

# Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Primary School Newsletter Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022



## Mrs Gow's Welcome Words...

Dear school family,

This week, my first in headship, has certainly been a mix of emotions. The tone of today's newsletter will reflect the nation's sadness at the passing of Queen Elizabeth and the end of her reign. Her service, Christian example and loyalty to our country and the Commonwealth has been an inspiration to us all. As a school community, we shall come together over this period of national mourning to recognize her great service to our country and to thank God for her life and celebrate her unswerving dedication. As a school filled with faith we know that death is not the end and that God's love is eternal, so we are sad for Queen Elizabeth's passing but can also rejoice knowing that her strong faith means she is now reunited with her Heavenly Father (and beloved husband). Thank you to those who joined us for this morning's worship.

This week has filled me with thankfulness. We were incredibly thankful to see you all back to school safely (apart from the odd broken bone!) and to hear all about your summer adventures. I personally am so thankful to lead the amazing staff/governor family who serve our school and your children with such compassion and commitment. The children and classrooms right across school have been filled with joy, laughter and learning. The new buddies in Year 6 and Reception have been a real blessing this week - seeing them interact and take care of one another in true Balderstone style. The new Pre-schoolers have visited us this week and the four brand new Reception children have been amazing!

We have restarted our family groups in school, meaning all the children are back together eating lunch, sharing and serving one another. Each family group/lunch table now has a Christian/faith patron as their role model. Our junior classrooms now have their new digital screens and all the classes have their new teacher laptops. There is so much to give thanks for! Oh - and yes we do have 5 new goldfish (in my office!)

I deeply appreciate all your kind words, prayers and support this week.

Mrs Gow



Welcome Mrs Draycott!

We have extended a warm Balderstone welcome to our new Deputy Head and Year 1/2 teacher Mrs Nicola Draycott. We pray that your time in Balderstone is joyous!

## This week's stewardship tip



As a school we are making an increased commitment to reducing our single-use plastics! We now have our eco monitors who are cleaning our milk bottles ready for recycling. Ribble Valley council have also provided us with litter picking kits so we can start cleaning up our local area!

## Disabled parking space

We do have some families that now need to make use of the disabled car parking space on the church car park.

Please ensure at least one disabled space is ALWAYS available. Please remember that not all disabilities are visible.



## Flourishing Friday Award



Every Friday the staff and welfare staff shall choose a child from every year group who has flourished in one of our school mission

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

EYFS: Raiyan

Year 1: Fatima

Year 2: Safaa

Year 3: Juwairiyah

Year 4: Mohammed

Year 5: Mohammed-Faizan

Year 6: Logan

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





## Busy Bees

We are thrilled to have restarted our very own wrap-around care, 'Busy Bees' led by our very own Mrs Moosa and Mrs McLaughlin. The children have had a fun time, making their own playdough, doing outdoor crafts, playing out and enjoying healthy snacks! Places are available for breakfast and after-school club and you can use the facility on a casual basis. Please speak to Mrs Johnstone to make enquiries.

## New school library!

We have revamped our school learning resource centre - including our library, laptops and Ipads. We have also won a set of new books from Library 4 schools!



## Fellowship Friday

Before every Celebration worship join us in the school library for coffee and a chat before we walk over to church. Join us at drop-off time 8.40am - please come in through the front door.

# ALL AGE WORSHIP

**Everyone** is welcome to all-age worship this Sunday at 11am. Come along and join Mrs Gow, Mrs Riddell and Mrs Cummins as we explore 'belonging' and what Jesus says about it! There might even be a puppet or two involved!

### Secondary School Open Days

Please check individual school's websites to confirm dates and times:

Ribblesdale High School Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>  
September 2022 4.30pm - 7.30pm

St Augustine's  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
5.00pm - 6.30pm

Pleckgate  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September  
9 - 12pm

Witton Park Academy  
September 22<sup>nd</sup> 3pm - 6.30pm

Clitheroe Grammar Entrance exam  
Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Tauheedul Boys'  
Thursday 29 September 2022  
3.30pm to 6.30pm  
Tauheedul Girls'  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022.  
4:30pm till 7pm



## Important Admissions information

Do you have a Pre-school or Year 6 child? Read on for crucial information

### School Admissions for 2023

**Primary Admissions** - If your child is in their **last year of pre-school or nursery** you can now apply for their primary school place at [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools). It is quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application. You must apply **even if you already have siblings in school or if your child currently attends the pre -school**. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application. Please note, if you are a non-Lancashire resident, e.g. Blackburn with Darwen, you will need to apply through your own local authority. The closing date for primary applications for September 2023 is **15th January 2023** If you are applying to Balderstone please ensure you complete a **Supplementary Information Form** which you can get from the school office.

**Secondary Admissions** - If your child is in year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools). It is quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of you application. You must apply even if you already have siblings in the secondary school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application. Please note if you are a non-Lancashire resident, e.g. Blackburn with Darwen, you will need to apply through your own local authority The closing date for secondary applications for September 2023 is **31st October 2022** Please do not hesitate to contact school directly if you need any advice about admissions. We understand that applying to high school is a stressful time for parents

### Pre-School Admissions

We are taking applications for Pre-school places for January 2023. If your child is aged 3 before [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools) you will qualify for the **free** universal 15 hours childcare provision and you may be eligible for an additional 15 hours extended care.

Pre-school children are fully integrated into the whole school. They work within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Unit alongside Reception children where they can play and learn together in the 'Rabbits' class.

If you would like more information please take a look at our website or give the office a call.

Closing date is **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**.



## Diary Dates

Year 5 Bikeability Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September & Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> (bring your bikes in)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Year 1 starting Forest school (make sure you have wellies, waterproofs and spare clothes/tracksuit etc)

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Celebration worship in church 9.00am

Confirmation classes start this coming Monday evening at Samlesbury 6pm.

KS2 Coding Club starts Tuesday 3.10pm - 4.10pm (for the next 6 weeks for the children who have booked a place)



**Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary School**



### **Book of Condolence**

**Queen Elizabeth II  
1926-2022**

The school have opened a Book of Condolence. It is situated in the front entrance corridor. Please feel free to come and write in your message. These will be kept in the school's archive and copied onto the official online Book of Condolence from the palace.