



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

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

*Friday 25th November 2022*

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



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*What a great week we have had in school!*

*"Oh no we haven't!"*

*"Oh yes we have!"*

*It's been pantomime week in school and the whole school family, including our pre-schoolers and their parents/grandparents joined us to watch Cinderella at Blackburn Empire. We had an amazing time, particularly as we had the whole theatre to ourselves. We have seen a good few pantos there and unanimously we all thought this one was the best production we had ever been to! I do want to share one golden moment from the show with you all though (and I hope that Sawdah won't mind me embarrassing her too much - forgive me Sawdah). In the second half of the performance, the comedian/magician 'Buttons' character (who had taken quite a shine to our Mrs Turner!) asked three of our children up onto stage. He had the children saying silly tongue twisters and we all had a good giggle. At the end of this he gave two of the children a chocolate selection box for being good sports - but then he told Thomas (Year 1) that he had run out of prizes (he was only joking but the children didn't know this at this point). Thomas took this bad news really well and was ever so stoic but, without even a second thought, Sawdah turned around and handed over her prize to Thomas. Our hearts filled with joy seeing this act of complete selflessness and care for our younger children and this reminded me just how blessed we are to share your children with you and to have the privilege of watching them grow and show their faith and kindness. Mrs Johnstone had a good cry at the love our children show one another and I was a very proud (in a non-sinful way) headteacher. So thank you Sawdah for reminding us all what love, faith and charity look like in action (she was rewarded with a special hot-choc today!)*

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The run-up to Christmas is in full swing in school with nativity, ukulele playing and craft sessions busy filling up our calendars. There is important information included about costumes, timings etc later on in the newsletter. I look forwards to sharing Sunday evening with many of you, who are coming to listen, sing and join in with the Brass band concert in church. It really does feel like the Christmas period has started after the Brass Band Concert. Tickets are available on the door - all welcome and our children are free! The children are singing Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer and a song from the nativity (sneak preview).



## Forest School

Year 2 have been having a great time in Forest School this term. This week it was dry enough for a campfire after digging and planting bulbs!



1 - Planting bulbs





*2 - We love digging and finding worms!*

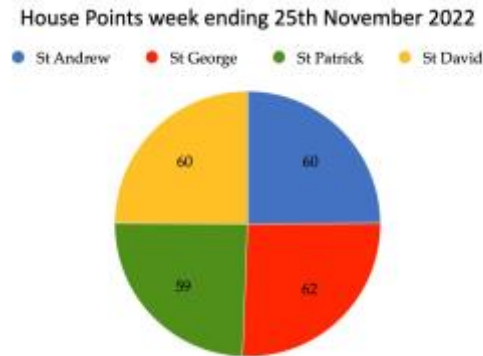


*3 - Marshmallows toasted on the campfire*

House points for this half term



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.



*4 - Congratulations to St George - this week's winners! It was a close one!*

## Health updates



Every November time the winter bugs make their comeback but our Infants classes (Reception Year 1 and Year 2) have seen a very high number of children with viral type illnesses over the past two weeks - many with flu-like symptoms (high temperatures, coughs, colds etc) I have asked for advice from our local health protection team and they have asked us to reinforce the importance of not sending your child back to school until all major symptoms of respiratory illness and temperatures have stopped (as the children will be contagious to others for between 3-5 days after the onset of symptoms). Obviously, we don't want our children to be missing time from their learning, but we have seen lots of children with recurring symptoms and not shifting viruses before they pick up another one. We have upgraded our hygiene, hand washing and cleaning routines in school again to help but please do not send your child in if you think they are poorly to try to curb the spread of these nasty winter bugs. We think that our younger children may have reduced resistance to these bugs since COVID and lockdowns, hence why so many of them are suffering. Remember, there are flu spray vaccines available in school next week too. Thank you for helping us keep our children and staff as healthy as possible - we need them all for the nativity too.

## Nativity News & Arrangements



Year 1 and 2 have been busy honing their acting skills this week and I have heard some amazing singing, rapping and instrument playing around school so it must be nativity time! This year our nativity will be performed inside our church next door - so we have plenty of seating, don't have to clog up the hall with the stage (so can still use it for PE) and also we can offer refreshments in school after the performances. I thought you might like a run down of all the arrangements.

The Nativity is a WHOLE SCHOOL event that is part of our school curriculum for RE, music and English and it is a special time where our whole school family get to perform and support each other. All children are expected to support our nativity wherever possible - both in the afternoon and in the evening please.

This year the nativity performances are:

*Wednesday 7th December. 1.30pm and 6pm*

The children need to be back at school at 5.40pm and will need to come in through the front door of school, where they will be registered. The church door will also open at 5.40pm so please do not come any earlier than this.

### Costumes

Pre-school and Reception - Miss Roberts and Mrs Moosa sent a letter home tonight!

*Year 1 and 2 (in home school diary letter too)*

Angels – white t shirt (preferably plain) and white tights.

Shepherds, Innkeepers, & wise men – dark joggers or leggings and plain dark top.

Narrators – leggings and a Christmas or plain top.

All children will need pumps too to minimise noisy feet!

#### *Year 3 and 4*

White t-shirt and black or dark jeans/leggings and dark shoes/trainers.

#### *Year 5 and 6*

Cool style, Philadelphia style clothes (think Fresh Prince of Bel Air style) - t shirts, baseball caps (worn backwards of course), hoodies, trainers - they are rapping!

After the nativity performance ALL the children will be coming back over to school and can be collected from the school hall. Our wonderful FOBS team will be serving refreshments (mulled wine, non-alcoholic mulled punch, tea, coffee, hot choc) in the hall and you can purchase treats and minced pies. The children will then be brought to the hall to you, once they are changed/picked up coats etc.

#### *Tickets for the Nativity*

We offer (initially) 2 tickets per family for each performance. However, if you want more tickets we do offer a **reserve list** and we can then offer additional tickets. Please let the office know if you require reserve tickets. The tickets will be available on Parentmail from Saturday (tomorrow). Given the financial pressures on us all at the moment we have decided NOT to ask you to purchase tickets but make a donation of whatever you can spare to support school in paying for the nativity license/performance fee and to support school funds. We would also like to give a donation to a charity of the Year 1/2 children's choice from this payment. Therefore, when you go on to Parentmail to purchase/order your tickets, the cost will say £0 but you can type in its place any amount you would be able to gift the school.



## Coffee Creative and other Art Festive fun



Our wreath making Coffee Creative is now full. Thank you to all families who have signed up to come and make wreaths next week. However, we are also able to offer a new Elf Workshop session run by Lancashire Adult learning on 12th December. Please see the attached info to sign up.



## 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. **Whole class award for being so amazing at the pantomime**

Year 1. **Muhammed-Rayyan**

Year 2. **Aaminah & Umar (rollover)**

Year 3. **Aleena**

Year 4. **Sawdah (extra) and a secret rollover to next week**

Year 5. **Sophie**



Year 6. Alayna

Tin can plea



Year 1 and 2 are hoping to make some Christmas cakes next week and they are desperate for some (short, 5cm) tin cans please. If you have any empty cans could you send them into school next week. Thank you in advance.

Thank you - Smarties



A huge thank you to all the parents, carers and friends of the school who helped raise £141.39 with our Smartie tube appeal. This money will be used to support Art in school, as we offer more children the chance to get their Artsmark Discover award. Thanks again to Patel Sweets for donating the tubes.

iPad update



**Year 3 and 4 parents please see your Parentmail letter about the new iPad leasing/purchase scheme. We are opening the parent sign up portal later this week. We are very excited about this new venture and giving all our pupils greater access to devices, apps and online resources.**

## Non-uniform/Christmas Hamper day

Next Friday (2nd December) the children can come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a donation for our rather spectacular Christmas hampers. Each year group is asked to bring a donation of a Christmas themed item to help us make up our hampers. This year we would really appreciate:

Please bring in a donation so we can make some fabulous Christmas hampers for our raffle:

Pre-school and Reception -

Chocolate gift

Year 1- sweet biscuits

Year 2- savoury  
biscuits/crackers

Year 3 - Christmas bread/cakes

Year 4 - Preserves, jams, sauces

Year 5 - tea/coffee

Year 6 - bottles (wine, non-alcoholic, fizzy)





## Christmas Raffle



This evening your child should have brought home a book of raffle tickets for our fabulous FOBS Christmas raffle with a first prize of £150. Please do try to sell the tickets and there are lots of spare books in the office. A huge thank you to our FOBS team for organising this. They are also busy sorting the Christmas Disco before the end of term with DJ Xander making a return visit!

## Dates for the diary



**Wednesday 30th November 12.30pm** Parent Lunch Pre-school, new pre-schoolers and Reception

**Wednesday 30th November.** Last kurling club

**Friday 2nd December.** NON-UNIFORM day (bring donation for Christmas hampers- see message above) Celebration worship 9am in church & Coffee Creative wreaths 2pm in hall

**Saturday 3rd December.** Christmas Fair in school 2pm. Children to arrive at 1.45pm - games, fun and stalls

**Wednesday 7th December** - Nativity performances 1.30pm and 6pm

## Contact Us



**ST LEONARD'S  
BALDERSTONE**

**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**  
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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