



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

Friday 13th January 2023

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



It has been a busy and breezy week in school. This week in worship we have been exploring the first part of Jesus' childhood, where after the visit of the three wise men, Jesus and his parents had to flee their home to escape to Egypt. As a school we have made a commitment to becoming a School of Sanctuary. A School of Sanctuary is a place where we would be ready to welcome a refugee/asylum seeker child if a refugee family moved into our local area. We have all made a promise to join a network of over 380 primary and secondary schools, nurseries and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion (we do this very well in our school!)

For years now we have supported the ARC centre (Asylum and Refugee centre in Blackburn) and we are going to continue our bid to learn more about people in our local communities and build social cohesion.

Over the course of the week I have had the pleasure of seeing the children engrossed in their new topics - Fairytale fun, Rivers and Europe. Alfie shared some of his outstanding learning on the Pendle Witches this week, with his recount of all the main events that started the Pendle trials. Squirrel class have been busy learning some wonderful Design Technology skills with Mrs Burton, ready to make their very own moving picture book based on fairytales. Owl class have been writing their own newspaper reports about the 'real' story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears - using some sophisticated language techniques. Poppy (Year 3) had a real surprise this week when she received a letter (in reply to her reading journal work) from J K Rowling's team.



Dear Poppy,

Thank you very much for your letter. I'm sorry to say that I now receive so much mail that I cannot answer every piece individually, much as I would like to, however, I love receiving feedback from readers and I try and read as much as I can.

I have been very busy working on the *Fantastic Beasts* series of films, for which I'm writing the scripts. The play, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, on which I have collaborated is now showing in theatres around the world.

I have recently written two new children's books, "The Ickabog," and "The Christmas Pig" both of which, have now been published. The royalties I receive from "The Ickabog" are going to my Charitable Trust, "Volant" to help medical and front line charities supporting vulnerable groups impacted by Covid-19.

Please visit www.jkrowlingstories.com, where you will find a new interactive section for younger readers, which brings together the three very different fictional worlds of "The Christmas Pig," "The Ickabog" and "Harry Potter."

There really aren't many spare hours in the day at the moment. Even so, the fact that people take the time and trouble to write means a great deal to me, so thank you once again for your letter and for being such a fan of "Harry's."

With very best wishes,

J.K. Rowling



Schools of Sanctuary

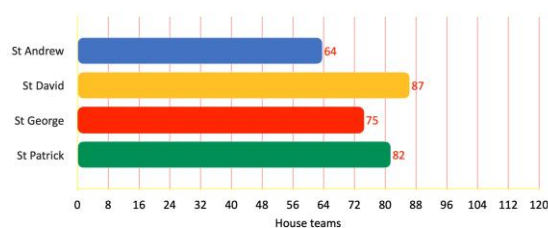
There are so many extra-curricular and enrichment activities happening at the moment in school too. Our Busy Bees club has been buzzing with games, crafts and the children have been enjoying lots of imaginative play too. Dan and the Absolute team are continuing to run our two lunchtime clubs daily. UV dodgeball and Futsal started this week and the joy both clubs generated was contagious. The teachers would now like a UV dodgeball staff team! Our school of Rock, Rock bands started this week - with Max and the children choosing the rock songs they would like to learn over the coming term. The youngest children had fun using drumsticks and seeing how many beats per minute they could create. We can't wait for you to start with the instruments next week. Balderstone Brushes and Puppet ministry team are getting ready for their next outreach event this month as we go out to community schools to share Bible stories and also create a piece of art with every child in the class. If you know any schools who might like a puppet, art visit then please let Mrs Gow or Mrs Turner know so we can reach out to them. Our girls' football and sports hall athletics teams were also in action this week. A busy, active week all-round....

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. This week it was Handball! Congratulations to St David on your win this week!

House Points week ending 13th January 2023



1 - Congratulations to St David - this week's winners



<https://sway.office.com/NnDFACyACi2c9cSu#content=YdnFcJMyosWfSS>

Year 3 had a wonderful time in Forest School this week making the most of the rainy weather. They showed great teamwork to get across the swamp on the tyres, created some fantastic rainy day art and obviously we couldn't resist jumping in puddles! Thank you to all the parents for making sure the children have changes of clothing. It makes all the difference and lets us have so much fun! A huge thank you to Mrs Riddell and Mrs Burton - who brave the elements every week to give the children this chance to be 'nature kids' and learn outdoors!



Lancashire Storytelling Festival 2023



A huge congratulations to our children in Fox class who have got through to the finals of the 2023 Lancashire Storytelling festival. This year the theme for the project is Irish Folktales and the stories of Finn McCool. Over the next 9 weeks we will be working hard writing, rehearsing and performing our stories. The children will be taking part in the finals on Thursday 30th March at Oswaldtwistle Civic Theatre.

Weather watch - School procedures for severe weather



The weather forecast is potentially showing snow for the coming week, so here is a summary of our school emergency protocols. We shall endeavour at **all times** to keep our school **open** (even if the weather is snowy!) However, if the majority of staff cannot get into school safely OR if the school building itself isn't able to open (flood, no heat, no water etc) then this is the procedure.

- Mrs Gow and (Mrs Riddell OR closest geographical members of staff) will endeavour to get into school before 7.30am and report back conditions.
- School website front page will have pop up banner saying school is **OPEN** or school is **CLOSED** as soon as decision is made. This will be before 8am wherever possible. Therefore, you should not need to phone school, as the website will have the information.
- Parentmail, Twitter and Facebook pages will be updated *if school has to close*.
- Local radio stations will be informed.
- Work will be available on the school class pages - but if it is snowy then all children must also have fun in the snow (it's the law!)
- If the snow starts to fall heavily during the school day then an emergency message will be posted out on Parentmail. Parents *may* need to collect children from school earlier than the end of the school day if the road becomes treacherous. Busy Bees club will also be cancelled and parents *not* charged for this session. It is essential that your mobile phone/contact details are updated if you have changed numbers.
- School **WILL** be open if a safe number of staff can be in/stay in school.
- The front entrance to school will be used rather than the church path to ease entrance/exit into school.
- Please send children into school with coats, hats, gloves and wellies so we can make the most of the snow and play out!

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. **Phoebe**

Year 1. **Zayyan**

Year 2. **Fayha**

Year 3. **Zayn**

Year 4. **Muhammad-Hasnayn**

Year 5. **Georgia**

Year 6. **Amaya**

Coffee Creative



Keep your eyes open for our next Coffee Creative event - a paint based, abstract art family event. Mrs Turner will be sending out letters in the next week.

Online Safety and our new 1:1 device scheme

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

Be suspicious of new information

ASK PERMISSION before downloading anything

TAKE NOTICE OF AGE RESTRICTIONS

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NEWS SOURCES

BE HONEST WITH PARENTS & CARERS

TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU

DON'T CHAT WITH STRANGERS

TAKE BREAKS FROM BEING ONLINE

AVOID SHARING PRIVATE PHOTOS

Don't give away personal information

Stick to trusted apps

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.01.2023

We are rolling out our new 1:1 device scheme for our junior children at the end of the coming week, with our MCC partners delivering 35 new iPads for our Year 5/6 children and also many of our parents supporting school through the purchase/lease of a 1:1 device for their child in Year 3/4. As a school, we are going to be working closely in partnership with you to ensure that our online safety knowledge and understanding is first-rate. To this end, we are going to be hosting a parents meeting for online safety in the coming month, our online safety governor, Mr Jonathan Greenwood and our digital leaders in school will be rewriting the acceptable usage policies for our technology and all parents/carers, children and staff will be signing our new contracts for use. I have updated and tested our school's filtering system in school and we have a monitoring system in place too. Every week via the newsletter, I shall share some of the best online advice for parents/carers too. This is a really exciting venture for our school and our children will benefit massively from the SAFE use of this technology.

If you want any further information about Online Safety, then I shall be including weekly links to the best parental advice. This week - Minecraft is the focus.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-minecraft-safe-for-children/>

Meet, Greet and Treat Saturdays



Once a month, on a Saturday morning, we shall be holding our new Meet, Greet and Treat Saturday morning. At the moment, with the financial pressures on families, we wanted to offer a play/party session for our school family. Many of our parents (especially our newbies) are looking for opportunities to help their children make friends outside of school and also to get to know one another too (parents). With this in mind, we shall be booking a new, local venue every month for parents/families to sign up to join us for an informal brew/treat and a play. Parents will need to pay for their own family entrance to the play centre and refreshments. Look out for the list of venues, times and events in next week's newsletter. If you have any good suggestions of place to visit then please do come and see Mrs Gow.

Sports Roundup



Y5/6 Girls' Football

6th January 2023

After a term of skills training with Dan, our girls enjoyed their first ever experience of football matches when they played 5 games against local schools. The girls grew in confidence and gained a better understanding of the game as the afternoon progressed. Our first game was a friendly against St Leonard's, where we learnt the basics, especially in defence. It was a heavy loss (6-0) but the girls remained in good spirits and learnt a lot.

Our first competitive game was against Pendle: Amaya was getting to grips and beginning perform well in defence, Matilda understood the goal keeping rules a little more Anna and Abigail managed to get the ball upfield a couple of times, which resulted in our first ever goal from Anna! We lost 3-1, but were thrilled with our achievements in this match.

Mellor and Whalley games were played next. Again, lots of learning took place and the girls tried hard, but we lost 2-0 against both teams. Georgia had moved into an attacking role, where she played well; Aleena and Hannah had a try at Goal keeping and Daisy showed progress and enjoyment in her defensive role.

Our final match was against St Mary's Langho. After playing most of the girls in different positions over the afternoon, we had worked out where the strength of individuals lay. Amaya, Khadijah and Alayna displayed real growth/progress and understanding of defence and worked well together, with some great tackles and interceptions. Abigail, Hannah and Anna managed to get upfield on many more occasions in this match, which resulted in a goal from Abigail and our first ever draw (1-1). Matilda had a much better understanding of the GK role. Looking at these scores, it is evident to see how much progress the team made over the afternoon.

Many school teams contained children who play in different local teams - all our players are new to the sport. We are incredibly proud of your performances: your sportsmanship was impeccable; you all kept your heads held high and preserved and most importantly... you all smiled your way through the afternoon! The Lionesses started at grassroots girls, so who knows where you may end up if you all keep playing! Well done Girls. Thanks to Mrs Redmayne and Mr Greenwood for helping to transport the children to Clitheroe.

Balderstone Alumni



At Balderstone, we believe that all of our pupils are success stories. Over the next few months we shall be putting together (with the help of our newest parent governor, Janet Smith) our very own Balderstone Alumni to tell the amazing success stories of our **former** pupils (of any age!). If you have any photos/stories of our wonderful former pupils that you would like to feature in our Alumni page then please let Mrs Gow know - by sending a photo/brief story to head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk.

Church news and events



Join Mrs Gow and Mrs Riddell for All-age worship this Sunday 11am - **EVERYONE WELCOME**. The theme is **YOU ARE INVITED!**



Welcome to Blackburn Bishop Philip!





As a school we would also like to welcome Bishop Philip as the new Bishop of Blackburn, replacing Bishop Julian after his retirement. We know that God has great plans for Bishop Philip in our local area and we pray for him as he takes up his new role in May/June of this year.

We have had visits from Bishop Philip last year in school and he has expressed his love for the diversity and faith in our school. We are looking forward to continuing our ministry with Bishop Philip.

This week he released this statement about his priorities and we love the fact that young people feature so highly in his priorities:

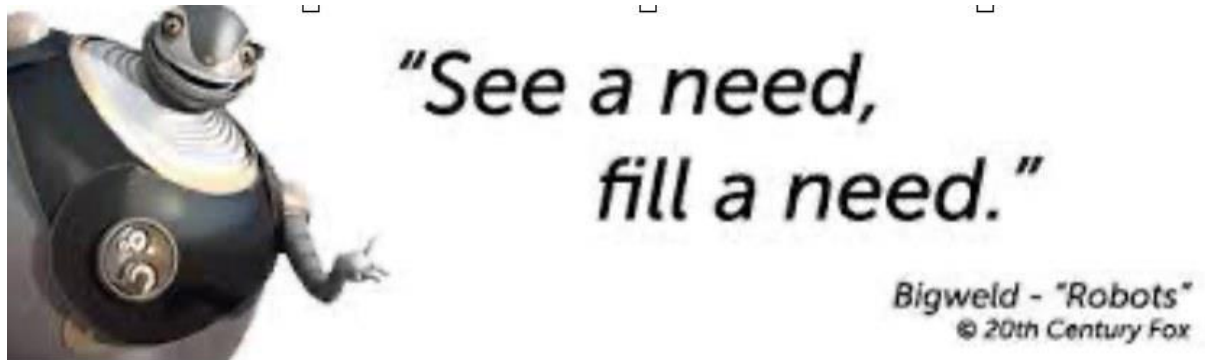
"I believe with all my heart that God has called me to carry Jesus across Lancashire, to bear witness to his love and peace here in this county. I have done that for the past eight years as Bishop of Burnley, and I will go on doing that as Bishop of Blackburn. I am delighted to be staying in a county that I love very deeply indeed, delighted also that we will be able to carry on the work here in Blackburn Diocese.

"There are three things for which I will be labouring tirelessly in the years to come. Firstly, I am committed to continuing the growth of the church in Lancashire, helping to build joyful Christian communities. Secondly, I would love to see the Church of England in Lancashire being an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest.

"And thirdly, I believe children and young people need to be at the very heart of all that we do. The current generation of young people is such an impressive one, with a real desire to build a better world. Yet at the same time I know that life is not always easy for them. There are such exciting opportunities for young people in Lancashire – we need to see more.

"There is so much going for the Diocese of Blackburn – inspirational schools, great parishes, vibrant chaplaincies, committed clergy, a wonderful leadership team. I know that, with God's help, we can do something amazing here. I look forward to working together with people across the county to celebrate Christ in Lancashire, so that everyone can know his love and his peace and his justice."

Courageous Advocacy



A huge thank you to a group of our Year 5 girls (Sophie, Aisha, Imaan, Khadijah and Matilda) who have seen a need and filled a need! Mrs Turner and the History Council are hoping to apply for the accreditation of the school's history mark. The children were told that the certification would cost school £500, so they decided to set to work making and selling their own loom band jewellery to help school fund the cost of the award. In one week, they have already raised over £70 and school council have donated £150 from their fund raising too. What an amazing team! We are so proud and blessed to have pupils that care so much about their school and their love of history.



School applications and reminders!



URGENT REMINDER The **closing date** for Primary school choices is **15th January 2023**

**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
PRIMARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2023

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

School transport
Need transport to school?
Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport.
Search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk

**CLOSING DATE
15 JANUARY 2023**

Lancashire
County Council

lancashire.gov.uk/schools

Dates for the diary (Save the Date)



CONSULTATION EVENING FOR PARENTS/CARERS. WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2pm - 7pm

Advance notice of Parent/carer lunches

Friday 3rd February 2023 12.30pm Year 5/6 Parent lunch

Friday 24th February 2023 12.30pm Year 3/4 Parent lunch

Friday 10th March 2023 12.30pm Year 1/2 Parent Lunch

Wednesday 14th June 12.30pm. Pre-School and Reception parent lunch (to coincide with new starters)

Friday 21st July 2023 Year 6 Leavers Day - Leavers' assembly and Leavers' lunch

FOBS events

Watch out for the FOBS meeting in the coming weeks. EVERYONE WELCOME and needed to support our school family!

Wednesday 8th February. Film Night for all our children (tickets on sale soon)

Friday 24th Feb. Bring a chocolate Easter egg/Gift for Chocolate Bingo (non-uniform in return)

Tuesday 7th February Safer Internet Day across school

Friday 20th January 9am Celebration worship in church

Contact Us



**ST LEONARD'S
BALDERSTONE**

**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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Visit us on the web at <http://balderstoneschool.co.uk> ¹

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