



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

*Friday 10th March 2023*

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



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Well the snow made the end to this week all the more exciting. We quite literally had all four seasons in one day! Please remember that if the weather is poor, I will contact you via Parentmail and with a pop-up banner on the school website to let you know if school ever needs to close. We completely understand that you may be running a little late on these days. I have been monitoring attendance rates very carefully in school since September and we have some children with outstanding attendance. Please be aware though that there is a real educational impact of missing odd days here and there throughout the half-term. A huge thank you to those of you who have been making use of the school absence option on the phone line. This is a great help in the mornings especially, and on Fridays. If you ever come to the school office on a Friday and need attention and there is no-one there, please do go along to the classroom window Year 1/2 and knock there.

It was great to share Celebration Worship with Reverend Karen this week. She came in to share the Bible story of the Feeding of the 5,000. We also explored the history of The Trussell Trust, the couple who started the first food banks. During this holy time we shall be collecting food donations to deliver to Blackburn Food Bank. Please use the box in the front entrance to deliver your donations and our Salt and Light group will deliver the food weekly.

We are coming up to a very busy and special time of year with Easter approaching and the holy month of Ramadan starting for many of our families. As always, we shall respect and encourage our children to follow and share their religious observances. We have a dedicated prayer space in school where the children can meet, different faiths praying side-by-side and this area will be open throughout lunchtimes and the children are welcome to pray after they have eaten (or they can use this room on the odd days they are fasting). There are a few children in Owl class who may be fasting on certain days throughout the coming weeks. We would ask that parents discuss this with their child's class teacher to discuss the best days for this where the children do not have PE, outdoor learning or trips etc and so we can let our school kitchen staff know in advance. We are sorry that the dates for the Let's Go Sing concert were changed (we had originally booked this for the Saturday) but the organisers cancelled the Saturday concert due to a lack of school take-up and allocated us another slot. We have had no choice about this and I shall be talking to the organisers about the impact of Ramadan on these dates. The children and staff have been working incredibly hard on the songs and we are very keen to give them all the chance to shine on the stage.

I have had the pleasure of seeing lots of high quality learning around school this week. In EYFS the children shared their wonderful learning in RE, reenacting the Last Supper of Jesus and thinking about why this is important to Christians. Year 1 and 2 let me look through their amazing hedgehog writing and WOW writes this week. They are using marvellous adjectives and some wow sentence starters. You should see how their handwriting is developing too! Year 3/4 have been working on their lighthouse topic and they have written some outstanding narratives. Year 5/6 experienced a Passover meal this week to gain a greater understanding of the traditions associated with this festival.

Next week is a very busy week in school with school operating differently on the two consecutive industrial action days Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March - there will be **NO brekkie boost sessions on these days for Year 6**. We are currently able to keep school open on these days, but 'normal' lessons will not be covered. The staff who are taking unpaid industrial action have my

*complete backing in their bid to secure better funding for our schools and your children's educational futures and resources.*

*From,*

*Mrs Gow (a very blessed headteacher)*

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*1 - Passover meal in Owl class*

Moo - 'Moo'ving in to be our new reading/therapy dog!



Moo  
is in this room.



This week we have introduced Moo (our new reading and therapy dog) to our school building. She already feels as if she is part of the school family. She is getting used to the sights, smells and sounds of the school building from Mrs Gow's office and she got to meet some of the children who brought their WOW work to show her. Some of our governors came in to check her out and they have seen just how placid, calm and lazy she is too! She even slept through Rock Band rehearsals on Friday afternoon, which is a real challenge! I am a little upset that now the children come to the office to show Moo their wonderful work and completely ignore me! You are very welcome to come and see Moo at any time and rest assured, no child will be forced to see, read to or be near Moo if they do not want to. The children (if they ever spoke Moo) are told to immediately wash their hands. She has already brought a lot of joy and calmness to school and even helped the staff at our staff meeting by giving out lots of blood pressure reducing snuggles.



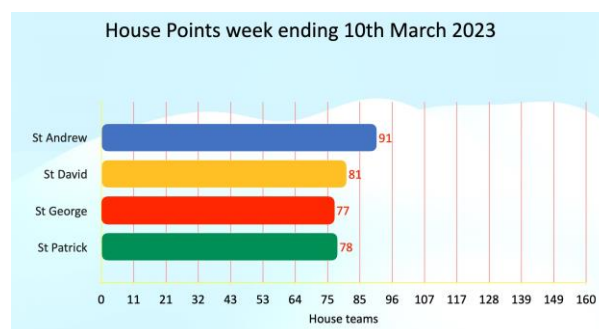




## House points for this week



Your child/children will be part of a school family group (dinner table) and this family group is part of one of our 4 house teams: St Andrew (blue), St David (yellow), St George (red) and St Patrick (green). 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.



**2 - Congratulations to St Andrew - this week's winners!**

Forest School fun!



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*Our intrepid explorers in year 4 went on an expedition upstream and downstream in the brook this week! Anyone get wet feet I wonder? We were all very brave and enjoyed climbing, paddling and exploring. William and Alfie bravely cleared away some of the logs to get the brook running again. We finished our session with a game of Pooh sticks! Forest School returns to **Monday** next week so be ready with your warm clothes Year 4!*

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## 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. Ibrahim**

**Year 1. Rayyan**

**Year 2. Amelia**

**Year 3. Zak**

**Year 4. Rollover to next week**

**Year 5. Bilaal**

**Year 6. Rollover to next week**



## *Fellowship, friendship and fun sessions.*



We want our small school to truly feel like a family. With this in mind (during these difficult financial times) we wanted to offer a chance for our children and families to get together, play together and get to know each other better once a month on a Saturday or Sunday. Therefore, we are booking a play centre/trampoline centre/sports centre. ie Soccerdome once a month to allow our children to play (while the grown ups have some time to get to know each other and relax). You could also use these sessions as an informal birthday party for your child! The first date/time will be announced next week and will be after Easter/Eid. Please do come along and meet us there for some fun and relaxation.

## Sports Roundup



This week we have taken part in the Football Association's Let Girls Play Biggest Ever Football Session on International Women's Day to raise awareness of the campaign and the need for girls to have equal access to football. Every girl in school got the chance on Wednesday 8th to take part in a football coaching session and our Year 5/6 team played in their first tournament and we were so pleased with their teamwork, effort and performances - even gaining a victory against Moorlands!









## Balderstone Brushes and MOPS on tour!



Mrs Turner and I had the pleasure of accompanying some of our Balderstone Brushes (arts council members) and our newly formed MOPS team (Ministry of Puppets Squad) as we took part in our outreach programme - this time supporting learners at Abbey Village School near Chorley. The theme of the morning was 'Letting your light shine!' The leaders planned and taught a session on how to experiment with watercolour techniques and then the puppet ministry team shared a song about how Jesus helps us shine and then taught the children how to perform the song with our school church puppet collection.

We had an amazing morning with very positive feedback from the staff and children alike. The team really did let their lights shine and also shone our Christian values to others. We also facilitated the school in presenting this song about Jesus to their parents and community through their weekly assembly. We look forward to our next tour and if you know of any schools/community groups in the local area who might be like a Brushes and Mops visit then please do let us know,



<https://sway.office.com/TJmDEF1FCIT3hzNE#content=zqHvRbi9PydhZq>

## Comic Relief 2023



Friday 17th March is our annual Comic Relief charity day, The children can come to school dressed in bright non-uniform clothing OR even better come dressed as their favourite Mr Men or Little Miss character! There will be a prize donated by School Council for the best dressed Little Miss or Mr! This year we are not selling noses in school as we want to reduce our plastic and paper waste and lots of noses got broken last year BUT you can still donate by bringing at least a £1 donation into school. This year a lot of the donations are being spent on emergency relief for Turkey and Syria.

Soon, Mr Patel (Abu-Bakr's dad) is going to come into worship to share his life-changing experience of travelling over to Turkey to help with the relief project and we are looking at ways of supporting the new UK aid village being established.



### WHAT YOUR MONEY DOES

#### HOW YOUR DONATIONS HELP

The money raised will help people who are facing the toughest times of their lives. Whether they're impacted by the cost of living crisis, the drought in East Africa, or the recent, heartbreaking earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

## Balderstone Farmers' Market and Fairtrade stall - we need your produce and support



We are looking to support our local farmers/growers and small-holdings through creating our very own Balderstone Farmers' market and Fair-trade stall. Our four fairtrade ambassadors will be opening the stall before Easter selling local produce and Fairtrade products. If you are a local producer and think you might have produce you want to sell/advertise on the stall then please let Mrs Gow know.

## A.C.Ts team (Action in our Community Team)



As part of our service to our local community our Salt and Light team are forming a new ACTS team - who will carry out acts of community service in our local area such as: litter picking, visiting local care homes and elderly people, baking for the Salvation Army, working in the local food bank unpacking food, undertaking first-aid training, delivering food to the food bank, helping clear gardens, monitoring the defibrillator weekly, serving in a local soup kitchen, packing bags at the supermarket etc (all supervised by a DBS approved adult). The first of these events is helping our



local church clear up their grounds. This is happening on Saturday 25th from 9am - the children will bring home an invitation to the event but EVERYONE is welcome. We shall be offering the same support to our local mosques too so it would be lovely to see our community come together to show our inter-faith support of all our key community areas. If you are able to help - even if it is just for half an hour, then please let Mrs Gow know.

## Uniform reminders



Our good as new uniform shop will be available on a Friday after school (in the school library) if you need any new/nearly new items OR is your child has lost uniform and it isn't named you might find it there! If you have any serviceable school shoes, trainers or school coats, we would be very grateful for them.

## Mother's Day 2023



This year our fab FOBS team are offering to make small, personalised floral/chocolatey gifts for mums/grannies/nannas or significant ladies in your child's life. The gifts will be £3 each and will be brought home on Thursday afternoon. I will ask Mrs Johnstone to put the gifts onto Parentmail on Monday so you can play online. Please make sure that you have ordered by Wednesday at the latest.

## Dates for the diary





**Tuesday 14th March** History council cinema trip (pm)

**Wednesday 15th March.** Last day for Mother's Day orders

No Brekkie Boost - Year 5/6

Industrial action Day 1

**Thursday 16th March** Industrial action Day 2

Underwater Street trip EYFS

**Sunday 19th March.** 9.30am All-age worship for Mother's Day at

Balderstone church

**Thursday 23rd March** 2pm Rock Band concert in school hall (bring your  
air guitars!)

**Friday 24th March** Alternative Florist Coffee creative afternoon 2pm

**Saturday 25th March.** Church clean-up day - school ACTS team needed  
for some time from 9am-1230pm

## 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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