

# Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Primary School Newsletter Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022



*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"*  
**(Matthew 25:40)**



Dear School family,

This harvest week we have been thinking carefully about how we can serve others: in our school, our homes and in our wider community. A huge thank you for all the donations for our harvest appeal. The donations will be given to local foodbanks to serve those who need support the most at this time. Reverend Karen joined us for worship this week to share the message about Jesus as the servant king - the son of God who came to serve rather than be served!

We had the most blessed and unexpected experience this week, when attending the Harvest Supper at church on Thursday evening an older gentleman (who we had not seen before) turned up at church on a very heavily laden bicycle and sat outside the church's front porch. When we spoke to him it turned out that he was French and was cycling across America and Europe and had just turned up in Balderstone. He didn't have a home, but camped out in church porches on his travels. For him to turn up at our church, at harvest time, and on harvest supper night was an absolute blessing as he could share worship with us, eat a hot meal with us and then he camped for the night in the church porch. As a school we fed him breakfast, Mrs Riddell had her conversational French tested, but we did work out that he wanted a black coffee with 6 sugars (cycling must use a lot of energy). He then, part way through our school Harvest Festival service this morning, joined us for the service (knelt at the alter steps and prayed) and then we were able to send him on the next leg of his journey (to York Minster) with a rucksack full of food. The children saw hospitality, justice and the impact their donations made first-hand. We wished Bruno bon voyage as he set off to York!



School has been fantastically busy this week with a wide range of visitors and exciting learning opportunities. We have had a professional musician visiting Squirrels and an artist (Stanley's grandma) visiting Foxes, the new sports coaches have started our lunchtime and after-school clubs, Year 6 spent some reading time with their buddies today and we have also had a Craft & G trip to the alpacas (as well as all our learning and Harvest festival). Everyone is welcome to join us on Sunday morning at 11am. Every Blessing, Mrs Gow

## Meet the Governor!

Every week we are going to introduce to a different member of our school's governing body. This week Emma James, our Chair of Governors shares a little bit about her role and background!



My name is **Emma James** and I'm the Chair of Balderstone Governors. I first became a Parent Governor when my son, Sam, was in Year 2 Squirrels Class (he's now in Year 12!). My background is in project management and finance. I lived, and worked, in America and Scandinavia before moving to Mellor. At Balderstone I quickly found that I really enjoyed being able to use my business skills to support school, so when my tenure as Parent Governor ended I became a Local Authority Governor. It's enormously rewarding to work with the rest of the Governing Body, helping Mrs Gow and her team to provide the best possible education for all of our pupils.

## Parent Governor election

Help lead our school! Why not use your skills and talents to support the education of our children? We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor in school (as Mrs Dixon has moved to be a Foundation governor for our school) and we would love to recruit our new governor before our first full governors meeting in November. So what does it mean to be a governor? I've included a leaflet from Lancashire at the end of this week's newsletter all about what it means to be a parent governor. I will be sending out nomination forms next week, so do please consider if you could come onto the leadership team of school and help us on the next part of our school family's journey towards excellence. Feel free to speak to our other parent governor Yasmin Riaz for more information or come into school for a chat about the role.



## Flourishing Friday Award

Every week the staff choose a child from every year group who have flourished in one of our school mission areas:



Loving God, Loving each other and Loving learning. This week's 'flourishers' are:

EYFS: Ava

Year 1: Thomas

Year 2: Faiza

Year 3: Aliza

Year 4: Alfie

Year 5: Safaa

Year 6: Anna

We are very proud of your efforts! Glad you enjoyed your hot chocolate & treats with Mrs Cast today!

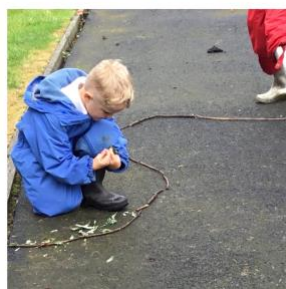


## World Mental Health Day (Monday 10<sup>th</sup>)

We want to recognise as a school how important it is to look after yourself and others in body, mind and spirit. So on Monday we are going to be marking World Mental Health day by wearing something YELLOW is might be yellow socks, a yellow bobble in your hair, a yellow loom band, a yellow sticker etc. We are still coming to school in school uniform but want to show that how we feel really does matter.

## Forest School fun!

Bug hunting, splashing in puddles and making the longest worm ever out of twigs! This is outdoor learning at its best. Not even the rain could put Year 1 off their learning.



## Daily Mile

We are thrilled to announce that we are now able to offer the Daily Mile on Mondays as well as Wednesdays. Mrs Riaz, our parent governor, has kindly agreed to run the club before school each Monday. Please refer to the ParentMail letter sent out last week about the benefits of the daily mile and also how your child(ren) join in. Both clubs will run from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Many thanks to our governors, Mrs Dixon and Mrs Riaz for their time and sporty enthusiasm.



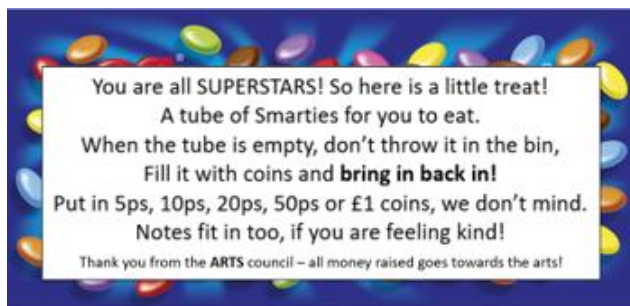


# All things Arty!

## Arty Smarties

To help raise money for 'the arts' and continue our journey to achieve arts mark PLATINUM - arts council would like to treat all our superstar children. Next Monday, your child will receive a tube of smarties (generously donated by PATEL SWEETS - Aleena's dad) when the tube is empty - please could you fill it with coins or notes and send it back into school 😊

You can send in as many tubes as you like 😊 Thank you Mrs Turner and the Arts Council



## Arts council- parents we need you!

If any parent would like to share their ARTY ideas and be part of the Arts' Council, then please send an email to Mrs Turner on

[askmrsturner@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:askmrsturner@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

and she will send you a link to the Arts' council padlet. If anybody works in The Arts and would be willing to share their expertise/experience or skills with others then please do get in touch.



### Knit and Natter

We would love to restart our Knit and Natter club (Mrs Gow is desperate to learn how to knit properly and needs a new scarf!) Please see Mrs Gow if you can knit and could spare a little time every week to chat and craft together.

This week Fox Class were transported to a tropical warm beach, thanks to our guest artist - Stanley and Ralph's grandma. She demonstrated the techniques to create a landscape beach painting. A huge thank you for sharing your talent with us! 😊



## Dinner time drawing club!



Mrs Midgley, a teacher and new friend of the school, has started our new drawing dinner club. The Year 3/4s loved these funky doodle drawings. It's so much fun letting our creativity shine!

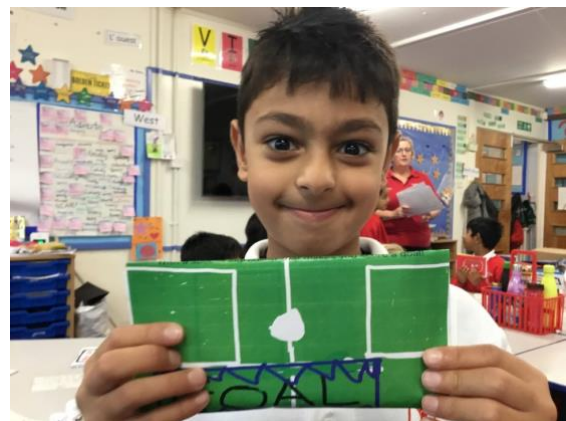
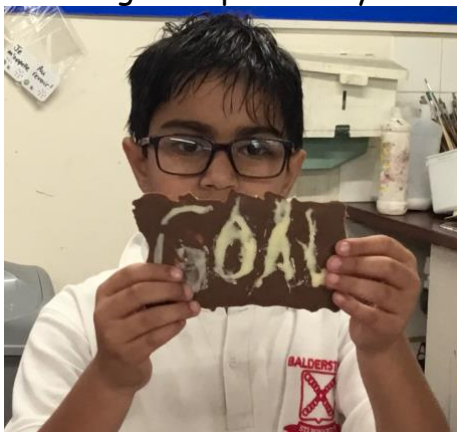


## Chocolate Heaven!

Fox class have been in chocolate heaven this week as they designed and made their very own chocolate bars! However, they have been in serious trouble for not designing and making one specifically for their new

headteacher!

Year 5/6 and I did enjoy a chocolaty catwalk though seeing all the amazingly creative designs and yummy smelling treats. Wonderful computing skills on show with the wrapper designs.





## Diary Dates

Friday 14th October - Celebration worship in church 9.00am



**Coffee Creative**  
**14th October**  
**from 2pm - 3pm**

Thursday 20th October -  
Celebration worship in church -  
2.30pm STARS for the Half-term

Monday 31st October - 4th  
November - Open week. Spread the  
word, come and see our school in  
action. Let the office know you are  
coming to join us and tell others  
about our fab school family!

Friday 11th November Year 1/2  
Parent lunch 12.30pm followed by  
Year 1/2 worship for Remembrance  
day in church 1.30pm

The clothes bank makes a considerable amount of money for our school. Our last amount and certificate is below. Please do keep using it, but do not pile bags at the side if it is full (nip into school and we'll find somewhere to store them till it has been emptied). Thank you for being eco-aware and helping raise much needed funds for our school.



## Busy Bees Breakfast Chefs!

Mrs Gow and Mrs Cast loved their cooked breakfast from Busy Bees on Wednesday, as the club children learnt how to make cheesy scrambled egg on toast! Every child prepared and cooked their own brekkie and it was so delicious the children decided the staff needed to try the cheesy egg goodness too!  
Next week.....omelettes?





Crafty G took our mini artists on a field trip this week! We went to visit her alpacas, to learn more about them so we could enjoy our alpaca wool craft next week with a bit more understanding of where the wool came from. A huge thank you to Georgia, Adah and Austin for sharing their love of all things alpaca with us all and for making us so welcome.





## What is a Parent Governor?

All maintained school governing bodies must have at least two parent governors.

### Who are Parent Governors?

Parent governors are elected by parents of children at the school. For a person to stand for election and to vote in a parent governor election he/she must either be the natural parent of a child registered at the school, or be a person with parental responsibility for, or having care of, such a child.

In maintained nursery schools parents of children for whom educational or other provision is made on the premises of the school at the time of the election are also eligible to stand for election and vote in a parent governor election.

If there are insufficient eligible candidates for the vacancies at an election the governing body can appoint a parent governor, but there are restrictions on who can be appointed.

Governors normally serve for four years unless a shorter term is specified in the Instrument of Government for the school. If a parent governor ceases to be the parent of a child registered at the school within the period for which they have been elected, he/she may continue to be a governor for the rest of his/her term of office.

### What are Parent Governors?

**Parent governors** have the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other governors.

**Parent governors** should play a full and active part in the governing body but,

**Parent governors**, like other governors, do not have the power to act as individuals or as a group, unless specifically authorised to do so by the governing body.

**Parent governors** are not on the governing body simply to represent the interest of parents, or to be the only link with parents because all governors must have regard to these issues.

### What do governors do?

All maintained schools have a governing body which together with the headteacher sets the aims and policies of the school. The headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school. Together the governing body and headteacher must ensure the school provides good quality education and helps to raise standards.

The governing body:



- is accountable for the performance of the school to the parents and the wider community
- plans the school's future direction
- selects the headteacher
- makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing
- makes sure the National Curriculum is taught
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- makes sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special educational needs.

### **How much time will it take?**

To be an effective member of the governing body team, it takes time. You will need to prepare for and attend at least three full governing body meetings per year. You will also be involved in one or two committees dealing with finance, staffing, curriculum or premises. These usually meet at least once a term. In addition some governors take on other roles such as Special Educational Needs governor.

The amount of time you will need to give depends on how involved you become but governing bodies cannot operate effectively with passengers. You must be prepared to take more than an interest.

### **What support is available?**

Lancashire County Council and the associated dioceses/church authorities provide a wide range of support services and training for governors.

All new governors receive an introductory pack of materials from the county council which outlines the range of training opportunities available to governors and governing bodies and provides the basic reference documents. There is also a termly newsletter which helps to keep governors up to date with recent developments.

Sometimes governing bodies have difficult decisions to take. In such cases the governing body has access to support and advice from the county council and the church authorities/dioceses as appropriate.

If you require more information about being a governor speak to the headteacher at your child's school or contact Governor Services on 01257 516147, [governors.central@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:governors.central@lancashire.gov.uk).

Parents, including carers, of pupils at the school are eligible to stand for election as parent governors. They are elected by other parents. If not enough parents stand for election, the governing body can appoint parent governors.

The law does not allow elected members of the local authority, or people who work at the school for more than 500 hours in a year, to become parent governors.

Upcoming FOBS event....

# Balderstone Bonfire

Saturday 5th November

At Balderstone St Leonards'  
Primary School

Everyone Welcome

Doors open at 6pm

Lighting of bonfire 6:30pm

Fireworks at 7:00pm

## Admission Prices

Adults — £4

Children — £2

Family of 4/5 — £10

Barbecue

Raffle

Curry Stall

popcorn

Drinks and Cakes

Glitter Tattoos

Bar

DJ