Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...

One of the absolute joys of my new job as Headteacher is the variety of roles it allows me to fulfil and the fact that I have the pleasure of being in every classroom. In a small school like ours, every member of staff knows every child and this is a really special thing to be part of! Your child is known, talked to, loved and taught every day by a team who take a genuine interest in them. It is a real privilege to spend time in each classroom in school and to see your children learn. This week we've had some real triumphs with some of our youngest children learning to ride a balance or pedal bike for the very first time. The junior children stopped and applauded them all as they made their first successful lap. It is at moments like that that make my heart sing in our school - our children genuinely care for each other and share in their successes.

Many of our staff spent the day on Wednesday campaigning for fair and just funding for our schools. I would like to thank them for ensuring that the realities of school funding and the crisis we are facing (particularly as a small, semi-rural school) are highlighted. Some of our most dedicated and

hard-working teaching assistants would earn more money per hour working in a supermarket, yet they choose to support our children and teachers. I strongly believe that teaching and working with children is a vocation and I can testify with absolute certainty that our teaching assistants do the job for the love of our children, not the pay! All of our staff have spent money from their own pockets (in some cases a considerable percentage of their pay) to provide resources for our children as school has NO capacity for additional budget and I wanted you to know the realities of school funding at the moment. The press and media can sometimes portray teachers as being militant and self-seeking. As far as our staff are concerned the current action is NOT solely about teacher pay, but is more far-reaching than this. What the media fail to report is that the recent teacher pay increases (5%) from September have **not** been funded by additional money from government but have had to be found in existing schools budgets (therefore NO additional money has come into school for this). Without support from our amazing FOBS team, who met this week, many of the items we have in school - such as the iPads for Year 5 and 6, coaches for visits etc would not be able to be purchased. Our teachers have NEVER taken part in industrial action before in their 25 year careers - so this shows you the strength of feeling and desperate situation the whole of the education system now finds itself in.

Last week our staff visited Langho St Leonard's Primary to take part in some cross-school moderation of Geography and History. This is where we assess, share and compare the learning that our children have produced with all our local schools. I was extremely proud to show the work that our children had produced and I wanted to share this with you. In many ways the children's work shone. It was a pleasure to see other schools talk about and assess our children's work (and teacher's planning) so highly and to even take photos of them as good examples! Ms James our Chair of Governors wanted us to share this news with you so you could see that we carefully monitor the standards and rigorously compare the work in our school against comparable local schools.

We held a family group (house team) day this week focusing on our bid to become a School of Sanctuary. A School of Sanctuary is a school who has received recognition from City of Sanctuary UK for its good practice in fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion. If there is one thing Balderstone St Leonard's excels at it is making people feel welcome. As a whole school, this week we were inspired by the beautifully written and illustrated book, 'Saving the Butterfly,' by Helen Cooper. The book explores the story of a brother and sister refugees who try to cope with their past experiences and settle in a new land. The children responded in such an empathetic and kind way to the story of these two children. In one of the tasks we completed on the day we had to follow the story of a family of refugees. The children drew items into a printed rucksack of things they would take on their long journey. Initially, all the children wanted to take their iPad, phones and electrical equipment. But as we followed the journey of the refugees they realised that the most important items were those that kept them warm, fed and watered and also things such as photos, teddies and even pets! Helen Cooper, the author of the book sent an amazing Tweet in response to our work on the day. A huge thank you to two of our governors, Louise Dixon and Janet Leaver who helped us throughout the day.

Every Blessing,

Mrs Gow

Helen Cooper @HelenCooperbook · Feb 1

Replying to @BalderstoneSch1 and @SchsofSanctuary

How absolutely wonderful. I was hoping schools would make butterflies as they talked about empathy too and in fact suggested it in one of the pieces I wrote about the book but noone has sent any pictures so far. LOVE IT!

@GillSmithdraws @TheAgencyBooks

SAVING THE

St George
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Australia
Antarctica

House points for this week

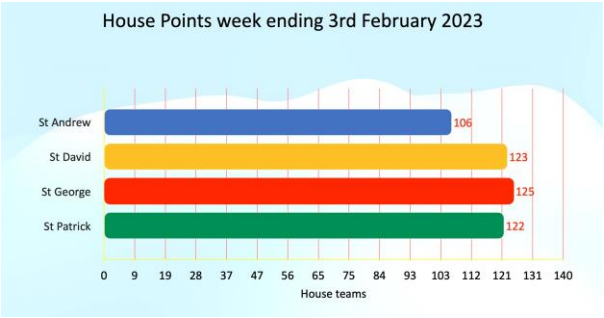
St George's

St Andrew's

St David's

St Patrick's

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.



*1 - **Congratulations to St George- this week's winners!***

Forest School and Outdoor Learning

As you know, we deeply value learning in the outdoors and the difference this can make to our children's wellbeing. The children in Squirrel class enjoyed a walk in the local area and the woods this week. They learnt lots of their local Geography work through real life exploration. They even hugged a tree to make sure that they were fully connected to nature. Thank you to Mrs Heffernan for letting the children explore her woods.

Next week, Year 3/4 are looking forward to their local walk to see the river Ribble. Thank you in advance Mr Greenwood for facilitating the walk next week.

Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health week. The theme this week is Let's Connect. Since Covid lockdowns, stress and anxiety especially have become key concerns in many of our children. Mental health week helps us to focus on the ways in which being involved in sports, our community and social groups make all the difference in improving our mental health. We'll be exploring this topic in more detail throughout next week.

https://sway.office.com/F9XM57UCRUIOrmlB#content=r7E9cs1AueQbVJ

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. **Isaac**

Year 1. **Thomas O**

Year 2. **Safaa and Reheat-Fatima**

Year 3. **Aleena**

Year 4. **Rollover**

Year 5. **Emaan, Aleena and Sophie (rollovers)**

Year 6. **Aushah**

2 - Here we are enjoying our hot choc and treats!

Uniform and school shoes

I got a shock this week when I had to buy my own youngest daughter, Ella, a pair of emergency school shoes from Clarks (in Size 3) as they cost us over £50. To support our families we would like to set up a *nearly new* swap shop in school. If you have any nearly new (used but still functional) school shoes, school uniform, trainers, football boots etc that your child has outgrown and you could now donate to another family, then please do bring them into school and pass them onto Mrs Gow. Any child who does not come to school wearing black school shoes or who is missing trainers etc can then borrow a pair for the day.

We are happy for children to wear grey/black tights or PLAIN leggings under their uniform skirt or try trousers but please do not send your child to school (even on PE days) wearing patterned, glittery leggings or tights.

The uniform swap shop will be open every Friday after school for parents/carers to come along and swap their old uniform for nearly new.

Car park - NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE

Please could I ask that we only park in the marked bays on the car park, as the safe walkway which was professionally designed to protect our children is being compromised by people parking outside of the white-lined bays. A number of parents have expressed concerns about the parking and the fact that if they drive slightly wider/higher vehicles then they cannot access their doors OR the children cannot be seen properly if the bays are blocked. Only cross the road at the pedestrian gate opposite the main entrance to school. We do have two families that DEFINITELY need access to the disabled parking bays as they have official blue badges. On most days these two families cannot get into the bay as other people have used them to park. Please help these families by keeping those spaces free. To keep our lovely neighbours happy and our road easily accessible do NOT park outside the next door house to school as this then creates a single track road. Sorry to seem like a stickler to the rules but adhering to these courtesies makes a huge difference to the safe arrival of our families.

Consultation evening - Monday 6th February

Monday is our Parent/Carer Consultation evening. You should have received a time-slot via Parentmail if you requested an appointment. Please use the main entrance to school and proceed to the hall and Year 5/6 will be in the school library. As you will see from the timetables timings are tight for the evening/afternoon so please do try to keep to your appointment times. If you need to further discuss something beyond your ten minute slot, then staff will arrange a further conversation. As you can imagine 5 hours of pretty much solid talking, after a full morning's teaching is somewhat hard on the voice box! We are looking forward to welcoming you on the afternoon/evening. Brews will be available in the hall!

Sports Roundup

Squirrel and Fox class have been working hard on their gymnastics skills this half-term and this week they used all they have learnt and applied it to our wonderful climbing equipment in the hall. Even Mrs Gow had to have a go on the climbing frame! Mrs Draycott and Mrs Gow saw some real determination, bravery and skill as the children used their pike, arabesque and dish shapes on the apparatus. What great fun!

Please sign up for our new after-school clubs:

Reception class, Year 1 and Year 2 - UV dodgeball

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Futsal.

ASC - Balderstone FUTSAL

Balderstone - UV Dodgeball

absolute

UV FOOTBALL

BALDERSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians

We would love to invite your child onto our brand new UV Dodgeball after school club.

- Five action packed weeks
- Learning a range of different skills such as throwing, catching and Dodging
- Fully Qualified and DBS Checked Coaches
- Please wear indoor footwear and a change of clothes

DATES: FEB 28th / MAR 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

TIME: 3:30-4:30

PRICE: £30

SCAN TO BOOK

30 PLACES AVAILABLE!!!

WWW.ABSOLUTE-FUTBOL.ORG

ABSOLUTE
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

absolute

KS2 - FUTSAL

LOVE GOD ♥ LOVE EACH OTHER ♥ LOVE LEARNING
ST LEONARD'S
BALDERSTONE

'Nurturing the next generation'

COURSE
DETAILS

Dates: Mar 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
Times: 3:15-4:15
Price: £30 per child
What to bring: Indoor Trainers, Water Bottle, Shin Pads

Keep on moving with our after-school clubs. Just because the school day is done, it doesn't mean the fun should stop.

SCAN TO BOOK

enquiries@absolute-futbol.org www.absolute-futbol.org

TOTs on TYRES

A huge thank you to Go Velo and the amazingly patient and talented instructor (former policeman John) for helping our youngest children learn to ride their bikes. We were SO impressed with your determination and progress children!

Recycling - please would you collect

Over the next few weeks please would you start to collect cardboard juice cartons (the 1 litre- ish sized ones) that have fresh orange/apple juice in. We are going to create a recycled craft at Forest Church and will need as many juice cartons/thoroughly washed out please as we can gather. Thank you in advance.

Local plumber/bathroom fitter

Please would you let Mrs Gow or Mrs Johnstone know if you have any contacts for a reliable, sensibly priced plumber/bathroom fitter. The staff currently have a leaky, rather grotty staff toilet and we would like to upgrade this space to include a new non-leaky/stable toilet, sink, cupboard.vanity unit and box in the piping. Mrs Banks left the staff a donation to get this work done - as long as it was named Banks' Bog! We think our staff deserve a decent loo! If you know of anyone who might be able to help us source/fit a small/cloakroom sized toilet/basin then please let Mrs Gow know. Thank you.

Dates for the diary

Monday 6th February Consultation afternoon/evening 2pm onwards (please see Parentmail message for your child's time)

Tuesday 7th February Safer internet parents meeting (all parents/carers welcome but especially our Year 3/4 parents who are signed up to the iPad scheme) 3.10pm

Thursday 9th February. Coffee creative afternoon 2pm

Sunday 12th February All age worship

Friday 17th March. Comic relief day £1 donation and non-uniform

Future dates for your diary:

FOBS Film night 3.10 - 4.30pm Wednesday 22nd Feb (tickets on sale soon)

Non-uniform day - Easter egg/chocolate gift day Friday 24th Feb

Chocolate Bingo. 3rd March 6.30pm

Contact Us

Keep in touch with the school family using the details below (or call into the school anytime to see us)

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