted eggs! A huge well done to the children for their wonderful, independent creativity. A huge thank you to Mr Holroyd for coming down after work to be our judge and to Mrs Burton for the prizes. There were a number of fabulous egg puns too - a cracking job all round! Alfie deserves a special mention for tailoring (no pun intended) his egg design to the judge's preferences by decorating his eggs to represent the Chelsea team! Here are our winners and runners-up.

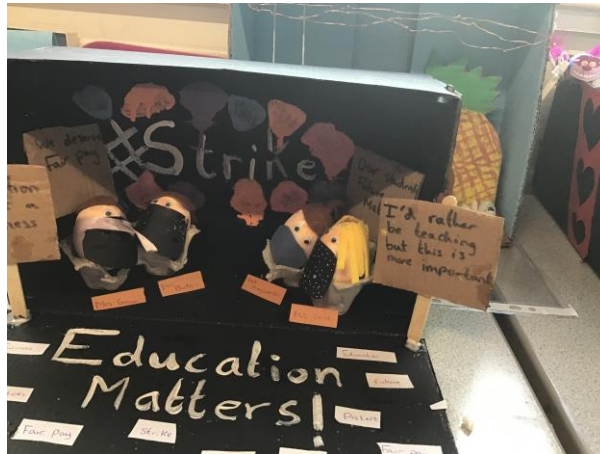












Wednesday was also the day of the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley swimming gala. Our school were ably represented by children from Year 4,5 and 6 who performed outstandingly at the event. They showed real determination, self-belief and teamwork and we even came home with a stash of medals. A huge thank you to Mrs Heyworth and Mrs Dixon, who helped transport and cheer on the team.

A huge well done and thank you for representing the school so superbly to:

Sophie, Anna, Zayd, Matilda, Georgia, Stanley, Abbas and Michael.

Mrs Heyworth and Mrs Dixon said that it was an absolute pleasure to take you to this event.

Thursday 30th March



We were really looking forward to attending the Lancashire Schools Storytelling Festival at Oswaldtwistle Civic Hall on Thursday. As one of only four schools chosen to appear in the final, we were already thrilled! However, the best was yet to come. The children, with the expert story writing of Mrs Turner and wonderful support and guidance from Mrs Riddell and John Meredith from the Heritage Team were ready to tell their two magnificent Irish folk tales to perform.

The competition is very high stakes - with the children having to learn a story (of up to 10 minutes in length) **by heart** and then present it to a judging panel (who sit silently at a table in a room). It is a little bit like the X-Factor auditions. I cannot overstate how incredibly proud we were of ALL of the Year 3/4 team. Their stories were performed with such confidence, clarity and were literally word perfect. The children absolutely peaked at the right moment and gave their best performance on the day. EVERY single child gave their all and we were so pleased with each and every one of them!

In the afternoon, the children enjoyed a storytelling performance from famous Irish storyteller and author Pat Speight and some folk music too! Although we didn't win the overall championship, Mrs Riddell, Mrs Turner and the whole of Fox class were absolute winners in my eyes as they did not put a foot, or word out of place ALL day. WOW - Oracy at its best!



1 - John from the heritage centre





2 - Here we are performing our judged story.

Friday 31st March



Holy Week

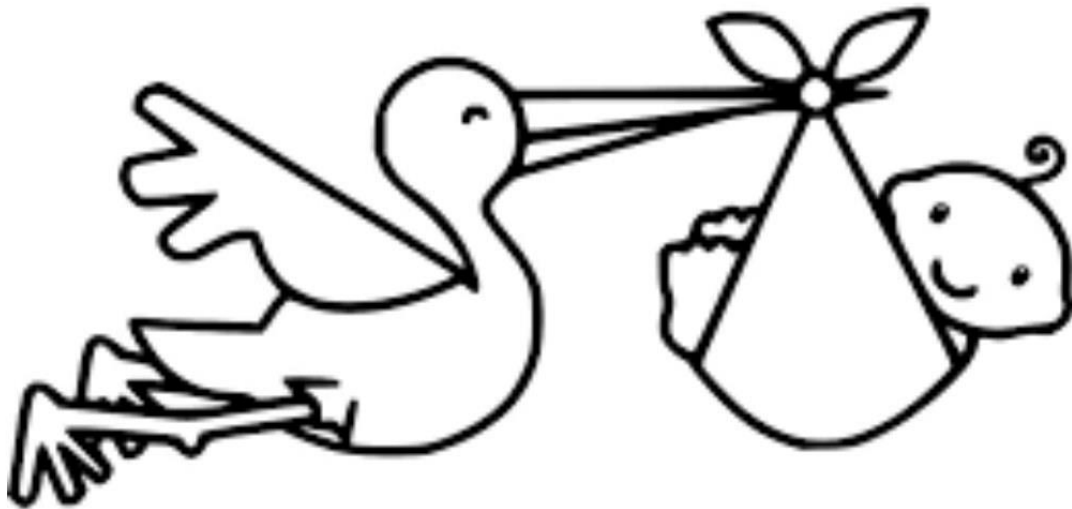
To end our week we held our Easter worship. We shared a Zoom worship with our Benefice school over in Mellor and with our very own Reverend Karen. We thought about the events of Holy Week and how the joy of Easter for Christians is in knowing that God sent Jesus as part of His amazing salvation plan. It was lovely to have our two schools and our families worshipping together, singing and praying together. The three Benefice schools - Samlesbury, Mellor and Balderstone all share the same vicar (Rev Karen) and we know that at this time of year it is difficult for Rev Karen to spread herself between her three schools.

We prayed for **all** members of our school family this morning - for those who are travelling through Lent and those who are in their holy month of Ramadan, for those who are feeling lost, sad or poorly, for those who are in power so they make wise and just decisions and those who are suffering. We also prayed for God's blessing on and over our school. We would ask that during this holy time for us all, please do hold our school, our staff and all our community in your prayers.

Then, after worship, it was time for our annual Easter egg hunt - where our children (in their family groups) hunt all around the school building trying to find pieces of their numbered Easter egg. It has to be said that Mrs Burton and Miss Lee were VERY sneaky Easter egg hidiers - even the staff couldn't find the pieces. Each team had 8 parts of their Easter egg photo to find and then assemble the jigsaw. Our Desmond Tutu family group were the first to hunt down all their jigsaw, swiftly followed by our Seacole family group. Great fun was had by all!



Au Revoir Miss Roberts



We also prayed for Miss Roberts this morning as she gets ready to start her maternity leave. We wish her a safe delivery of her precious little one and we shall let you know as soon as we get some exciting baby news!

We are thrilled that Mrs Turner will be covering, with Mrs Moosa and Mrs Hussain in EYFS and we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Rachel Willan (one of our Toddler group regulars and future pre-school parent) to teach on a Thursday and Friday with Mrs Gow in Fox class.

Moo's Moments



I've had an 'egg'stra special week in school this week. I got to join in with the Easter egg hunt today with all the children asking me to try and sniff out their jigsaw pieces. To be honest, I was too interested in getting a fuss! I am getting used to the noise in school (even when things are VERY excitable like today).

Michael came to look after me when it got a bit too noisy this morning, it was lovely that he noticed that I was getting a bit nervous and he took me back to my bed and played fetch with me. Thank you for being so caring, Michael. I have met some children for the very first time this week. I LOVED meeting Fatima from Year 1. She came to sit with me and she even gave my tummy a tickle.

I am now officially a member of Balderstone School now as Eleanor's mummy has brought me my very own school uniform. Here I am sporting my new top.

I joined the children on the playground at lunchtime. Lots of children volunteered to take me for a walk around the playground on my lead. I am learning how to stay 'at heel' and NEVER pull on my lead. My training at Mellor Obedience School is going very well and I have learnt how to sit, stay, lie down and even touch my mum's hand when asked.

I won't be having any Easter eggs this Easter time as chocolate is poisonous for dogs, but Mrs Pinnington and Alfie gave me a new rope toy to play with and I LOVE it- so thank you.

I'll looking forward to seeing you after the holiday and even joining in the daily mile! Please make sure you keep reading over the holidays, then you can come and tell me about the books you have read.



Easter blessings



So, as you can see, it has been a wonderfully busy week in school and this is reflective of the whole half-term. This week (and this whole half-term) has been filled with so many blessings and memorable moments. The amazing staff and governor team that I have the honour of leading and working with, amaze me with their commitment, love and care for your children - and this is seen through their commitment to give the children the very best curriculum and enrichment experiences, whether this is through sports, arts, gardening, Easter egg hunts or music.

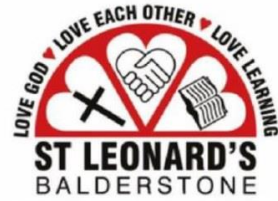
May I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and safe break. I have huge respect for our families (staff, parents and children) who are fasting. May I also mention our wonderful lunchtime staff and welfare staff who have been serving lunches, cooking, making toast and looking after our children whilst also fasting themselves. I will be joining the children in school who are fasting on the first week back (please do let me know the timings for starting and breaking the fast for that week).

If you celebrate Easter, then may the joy of the risen Christ fill your hearts this coming week. I heartily hope that the children who have given up chocolate for Lent receive the most delicious chocolatey treats on Easter Sunday!

May God bless you wherever you travel this holiday time. Stay safe and I'll see you in the Summer term!

Mrs Gow (a very blessed headteacher)

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with a big heart**

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applications.**

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