



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

Friday 6th January 2023

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



Happy New Year to you all and happy Epiphany too! Today is the day in the church calendar when Christians remember the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus following the magnificent star. All week in worship we have been thinking about gifts and how a new year is a gift to us all to make a fresh start and make the very most of every day. A warm welcome to our two new pre-schoolers - Isaak and Eesa!



Firstly, on behalf of all the staff, we would like to express our sincere thanks for your generous Christmas gifts and blessings. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. We hope you had some time to relax, rest and spend quality time with family.

We have so much to look forward to in this term and in 2023. We have our new School of Rock starting next Friday, our Year 3 and 4 have qualified for the finals of the Lancashire Storytelling festival, our KS2 1:1 iPad scheme is launching within the next week and our brand new extra-curricular clubs of KS2 UV dodgeball (a cross between a 1980s disco and dodgeball) and KS1 futsal start next week.

This week has been LAMP week in school (Look At My Progress) where we focus on finding out exactly what the children know and also what we might need to teach next. The children have also been busy starting their new topics. Rabbits and Bunnies have been starting to learn all about the traditions of Chinese New Year (as it is nearly Chinese New Year). Squirrels have started their twisted fairytale topic and have even been learning new dance routines about Little Red Riding Hood. Foxes have been out and about in the Forest School area gathering wow vocabulary for their river poems. Owls have started their new topic work on Europe, focusing on mountains and rivers.

The children have made a fabulous start to the new term and we have loved hearing all their back to school news.

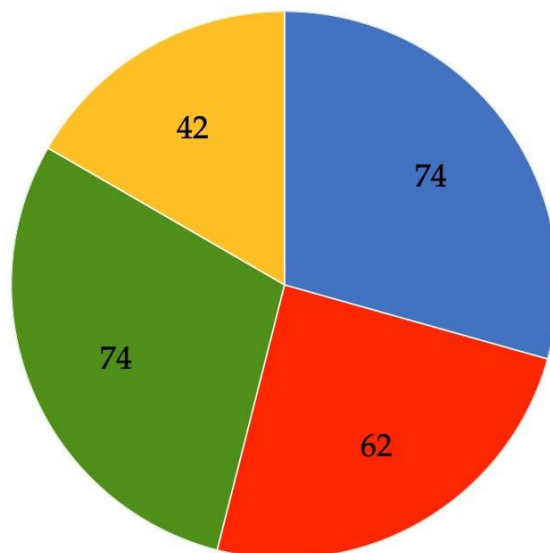
Let's look forward to the Spring term together. May God bless our school, our families and our communities this new year.

Mrs Gow

House points -**Congratulations to St Patrick and St Andrew - joint winners this week (Double chocolate prizes for Mrs Gow !)**

House Points week ending 6th January 2023

● St Andrew ● St George ● St Patrick ● St David



Over the term, the children choose whether to spend (on their class reward) or donate their own individual house points to their class charity. Last half-term the children raised money for:

Rabbit class - Ronald McDonald House charities

Squirrel class - The Salvation Army, Preston

Fox class - Nightsafe, Blackburn

Owl class - The Ummah Welfare Trust

The children have chosen these charities democratically and they will be given the chance to support new charities through their achievements this half-term. Courageous advocacy at its best!

Some of our Year 5/6 children have asked if they can create a loom band stall next week to sell their wares for charity. The bands will be on sale from next week.

Balderstone Rocks!



Next Friday, our very own Rock (Rise of Cool Kids) Bands launch. Max, will be coming into school next Friday afternoon to put together our first set of bands and to introduce the children to their brand new instruments.



1 - Flourishing Friday Awards

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

EYFS. **Sara**

Year 1. **Ralph (Primrose roll-over from last term)**

Year 2. **Muhammad**

Year 3. **Inaaya**

Year 4. **Zaydene**

Year 5. **Aisha**

Year 6. **Emaan**

PE kit and School Uniform



We are smart and proud to wear our school uniform- even our staff wear our fleeces with pride! Please ensure that we show this through wearing our black school shoes during the day (rather than trainers) and bring our PE kits into school so they can take part in all outdoor/PE activities. Please can we politely remind you to have your child's PE kits in school every day (as there are also lunchtime clubs that require the children to be in their trainers). We have discovered a number of coats and other pieces of uniform without names in and therefore, we find it very difficult to return mislaid uniform to their owners. Children should NOT wear any jewellery on PE day and earrings should only be small, plain studs please.

Attendance, absences and the new phone line



We have had our school phone lines updated this week and you may notice that we now have a switchboard message which allows you to choose an option to record an absence. Please do use this service as it allows us to update our registers rather than bothering you at home later in the day, if your child is ill. Last term there were a number of horrid viruses and germs about that really did impact on some of our children's attendance rates. I know that you do not underestimate the impact that time off school has on your child's education - but let's focus on full attendance this term to ensure that no gaps open in your child's learning. Please do consider the impact on attendance when booking your family holidays and pilgrimages. Congratulations to our children in Year 3 who have the best attendance rates in school so far this year.

Sports Roundup



Next week our two new extra-curricular clubs start and the good news is that there are still a few places available for both Tuesday (UV dodgeball KS2) and Thursdays (futsal club). Please sign up online if your child would like a place.

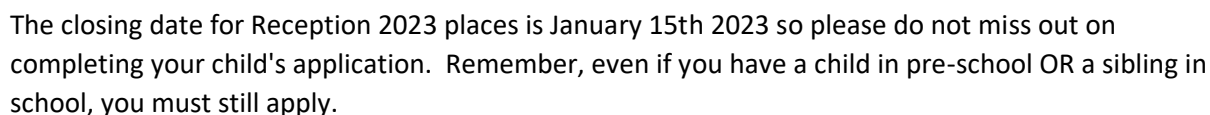
Girls' Football Tournament - Friday 6th Jan 2023

We are so proud of our team girls' football team who were playing their very first competition this afternoon at Edisford. . For many of the girls it was their first ever competitive football match and the first time they have played as a team. Mrs Heyworth was thrilled with the phenomenal progress the girls made throughout their matches Both Anna and Abigail got the team onto the score sheet. The defence, led by Amaya, made huge improvements and showed real promise. The Lionesses started at grassroots, so may you go from strength to strength girls! A huge thank you to Mrs Heyworth (on her day off) and to Mrs Redmayne and Mr Greenwood and to the other parent/grandparent volunteers who accompanied and drove the children to the event.

The amazing news is that Balderstone is currently **joint leaders** in the Ribble Valley sports partnerships awards for our school's engagement in sporting activities. A huge thank you to Mrs Heyworth our sports leader, the staff who organise and attend events and out parents and children who have been so amazingly supportive. Let's see if we can continue our fab start this term.



Reception Places for September 2023 start & Pre-school places



iPad update



You may be aware that our school is now striving to become an Apple Distinguished 1:1 device school. All children in our junior classes will have the opportunity to own/access their own device to aid their learning. The parents in Year 3/4 who have purchased/leased devices - these will be given out (hopefully next week) when the delivery of the new tough cases have arrived. The Year 5/6 children will also have access to a school-day 1:1 device.

Church links



We are very much looking forward to our coming church events. EVERYONE is welcome to our all-age worship on 16th January, based on the theme of EVERYONE welcome and also our Forest church. Please invite a friend to come with you and join Mrs Gow and Mrs Riddell for some fun!

In memory of Mr Woodward - our former school caretaker



Over the Christmas break we marked the funeral and lifelong service of Mr Frank Woodward, who served as our school caretaker for a considerable term and who devoted his life to the upkeep, service and care of our church. Later in the month the school will be creating a memorial arch (on our willow dome) for the children to remember those people who have been really important in their lives (including Mr Woodward). This arch will be named in remembrance of Frank and will also serve as our school's lasting testament to Queen Elizabeth II. There will be opportunities for the children/families to add their own wooden discs with the name of their loved ones, who have passed on, to the archway to be prayed for, given thanks and remembered.

School applications and reminders!





**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.gov.uk/schools

Lancashire
County Council

Dates for the diary



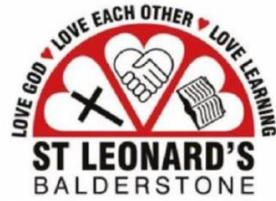
Friday 13th January - 9am Celebration worship in church. Come and join us for a brew in the school library from 8.40am

Monday 16th January - Year 5/6 physical activity festival at Roefield Leisure Centre

Friday 20th January - 9am Celebration worship in church. Come and join us for a brew in the school library from 8.40am

Wednesday 25th January - Life Education Bus in school (delivering health and wellbeing education) in school. £1 donation for a scratch art bookmark.

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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