



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

*Friday 17th March 2023*

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



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*What a joy to see so many colourful Mr Men and Little Miss in school today for our Comic Relief fundraising! You certainly raised a smile too with your jolly costumes. Thank you for your generous donations.*

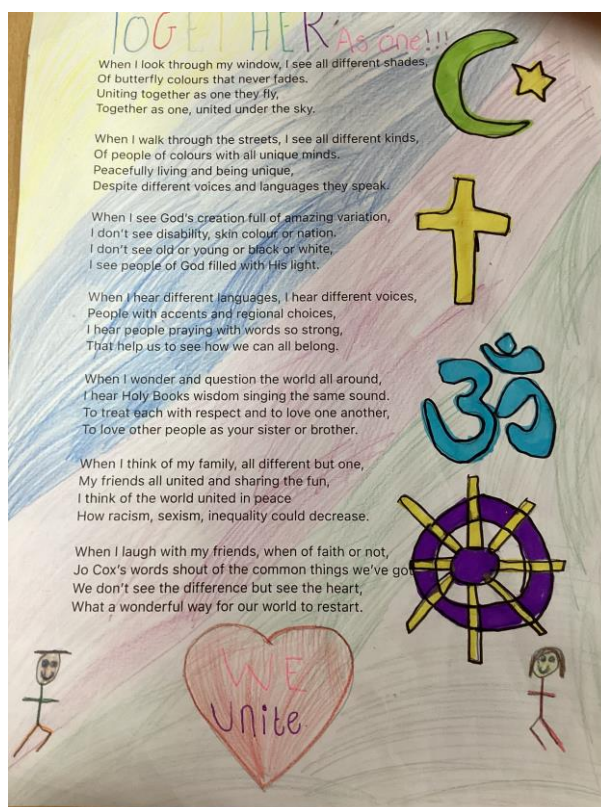
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The children have wowed us this week with their deep thinking, insight and team work. I would like to thank the members of staff who took unpaid industrial action this week to highlight the plight of school funding, and also the staff members who have worked so flexibly in school to make the strike days such meaningful themed days for the school family. On Wednesday, the junior children worked

on the Spirited Arts Project - an international competition that gets children thinking about some 'big' questions about theology and life. We chose to explore a theme that is very close to our school family's heart, based on the famous inaugural speech made by the late Jo Cox in the House of Commons where she said, "We have more in common than that which divides us!" The children's creative responses to this theme made us quite emotional as the children showed such empathy, inclusivity and equity. We explored the importance of the Rule of Law in our country and how protected characteristics mean that we ALL have a right to be treated with parity and fairness. A huge thank you to the many parents/carers who sent in religious quotes about unity. We loved exploring the many similarities in the golden thread that weaves between the faiths in our school - loving one another and treating others as we would like to be treated.

I wanted to share some of the children's work with you, so you can see the range of creativity (from art, poetry, sculpture and even a rap!)



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We have also spent time learning about the patrons of our family groups. Did you know that your child is part of a family group within school? This family group is made up of children from

Reception all the way to Year 6 and the children sit with their family group every lunchtime. **Three** family groups (each with up to 8 children) make up your child's house team (St Patrick, St George, St Andrew and St David). We call these groups our school family groups because the children sit with their buddies and look after, and out, for one another and serve each other. Siblings sit together wherever possible in these groups too. Each family group has a family patron (a significant person of faith who has made a difference in the world). Currently, our patrons are:

Sybil Phoenix

William and Catherine Booth

Mary Seacole

Mother Teresa

Malala Yousafzai

Greta Thunberg

Desmond Tutu

Corrie Ten-Boom

Martin Luther-King

Harriet Tubman

Bear Grylls

Nick Vujicic

Our junior child spent time this week learning about their family patron and thinking about how they have made an impact through their actions and beliefs. Later in the year, we shall be inviting you, our children, staff and governors to nominate other significant people of faith who could inspire our family groups.

This weekend, as we mark Mothering Sunday. At Balderstone we pray for all of you who are mums, expectant mums, foster mums, for those who are longing to be mums and those who have lost their mums. Our very own expectant mum, Miss Roberts is due to start her maternity leave after Easter. The great news is that Mrs Turner is going to work full-time in EYFS whilst Miss Roberts is away. Don't worry- Fox class we have a lovely supply teacher who is going to work closely with Mrs Riddell and Mrs Gow to cover your class on a Thursday and Friday.

Have a wonderful weekend and I hope all the mums are spoilt with love.

Regards,

Mrs Gow

## Moo's Moments



I've been in school on Tuesday and Friday this week and have had a wonderful time seeing the children play so wonderfully together. I went outside for the very first time (on my lead of course) at lunchtime play and lots of children offered to take me for a stroll around the field. This was great as they got to chat to each other and I got some exercise. I could see the children playing on the adventure trail (well what is left of it!) I enjoyed listening to some of the children read on Tuesday. Alfie's reading and story was so relaxing I even fell asleep - he reads the best snooze-time stories. Michael and Logan have been great at helping me keep calm and learn how to sit in my bed. I even got to join the Friday Flourishers this afternoon whilst they had hot chocolate and marshmallows. I wasn't allowed any though as chocolate is poisonous to us dogs. I did get a chew afterwards though for being a good girl and not doing any licking! Mrs Johnstone let me sit on her knee for a bit this week too and I had a good look at her computer. I enjoyed hearing the Rock Band preparations this afternoon - wow it was loud! Next week I am looking forward to hearing some more readers! Would you like to come and read your book to me? If you would, please let Mrs Gow (my human mum) know because I love stories best in the whole world. Keep reading everyone.

## Underwater Street Adventure



Our EYFS and Pre-schoolers enjoyed a fab day out on Thursday at Underwater Street Science and Discovery Centre in Liverpool. They made their own slime, strawberry scented bubbles, had amazing sensory fun, painted a car and enjoyed some wonderful role-play. A huge thank you to all the children for their exemplary behaviour and for being such good fun to be with. Also, a huge thanks

to the staff and volunteers - particularly Mrs Leaver who (yet again) supported school in offering the children these great, memory making activities. A great big Balderstone well done to our newest Bunnies (pre-schoolers) who went on their first ever school trip without their parents! Have a look at all the fun they had!

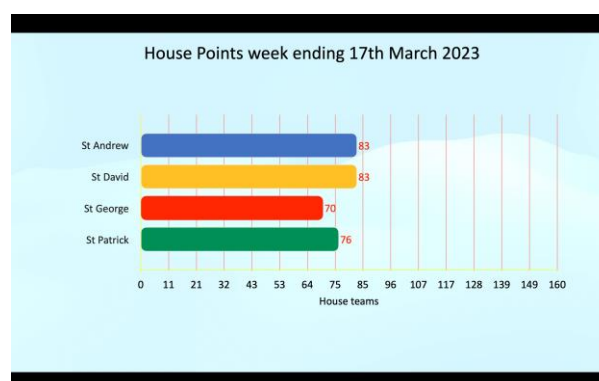


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## House points for this week



Our school house points link to our school mission statement of Loving God, Loving Each Other and Loving Learning and are awarded to children for behaviour, learning and positive attitudes beyond our expected standards. Every Friday the winning team sits at a special 'top table' for lunch, is served first, has a sweet treat and can also take part in the Flourishing Friday fun activity at lunchtime play.



**1 - Congratulations to St Andrew and St David this week - it was a draw!**

## Flourishing Friday Award Winners



Here are this week's flourishers who have shone our school mission of Loving God, Loving Each Other and Loving learning.

### **EYFS. The whole class for being such superstars on their trip to Underwater Street**

Year 1. Adah

Year 2. Aaminah

Year 3. Aliza

Year 4. Eshaal (rollover), Ammaarah

Year 5. Aleena & Georgia

Year 6. Amaya (rollover), Haris

## Holiday club consultation



As a school we completely understand just how hard it can be to find child-care during the school holidays if you are working. Therefore, we have been in consultation with SportsCool about setting up a holiday club provision at our school potentially starting at May half-term. This would be dependent on getting enough interest in the club to make it financially viable for them to run the scheme at our school as a new venue. The days would run from 8.30am -4pm and would be charged at between £15-£20 per day, with a full week - Monday-Friday getting one day free. The children

would be engaged in sports and active fun. Please would you let Mrs Gow know (by Tuesday of next week) if you would be interested in a place at the club by emailing on [head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk). If your child is in receipt of free school meals or your child has a disability or special need, then they are eligible for a free place on the holiday scheme too, so please let Mrs Gow know if you would like to take up the offer of a place for them too. It would be really great to offer this club at our school, so please do try to support the initiative if possible,

## Upcoming events - Busy, Busy, Busy

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Busy	3 Busy	4 Busy	5 Busy	6 Busy
9 Busy	10 Busy	11 Busy	12 Busy	13 Busy
16 Busy	17 Busy	18 Busy	19 Busy	20 Busy

We have a particularly busy fortnight of events coming up in and out of school, with arts, music, coffee creative, storytelling, rock band performances and sports events. A huge thank you to the staff who facilitate and organise these events. Large-scale events such as the Let's Go Sing concert need a lot of preparation so please do ensure that Mrs Riddell is aware of any changes to arrangements, as we expect that ALL children will be in attendance.

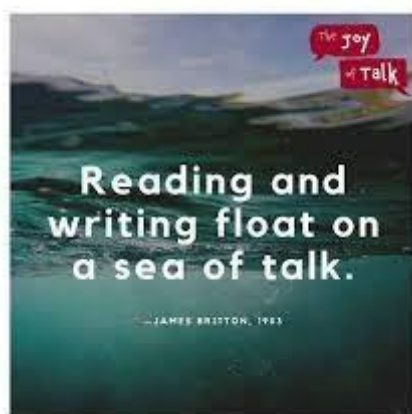
We pray a blessing for all our families starting the holy month of Ramadan next week. You know that we shall facilitate, support and pray for you during your time of fasting. Please do come and talk to Mrs Gow or your child's class teacher if your older child (Owl class) intends to take part in any fast days. Our multi-faith prayer space in school shall be open daily from next week too so our pupils and staff can pray side-by-side.

## Cave paintings - Fox class



Fox class have been thinking about what images they would put on cave walls to show people what has happened over the past 3 years. Here are their amazing prints on their very own cave themed classroom door!

## Wonderful Oracy and storytelling in EYFS



Over the coming year in school we are having a huge push on improving our children's vocabularies, story-telling, nursery rhyme and speaking and listening skills. All learning floats on a sea of high quality talk. If your child can speak it, then they won't be able to write it. As a school we have banned the sentence opener "So basically...." Here are two of our youngest learners in EYFS retelling Goldilocks using high quality vocabulary. Please do jot down any new words/vocab that your child has learnt in their reading books in your child's reading record, as we are finding that many of the children (especially in the juniors) are more than capable of decoding and reading a word correctly but do not know what it means and this is having a detrimental impact on their comprehension.

Please do spend time talking through a couple of words from your child's reading every night and jot these words down in their reading records.



*2 - Floating our learning on a sea of talk! Great work girls.*

## IPad scheme & internet safety



This year we have moved to 1:1 devices in the juniors and we are working towards becoming an Apple Distinguished school. The children and staff have made a fabulous start to using the devices to enhance learning. We have had some real success with Showbie, Padlet and Keynote as 3 new learning tools. Every week we are hoping to add an internet safety section to the newsletter to keep us up-to-date with the ever changing world of tech!

The parents from Fox class who have adopted our Parent pay scheme will be able to take their child's device between home and school from Friday of next week. Please send into school a signed copy of the Parental Acceptable Usage policy (being sent home on Monday) before Friday so your child can bring their device home. Parents, please come and see Mrs Gow with your mobile phone and the Jamf parent app installed so she can show you how to safely manage the device. Jonathan Greenwood our school Internet Safety governor has also provided some advice on making sure your home filtering systems are adequate. Thank you so much Jonathan!

### *Home and Mobile Network Filtering*

*When it comes to online safety, are you making the most of your home broadband and mobile phone contracts? Did you know that most of the main suppliers include **free** tools to help make the internet*

*a safer place for you and all of the family. These tools generally include a filtering system which can block access to inappropriate websites for any device connected to your wifi or mobile network in a similar manner to the filtering system used in school. These filters can usually be customised to suit various age ranges and can be set up to apply different filtering levels at different times of the day. Some of these systems can also help to prevent you accessing viruses, phishing or malware-infected sites.*

*Unfortunately, in most case theses services aren't switched on by default, so you'll need to log into your broadband or mobile account and activate them yourself. It should only take a couple of minutes and thankfully '[InternetMatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org)' have already done all the hard work and created guides to run you through the setup for all the various suppliers. Follow the link below to find out what tools are available form your providers:*

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>

*Please note that even though network filtering is a very useful tool for helping to increase online safety for your family, it does have some limitations to its effectiveness so please don't rely on it as your only means of protection. We also need to consider applying parental controls to devices, apps and online platforms which we can consider in more detail next time.*

Thanks, Jonathan Greenwood

## Our Defibrillator - has been upgraded



A huge thank you to Balderstone Parish Council who have helped pay for a new battery for the defibrillator situated on the side wall of the school. Please do make sure you know where this life-saving equipment is situated on the school grounds just in case it is ever needed.

## Church and Community events



**EVERYONE** is welcome to join us for All-age worship for Mothering Sunday this weekend at 9.30am. Some of the from the MOPs (Puppet ministry team) will be leading a puppet sketch about Moses in the bullrushes.

Next Saturday, 25th March any time from 9.30 - 12pm (stay for as long or as little as you can) we shall be clearing some of the church/school grounds. Come along and help us tidy and share some chat, fellowship as we help the environment and our church community.

## Uniform reminders



We have some amazing uniform donated to school - much of it is nearly new. Please do come along and browse and take anything you might need. This stall helps us to reduce, reuse and recycle our uniform. Mrs Leaver opens the stall on a Friday after school in the library. Thank you for all the donations.

## Dates for the diary



**Friday 24th March.** Coffee creative day - junior children making brooches in class (please make voluntary donation to support pay for materials) and then 2pm Coffee Creative - felt flower craft.

**Saturday 25th March 9.30 -12pm** Church clean up day

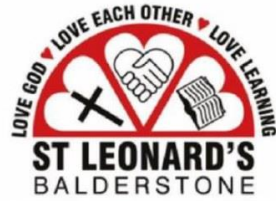
**Monday 27th March** Let's Go Sing day/evening - children leaving school at 1.45pm. Concert starts at 6pm and collect at 7.10pm please. All junior children expected to attend please.

**Tuesday 28th March** Quidditch day in school - please make sure ALL children have PE kits and trainers in school.

**Thursday 30th March** Storytelling festival at Oswaldtwistle Civic Hall Year 3/4

**Friday 31st March** Easter service and school closes at 1.30pm for Easter

## 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)

**Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary school**

Commons Lane

Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

01254 769150

[head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

Visit us on the web at <http://balderstoneschool.co.uk>