

# Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Primary School

## Newsletter

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022



## Mrs Gow's weekly round up...



Dear school family,

Despite this being a **slightly** shorter week in school, it has been filled with lots of amazing learning across school. Reception Rabbits have been doing some wonderful phonics and I have heard some WOW segmenting and blending this week with Raiyan proudly showing me his reading 'all by himself!' A huge thank you for all your support with reading at home. Reading just 10 minutes a night, every night, is proven to have a MASSIVE impact on your child's vocabulary and educational achievement - as your child is exposed to approximately 1 million more words a year! Thank you to you all for your outstanding support in our Meet the Teacher meetings this week. It was a delight to see so many of you in school.

This week Year 1 and 2 have been enjoying writing their own innovated versions of the Little Red Hen story setting them in the jungle! The juniors had their first visit from the Let's Go Sing team and have started to learn the new songs for their concert in King George's Hall in March 2023. It's always a joy to hear the hall filled with singing! Mrs Burton is getting ready to hold the democratic elections for the new school council and we have had lots of interest from the children in taking up this important responsibility role in school. Next week, Ms Emma James shall be sending out details of ways in which you, as parents, grandparents and friends of our school can also get involved in the leadership of our school, with information about our forthcoming parent governor elections. FOBS are also meeting next week!

I have included a Save the Date page at the back of this week's newsletter for you to share with any clubs/community/faith groups that your child may attend. We are giving out the dates now, at the start of the year, to some of our key school events, so that these dates can be protected for our whole school community and so we can also outreach to a wider area of our local community. Events such as our school productions, the Let's Go Sing concert, school adventure holidays etc are an essential (and fun) part of our curriculum offer and we would like you to share these dates with your children's other community groups, so they know when your child and family will be invited to support school by attending events outside of school hours. This also means that these groups can be invited to share in your child's triumphs too.

It would be lovely if school could also be informed of key dates for your child too – such as any presentation evenings, award evenings, galas, competitions, exam weeks etc – so we can also support and share in these events with your child.

Our local PCSO policing team would like to thank you for your care and consideration on the road over the past week. They will be regularly patrolling the areas surrounding our local schools to help promote road safety and seatbelt awareness.

As part of our new house points system, the children are donating some of their awarded house team points every week to a class fund (so the children can share a whole class treat at the end of the half-term) and also giving a proportion of their house points to chosen charities. It has been a real blessing to see the children being such courageous advocates and sharing their house points so generously to help others less fortunate than themselves. Our thoughts and prayers are with those children sitting the Grammar School entry exam this weekend.

Every Blessing,  
Mrs Gow



## Allergies in school (snacks and packed lunches)



We do have a number of children and adults in our school family who have quite severe allergies. Please

could we ask that you do not bring in to school **any** nut-containing products, either for snacks or for packed lunches – especially products such as Nutella. The children sit in mixed-age family groups for lunches, and it is really important that these products (which can cause airborne reactions too) are not near some of our children. Many thanks for helping us keep our school healthy and safe for all.

## 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: Olive

Year 1: Florence

Year 2: Yaqub

Year 3: Zayn

Year 4: Stanley

Year 5: Imaan

Year 6: Aushah

We are very proud of your efforts! You are invited to have hot chocolate & treats with Mrs Gow in her office on Friday.



## Forest School!

We are so blessed to have a timetabled session of Forest school every week and the expertise of Mrs Riddell and Mrs Burton (who do in truth enjoy these sessions just as much - if not more - than the children). Year 1 this week had amazing fun playing the Buzzy, Busy Bee game and also searching for signs of Autumn approaching and making conker/acorn faces. Every child in school will experience a block of Forest school sessions over the course of the academic year.



Our very own Crafty G (Georgia) is going to be starting a new craft crew for 10, Year 1 and 2 children on a Friday after school. A letter will be going out next week. These sessions are going to be so much fun.

## We are GOLD!

This week Mrs Heyworth was presented with our school's Gold Games Mark (soon to be in pride on place in the front of school!). This award is dedicated to the hard work of all our school, parent and volunteer team. A huge thank you to all of the parents/governors who have helped with Daily Mile, transporting children, helping us with competitions and also getting involved in our clubs and extra-curricular offers. A particular thanks to Mrs Heyworth for her outstanding leadership of PE and also to Mr Holroyd for his football coaching support! Children.... we are now going for PLATINUM.... Let's go for it! Exciting news **next week** about our brand new sporting offer and our new clubs - including Nerf Zone!





## FOBS Meeting

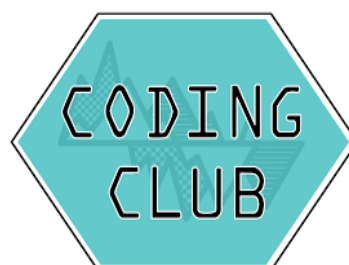


Please join us next Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the school hall for our first

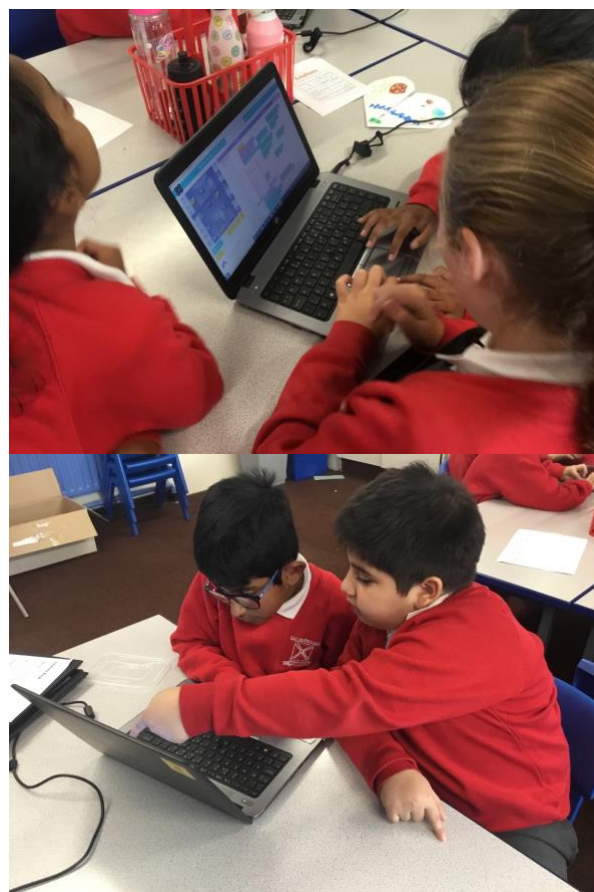
Friends of Balderstone School meeting of the new school year. FOBS is a place where our parents, grandparents and friends of the school get together to plan activities to support our WHOLE school community. The fundraising that FOBS does for school is ESSENTIAL as it helps provide some amazing resources and experiences for your children.

Events last year mean we can now hire 35 new Ipads and pencils for KS2 and we are now fundraising to build a brand new adventure trail for the school field. PLEASE do come along, share your ideas and come and meet some other parents from our school. Our first (and incredibly popular event) is our school Bonfire Night Bonanza. Please see Susie Barton (Laura, Anna and Thomas' mum) or Janet Leaver (Matilda and Florence's grandma) for more information on how you can get involved. NEW PARENTS ESPECIALLY WELCOME!

Wrap-around care is available in our school now from 7.40am - 8.40am and then 3.10 - 5.45pm. This can be on a casual basis if needed. Please speak to Mrs Johnstone to make enquiries.



Coding Club was a hive of activity this week with our budding computer programmers getting to grips with their algorithms!





Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Celebration worship in church - 2.30pm (note change of day to accommodate parents who cannot make Fridays)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October - Celebration worship in church 9.00am - Harvest Festival

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October - Celebration worship in church 9.00am

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

KS2 Coding Club Tuesday 3.10pm - 4.10pm (for the next 5 weeks for the children who have booked a place)



## Coffee Creative

Join us on **14<sup>th</sup> October from 2pm - 3pm** for our next Coffee Creative session, where you can spend the hour working on a relaxing craft with your child. This time it is a sewing-based activity. Come along for crafts, coffee

## Balderstone Baby and Toddler group

Come and join the Toddle-tastic fun every Tuesday from 9.15 - 11.15am. Come and join us for fun, fellowship, food and friendship. Abdullah's mummy is also, very excitingly, going to be starting a Baby massage class during this group too!



## Guitar Lessons anyone?



Mrs Riddell is really keen to get us all to learn to play an instrument. We have a contact with a brand-new guitar teacher who is offering lessons in school. Parents do have to pay for instrumental tuition, but this is a great opportunity to start a new instrument. Please let Mrs Riddell or Mrs Gow know by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept if your child would be interested so we can reserve a slot.

and companionship. More details to follow.

I am writing to you  
from Balderstone  
St Leonard's



Primary school to inform you of some of the key dates for our school community.

We know that you have some of our pupils who attend your setting and wanted to let you know these dates so you understand why the children may need to attend school on these days/evenings and to offer a warm welcome and invitation to you to come and visit our school and share in some of these events.

We love to hear about our children's achievements and news from their clubs and out of school activities, so please do keep us informed of any events, exams, celebrations, or presentations that you might be hosting so we can support, promote, or even attend these events.

As a church and a family-based school, faith and fellowship is at the heart of all we do at Balderstone and we would like to extend our school community through making many new links to clubs, faith centres and groups. We have a school newsletter on our website, on which you can find out more about our school events and school family. Find it at:

<https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk>  
or contact Mrs Gow the headteacher to come and have a tour of school.



The dates for our key school events are as follows:

**Our whole school** nativity performance  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6pm

Let's Go Sing concert for **all junior children**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 2pm - 8pm

Tower Wood residential holiday for **Year 5 and 6** children from 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

You are more than welcome to get in touch with the school at any point if you would like any further information on (01254 769 150) or email [office@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

Many thanks for helping us save the date for these important dates for our school community.

Blessings,  
*Mrs Victoria Gow*  
Headteacher

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