



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

Friday 24th February 2023

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



A warm welcome back to school after the half-term break. I hope everyone managed to have a good rest and some valuable family time together. I've heard all about adventures to London, caravan holidays, trips to EuroDisney and cinema trips - so it certainly sounds like lots of family fun was had.

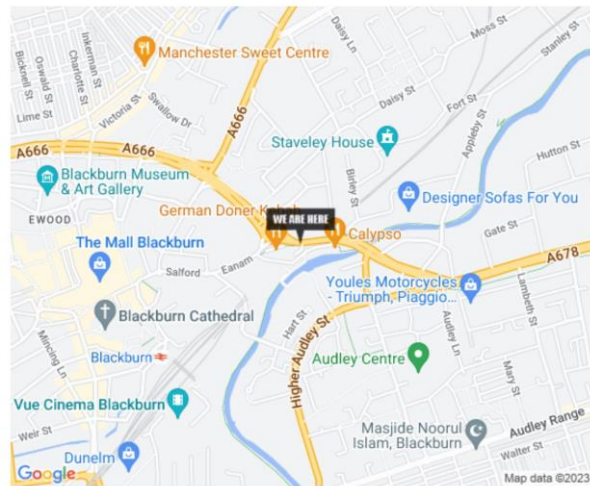
I cannot believe that we are already in the second half of Spring term. This year seems to be flying. This week has seen the start of Lent in our church school calendar. We have looked closely this week in worship, at the wonder and awe in God's creation and how we (during the next 40 days of Lent, whilst Jesus was in the wilderness) can do small things to make a massive difference to our world and God's creation. In Lent some Christians choose to fast or to 'give up' something from their lives that helps them understand Jesus' experiences in the wilderness/temptation in a deeper way OR some Christians take up Jesus' mission to help others - to make small changes and sacrifices to make others' lives better. It has been really lovely in all classes to hear the children talking about the similarities that they have found between the Christian experience of Lent and the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. It is one of the most blessed things about our school that our children from different faiths can unite behind the values that underpin them and discuss so openly their beliefs and experiences.

We have thought deeply about stewardship this week. With this in mind, every class shall have a number of Lent challenges to take up. Here are this weekend's Lent challenges. In these tricky financial months we really need our children to be on board with reducing energy use. If you are on a smart meter at home you will be familiar with the daily shout of 'Turn that light out!' or 'Turn off that TV when you leave the room!' Mr Gow is certainly an expert at using these phrases!



Our Lentern journey started in the most marvellous way last Tuesday (Shrove Tuesday) with Abdullah and Amirah's mummy and daddy treating us to the most amazing waffles ever! Mr Ilyas brought his industrial waffles machines and a fantastic array of toppings and sauces in which to smother our waffles with. Honestly, they were the most delicious tasting treats ever - with all the children (and staff) in waffle heaven. I can thoroughly recommend the Lotus biscuit and white chocolate combo! A huge thank you to Stiks for your generosity, time and delicious expertise. Also a huge thank you to Mrs Burton and our School Council who made a donation to Stiks for their visit. The problems is, that we have all fallen in love with the waffles and will need this to be an annual Shrove Tuesday treat!

Unit 1 Stables Business Centre, Blackburn, BB1 5BY, 07879 484899







Next Tuesday (28th Feb) is the next industrial action day for ALL members of the NEU (National Education Union) and many of our staff will be standing up (and taking an unpaid day) to protest for fair funding for our education system and your children's future. I wanted to make it very clear that, as a school, we are NOT providing 'normal' lessons on the days of the industrial action for those classes for whom their teachers are striking. We do not need to close our school for these days BUT we shall not 'cover' striking staff lessons in the usual manner. We are using these days as themed, values days to work on whole school topics such as School of Sanctuary, Fair trade and Spirited Arts. Thank you for all your messages of support for us keeping school open whilst also endorsing our teachers' bid to stand up for fair funding for our school.

Have a wonderful weekend and do come and join us for our Fairtrade Forest church at 4pm on Sunday! I hope to see you there.

Mrs Gow

There is no Planet B - stewardship (reducing plastic in our school)



As a school we are making a public commitment to reducing and minimising our use of plastic in our school (especially single use plastics). With this in mind we have been given a special gift donated by the proceeds from our school toddler group. They have bought each class a set of reusable, refillable glue sticks - which mean we shall no longer need to throw away copious numbers of glue cases. It may be a small change, but we are making those first steps to our ultimate aim of being plastic free in '23!





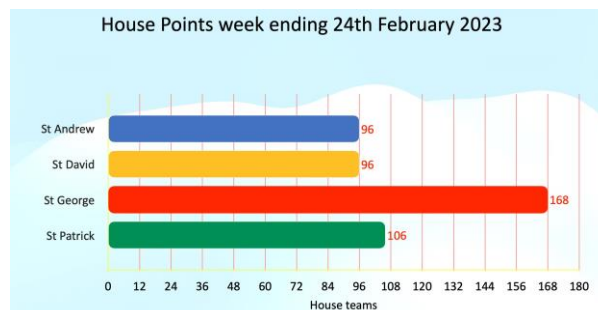
<https://sway.office.com/NPhad3yYvxzuSa1e#content=VBu9fllMExvQu2>

1 - Enjoy this amazing video designed, filmed and edited by this talented group from Owl class

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 - **WOW St George - you smashed it this week! Enjoy your top table treat on Monday!**

As good as new - uniform stall



To help with our bid to reuse and reduce the cost of living, we are starting our nearly new uniform stall - where parents have donated nearly new uniform that still has plenty of life and washes left in it. We also have a number of brand new items. Please do donate uniform to the stall and feel free to come and browse the stall (open in the school library after school on a Friday). We are looking for further donations of uniform and also school shoes.

Please can we make sure that the children have black shoes for school and that leggings are not worn underneath uniform unless they are plain grey. The children do NOT need to come to school in PE kit on their PE days.

iPad parent meeting



Teaching Parents
Jamf Parent



We are now starting to make real progress with our 1:1 iPad scheme. For those of you who are infant children parents, you may not know but we are hoping to make our school a 1:1 device, Apple distinguished school - meaning that every child has their own iPad to use throughout the school day and all our teachers will be qualified Apple teachers - keeping up with the latest advances in technology and skills.

The parents of children in Fox class (year 3/4) have had the option of signing up to a monthly or one off payment to buy their child a device and digital pen to use and OWN. These children will be allowed to bring their devices home to use too, Currently the price is approximately £18 month.

Our amazing FOBS team have helped us to hire 35 iPads and digital pens for our Year 5/6 pupils so every child in Owl class has access to their own device. This makes a HUGE difference to our children's learning.

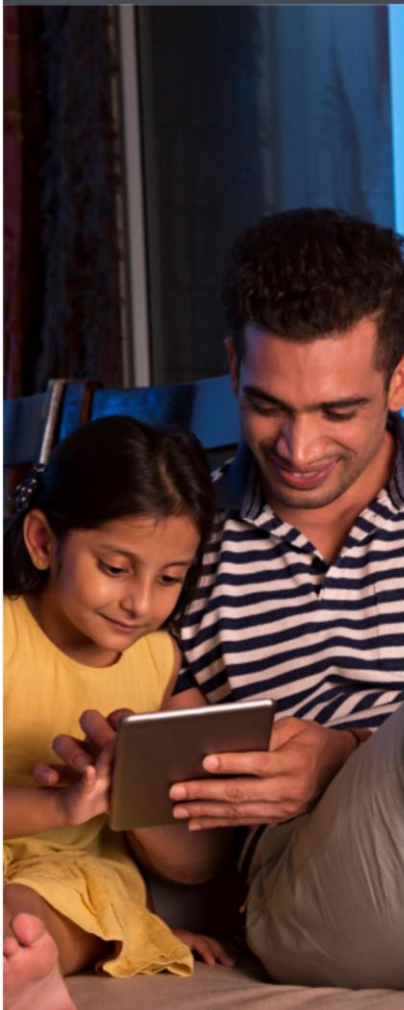
School have paid for a special app called Jamf which helps parents to set controls to manage, monitor and restrict their children's use of their iPad. Year 3/4 parents (who have subscribed to the iPad scheme) are invited to a meeting on Tuesday 7th March straight after school to set up their Jamf parent controls - you will need to bring your own mobile phone with the Jamf parent app installed please. This is available on android and Apple.

Here's how Jamf Parent enables parents to keep their children focused:



Jamf Parent

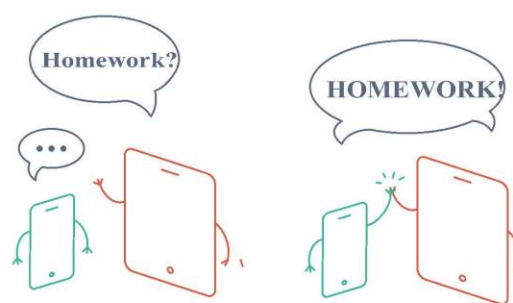
Use the power of mobile device management to provide controls for parents.



The Jamf Parent app is designed for parents to help keep homework sessions focused and without distraction.

Parents can use the Jamf Parent app to set restrictions on their children's iPhones and iPads. Manage the use of specific apps, set the time allowed for playing games or block social media apps and notifications when necessary. Decide when it's time for homework or bed, therefore creating the best learning environment for children at home.

The Jamf Parent app comes with Jamf Pro and Jamf School, and is available on iOS, iPadOS and watchOS or use the web-app (currently Jamf School only) on any other device from a web browser.



Modify access to games



Jamf Parent offers parents time-based and access management for games and non-essential apps on their children's iPads.

Manage communication



Simple settings in Jamf Parent make the use of programs such as iMessage, WhatsApp and Messenger safer and more monitored.

Manage social media



Set rules for limiting the use of social media such as Twitter, Facebook or Instagram to specific times during the day.



Fewer distractions. Better learning. 100% Education.

Don't just take our word for it. Take Jamf School or Jamf Pro for a free test drive and tell us what you think.



www.jamf.com

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To learn more about how Jamf Parent can make an impact on children's Apple devices at home, please visit jamf.com

Receive location notifications

Jamf Parent informs parents about their child's arrival at school and their return home.

Safety first

Automatically turning notifications off when a child is cycling or walking — reducing distraction and increasing road safety. **watchOS compatible**

Jamf Parent allows parents to manage their child's device directly from their wrist.

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. **Farrin**

Year 1. **Rollover to next week**

Year 2. **Muhammad**

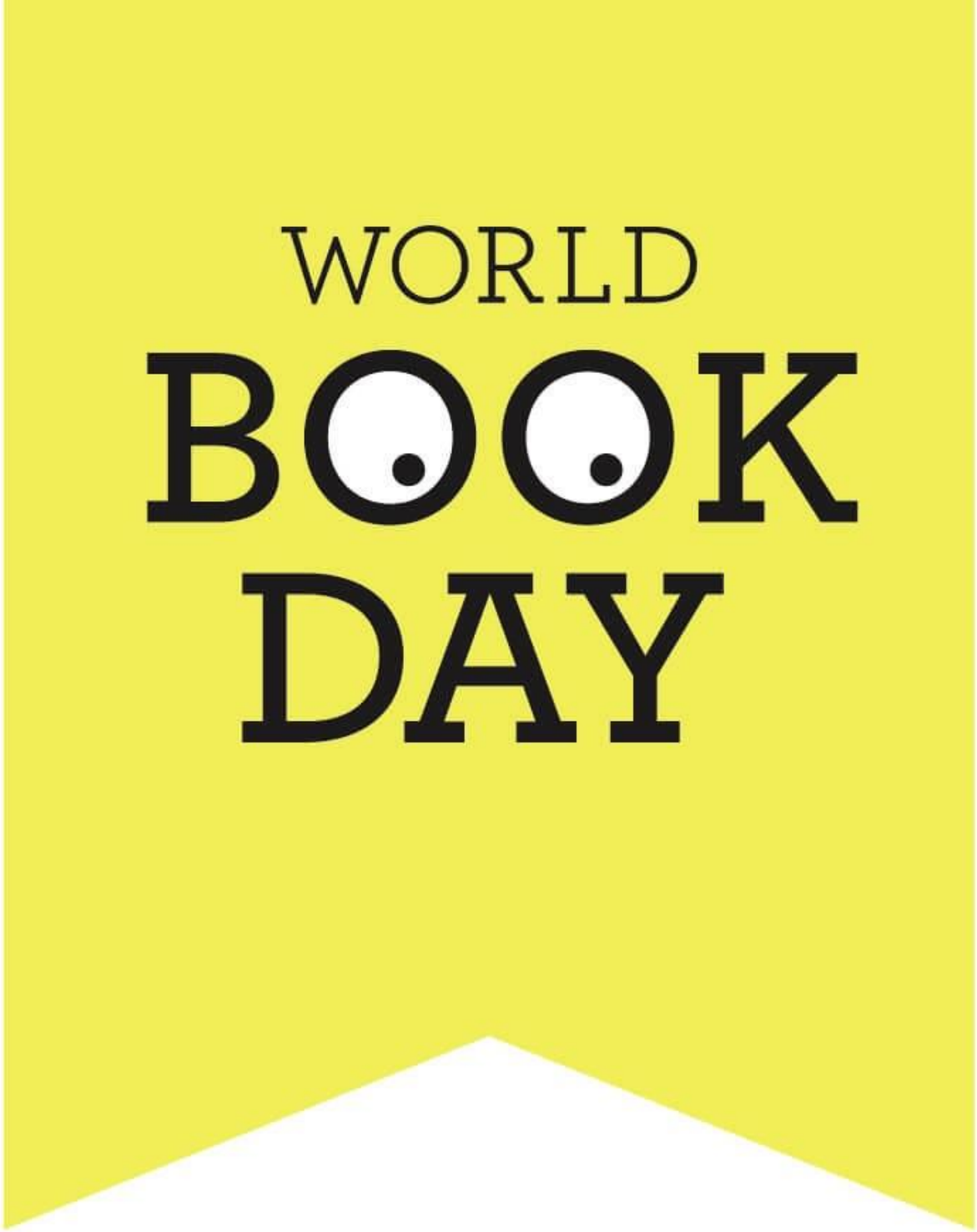
Year 3. **Poppy S**

Year 4. **Sawdah**

Year 5. **Falak**

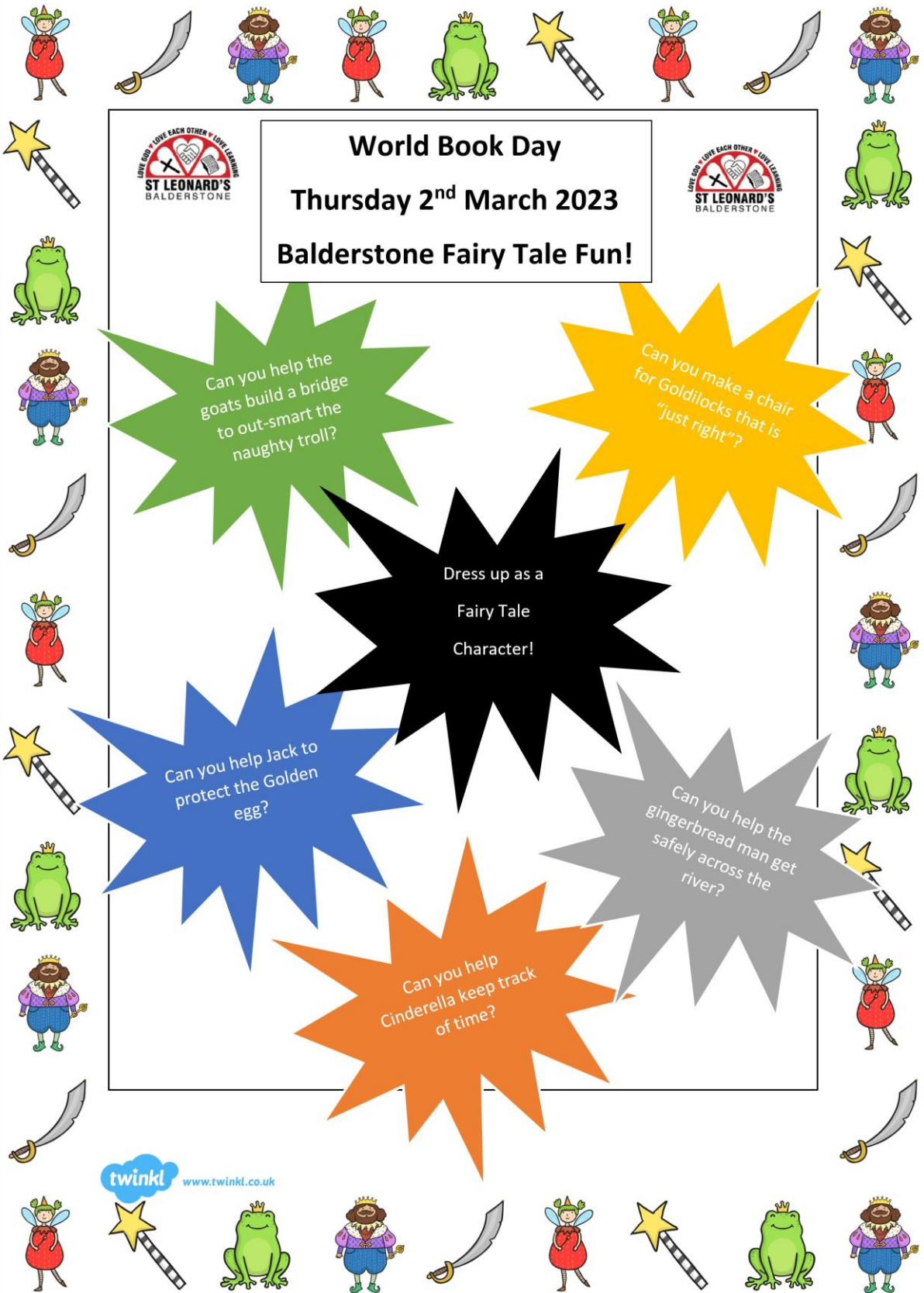
Year 6. **Khadijah M**

World Book Day 2023 - 2nd March 2023

A yellow banner with a white triangular point at the bottom. The text 'WORLD BOOK DAY' is centered on the banner. 'WORLD' is in a black serif font. 'BOOK' is in a large, bold, black serif font, with the two 'O's replaced by stylized eyes with black pupils. 'DAY' is in a black serif font.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We always celebrate World Book Day in our school as we LOVE reading and all things books. This year, the theme is YOU ARE A READER. We are going to have a fairy tale themed in school for this day. The children can choose to come dressed as ANY fairytale/traditional tale character (from any culture) OR they can make a tail to represent the tale. This year we are having a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) theme to the whole day!



World Book Day
Thursday 2nd March 2023
Balderstone Fairy Tale Fun!

Can you help the goats build a bridge to out-smart the naughty troll?

Can you make a chair for Goldilocks that is "just right"?

Dress up as a
Fairy Tale
Character!

Can you help Jack to protect the Golden egg?

Can you help the gingerbread man get safely across the river?

Can you help Cinderella keep track of time?

Sports Roundup



Y3/4 Gymnastics

at St Augustine's RC School

Tuesday 21st February 2023

Team: Laura, William, Liyaana, Maisie, Zac

Mrs Gow, Mrs Riddell and Mrs Heyworth had a wonderful time with these 5 children. What fun they are and how proud we were! One of the most daunting competitions on our sporting calendar as each child has to perform and be judged individually in front of a small panel of judges.

After attending some early morning practices at school over recent weeks, the children were ready to compete against many other local schools. Each child learnt a set routine consisting of a variety of rolls, balances and jumps. They also learn how to vault onto a box, travel and dismount. Children were marked on their precision, accuracy and control in both events. They had two opportunities on the vault, with their best score counting towards the final mark.

We are extremely proud of how each individual performed. A couple of the team members were extremely nervous, but they did not let this show in their performance! They all tried their very best and put in lots of practice at home as well as at school. We finished 5th overall, which is a great achievement in a field of so many teams. Well done Team - Be proud of your achievements!



3 - Well done on coming 5th place - in a very wide field of competing schools!

Let's Go Sing



We have been advised by King Georges Hall to ask schools to remind our junior parents who are buying tickets for the Let's Go Sing Concerts to do so as soon as possible please. Some nights are close to selling out and it will help the box office staff to avoid dealing with a rush of last-minute sales. It is strongly advised that tickets are bought in advance and not left to the day or worse, on the door. ALL the children will be travelling to King George's hall on 27th March via coach (one way). The children will need collecting after the concert.

Chocolate Bingo!



Next Friday, 3rd March is our Chocolate Bingo night in school. Please do come along at 6.30pm to join in the fun. Tickets can be bought on the door and there will be refreshments, a bar and treats for the kids! Please invite friends and family to the evening - as it is much more fun with a full hall! The bingo games are to win hampers of chocolates.

Places in school - Full school = full funding



Dear parents and friends of our school. May I ask you to be our very best marketing strategy and promote our school in our local community, churches, mosques, clubs and within your own families? Unusually, our rather brilliant school (I know I am biased but I truly believe this!) has spaces:

Pre-school up to 7 full time place for 3 year olds +

Reception class. 1 space

Year 1. 3 places

Year 3. 4 place

Year 4. 1 places

Year 5. 2 places

Year 6 1 place

The coming two years are very low birth rate years in Blackburn and Ribble Valley and we need your help to make sure that we secure the very best funding for our small school. We need our community and wider Blackburn community to know that we exist (as we also do not have any road signs leading to our school). Please do try to spread the word about our diverse, caring and innovative school family to your extended relations, friends and community so we can ensure that the numbers in our school stay stable and buoyant in these coming years. I have such confidence in our school that I would happily send my own 3 children to our school (if they weren't 13, 17 and 19!) and there is no greater endorsement than that!

Could you be our next Kit sponsor?



To save our families money this year we have not made any changes to our school uniform or PE kits. However, we are desperately in need of 3 new school kits - an infant sports kit, a football kit and a junior/staff kit for competitions and events. We have samples of a new grey and red kit consisting of shorts, t-shirts, socks, leggings/tracksuit bottoms and a zipped tracksuit top. We would love for our local companies/businesses to sponsor these kits. A HUGE thank you to Bowker who have previously sponsored our football kits. We want to buy 3 kits for our children to borrow when attending our many events, competitions and matches. If you think you might be able to sponsor some (or part) of a kit or know someone who might - then please let Mrs Gow know (head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk) Thank you.

Forest Church - this Sunday 4pm



Come and join us for some Fair-trade fun, this Sunday from 4pm. We meet in church, then spend time outdoors and in school. EVERYONE welcome. This time our four fair-trade ambassadors are going to help lead the activities. Join Mrs Gow and Mrs Cummins for some forest fun!



4 - Come and join the Fairtrade fun this weekend!

Dates for the diary



Sunday 26th February **Forest church - Fairtrade themed 4pm. Meet in church.**

Monday 27th February. **Football league match Year 5/6 boys Edisford after school**

Tuesday 28th February. Teacher union industrial action day - school open/house team day in school

Thursday 2nd March. World Book day - dress up in your best fairytale costume or make a book themed tail.

Friday 3rd March. **6.30pm Chocolate bingo in the hall. Bring a friend!**

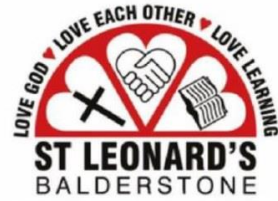
Monday 6th March Balderstone Brushes and Balderstone MOPS (Ministry of Puppets) visiting Abbey Village school to run a puppet and art ministry session

After school - girls' football match after school Year 4/5/6

Tuesday 7th March 3.10pm Year 3/4 iPad scheme parents meeting in Fox classroom

Wednesday 8th March. 12.30pm Year 1/2 parent lunch

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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