



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary & Pre-School Newsletter

## Friday 15th September 2023

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



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*Well that was a busy start to term! We knew that a visit from His Majesties Inspection team was on the cards at some point this year, but we were the first inspection of the academic year, so this was somewhat of a surprise! However, the greatest blessing of our school is the way in which we all work as a school family and this past week has been a perfect example of this: our staff, governors, children and parents all working together to shine the love and success of our school. We cannot discuss the outcomes of the inspection until the validated report is released, but we can thank our school family for reflecting the love, care and vision that makes our school such a great place to learn, work, volunteer and visit!*

*Nothing we do in our school is simply for OFSTED; everything we do is for the flourishing of our children, staff and families. So business continues as usual in terms of learning (after a weekend of catch-up sleep for our staff!)*

*The next month in school is going to be a chance for us all to celebrate, promote and shine the excellence of our school family with our Meet the Teacher, Open Week and Showcase day in school. I am currently having a bit of a battle with Lancashire Highways to get some signposting to our school, especially from the A59, as so many people do not know where our school is (or that it even exists). This was proved when I went to meet the community liaison workers at BAE (who didn't even know where our school was!) Our very best form of marketing and promotion is YOU, our families and we need your help now to make our school known and invite families to learn more about our school family. If you know of any local businesses, properties etc who would host a banner for a few weeks to promote the school, then please let me know.*

*Have a lovely weekend everyone (I'll mostly be snoozing!)*

Blessings,

Mrs Gow

## Busy Bees Bulletin



The children in Busy Bees have had the most wonderful week, with art, sports, hide and seek, tortilla pizza making and a water fight to end the week! The club still has spaces for Breakfast club and for After School club - there are two sessions:

3.10 - 4.30pm - snack and sports club

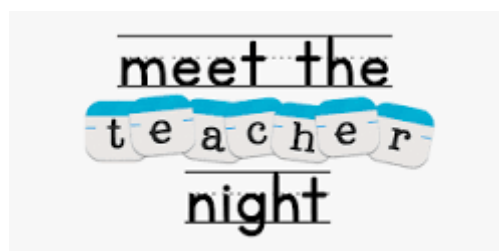
3.10 - 5.45pm - snack, sports, fun, home learning and more food

There was MUCH joy, hilarity and fun at club last week - with a water fight, slime making extravaganza and homework club/one-on-one learning and reading all going on. Have a look at next week's offer (I think slime has made it on again after request from the children!)

Here is next week's timetable and menus so you can see the range of activities on offer:

 BUSY BEES	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast options	• scrambled egg • toast • cereal	• Omelette • cereal	• pancakes • cereal	• Toast & Jam • cereal	• Waffle • cereal
Activities	• Tri-golf	• Yoga	• Multi-sports	• Capture the flag	• Judo dance
After school snack	• Fruit of the day • Beans / spaghetti • cheese or sauce	• Fruit of the day • Cheese / Jam • sausage or sandwich	• Fruit of the day • Mini tortilla • pizzas	• Fruit of the day • Chopped veg & • hummus	• Fruit of the day • Cheese / Jam • wrap or sandwich
Activities	• Dodgeball • mindful colouring	• Archery • make jelly	• Benchball • make slime	• Tennis • movie night • popcorn	• Ultimate Frisbee

## Meet the Teacher evening - Monday 18th September



**Apologies to the parents in Owl class (Year 5 and 6) but we are going to have to postpone your Meet the Teacher evening as 14 of the children are going to play netball in the new league. We shall be in touch with the new date asap. This will also be a good time to discuss school admissions and the processes.**

EYFS and Year 1 and 2 parents shall meet at 3.15pm in their classrooms and the teacher chat will be followed by a Phonics for Parents session. The children are welcome to come and watch a film in the hall.

Year 3 and 4 - parents are welcome to have a brew in Owl class whilst we chat about our curriculum, home learning, iPads, times tables etc and then Mrs Riddell will meet with parents in her classroom at 3.45pm.

There will be a Parental phonics - stay and play for all EYFS parents on **Tuesday 26th September** in the morning before Toddler group 9.15am.

Admissions - Is your child in Pre-school, Year 5 or Year 6? New dates/times added



### **School Admissions for 2024**

COME AND JOIN THE BALDERSTONE FAMILY - Your local school needs you!

**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 <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-deucation-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/> 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 our Balderstone 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. eg Blackburn. The closing date for primary applications for September 2024 is **15th January 2024** 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 your 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 2024 is **31st October 2023**. 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. Secondary schools are starting to advertise their Open Evenings. **We would advise that our Year 5 and Year 6 parents and children attend the open evenings**, to give you plenty of decision making time. Here are the ones we know of so far:

For guidance and eligibility for school transport see: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/>.

Clitheroe Grammar - Entrance Examination. **This takes place on Saturday 30th September 2023.**

Parents who wish their child to take the entrance examination must complete a Clitheroe Royal Grammar School application form. **Online registration is now open and parents / carers must register using the link on the following page** <https://www.crgs.org.uk/main-school-11-16/admissions/>

**This form must be completed by 12.00 noon on Friday 22nd September 2023. This will be the final date for acceptance of applications.**

Ribblesdale - Thursday 28th September 2023 **4.30 - 7.30pm Eventbrite tickets available**

St Wilfrid's - Thursday 28th September 4pm - 8pm

Tauheedul Boys Thursday 28 September 2023 between 3.45pm to 6.45pm

Tauheedul Girls 4:30pm till 7pm on Thursday 5th October 2023.

Oakhill Open day - 5th October 5 - 8pm, 7th October 10-1pm

QEGS. Saturday 7th October 2023 – 9am – 1pm

Witton Park - 28th September 3.30pm - 6.30pm

St Augustine's - 5th October 6.30 - 8.30pm

**Pre-School Admissions - We are taking applications for Pre-school places for January 2024. If your child is aged 3 before 31st December 2023 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, with a highly qualified staff team, 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 2nd October 2023.**

## Open week and Showcase Day



You are ALL invited to our school's open week and showcase day - whether you are current parent, former parent, new parent, neighbour to school, part of our church family OR brand new to the school.... come along and find out more about our small school with a big heart - a heart for God, for learning and for each other. Book a tour of the school (led by our amazing children) or come along on Showcase day and join in some Forest School activities or some maths mastery lessons. Mrs Gow will be speaking about school at 9.30am, 1.30am and then at 6pm. Come and have a brew with us and find out what it means to be part of our school family. Please invite your friends, family and invite members from your community and faith groups. Flyers available next week to take to mosque, Brownies, work, toddler groups and beyond. We shall be doing a door to door canvassing in the local area and to new housing estates. Please let Mrs Gow know of any areas/place that you think would be advantageous to visit/drop off flyers. Thank you in advance.





**BALDERSTONE ST LEONARD'S CE PRIMARY & PRE-SCHOOL OPEN WEEK & SHOWCASE DAY**

*Come and see our small school family in action*

We understand that choosing the right pre-school and primary setting for your child is crucial. That's why we'd like you to come and spend some time getting to know us - tour our school, meet our wonderful staff team and pupils and get a feel for our exceptionally caring school ethos. If you are looking for a small sized, caring & excellent school with a diverse, outstanding and faith-filled education, then we are the school for you! Balderstone is a place where your child can thrive in an ethos of love and excellence.

✓ **Open week Monday 16th - Thursday 19th October 2023**

✓ **Showcase day** with Headteacher talks 9.30am, 1.30pm and 6pm, Forest school experience, Pre-school stay and play, refreshments & pupil led tours

**Wednesday 18th October 9.30am - 7pm**

☎ 01254 769 150 📧 [info@balderstoneschool.co.uk](mailto:info@balderstoneschool.co.uk) 📱 [@BalderstoneSch1](https://twitter.com/BalderstoneSch1) 🌐 [www.balderstoneschool.co.uk](http://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk)



**RING NOW TO BOOK A TOUR**

Community and Church links - save the date September 23rd



Did you know that Balderstone School has its very own ACTS team (Action in the Community team) who go out and about serving our local community. In the coming weeks our series of community service events start with the clearing of our church and school grounds. Last year, many of our parents and children, from all faiths, came together with our school and staff family to help support this event. We meet in the school grounds and help clear leaves, litter pick on the car park, weed the church yard, clear the grave stones of debris and all this is rewarded with yummy cake and drinks! The ACTS team will then be doing a Mellor Brook litter pick, a care home chat session, a supermarket bag pack a mosque car park clean and other community events.

## Safeguarding Segment



As a follow up from last week's online safety guide. Here is the important leaflet from Lancashire with links on:





lancashire  
**safeguarding  
children  
board**

# Staying Safe Online

## ...a guide for Parents and Carers

The range and complexity of today's technology can often seem bewildering for many adults, particularly with older children who may seem to be permanently 'connected'. Parents and Carers are key partners in helping to safeguard our children when using technologies such as Laptops, Tablets, Smartphones and Games Consoles - as such, it is useful to agree some ground rules to support their safe use. Use the checklist below and those points opposite as starting points. The list of



[www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)



[www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/topics/stay-safe)



[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)



[www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers)



[www.pegi.info/en/index/](http://www.pegi.info/en/index/)



[www.internetmatters.org/technologies/parental-controls.html](http://www.internetmatters.org/technologies/parental-controls.html)



[www.vodafone.com/content/parents.html](http://www.vodafone.com/content/parents.html)



recommended resources on the left are great sources of information which outline some of the potential risks and provide supporting information for parents and carers.

### Some useful suggestions to get started...

- ☐ Don't be put off by the technology - remember Knowledge v. Wisdom (what would we do if the technology wasn't involved?)
- ☐ Agree some ground rules - set out your expectations (and why). e.g. when can they go online and for how long (don't forget, most gaming consoles now use the Internet as well)?
- ☐ Talk to your child about the online world - what do they like, what worries them and what to do if something goes wrong
- ☐ Get your child to talk to you - Not confident? Don't know your Tweets from your Snaps? Consider a 'role swap' and let your child become your teacher to increase your own knowledge
- ☐ Consider parental controls - solutions don't need to be technical but filters on the home internet connection can help to screen inappropriate content
- ☐ Don't jump to conclusions if something goes wrong - we all make mistakes. Some sites/apps may include 'clickbait' in order to generate advertising income.
- ☐ Ensure privacy settings are set up on apps/sites and gaming consoles - there are often more options than typically thought but remember we still need to be careful what we share
- ☐ Keep an open dialogue - problems often go unreported for fear of losing access to the technologies they treasure

### and finally...

- ☐ DON'T FORGET THE POSITIVES - whilst the use of technology brings potential risks, it is part of our world and also provides immense opportunities and benefits

in partnership with



lancashire **safeguarding children board**

Know who  
online  
'friends'  
are



Ask your  
child to  
teach you  
about their  
online world

Be careful  
about what  
you share



Set  
expectations  
and time  
limits

Understand  
not  
everything  
online is true



Know how  
to report  
problems on  
Social Media

Know how  
to block  
unwanted  
callers



Check  
security  
settings are  
in place

Make sure  
you have an  
Anti-Virus  
program

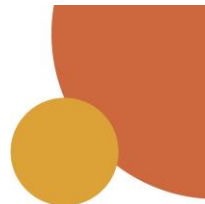
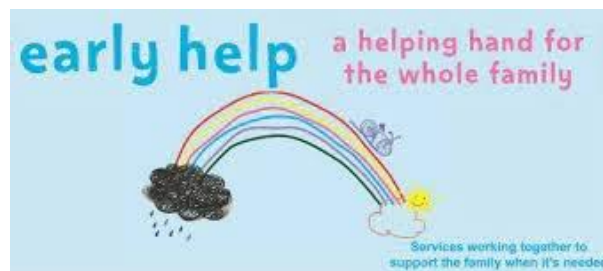


Consider  
using home  
broadband  
filters

Check age  
ratings on  
games



## Early help and support - Open day at Family hub



## You are invited!

Join us at Clitheroe Children and Family Wellbeing Services on Thursday 28th September to find out more about the Lancashire Family Hubs network!

Drop in anytime from 2pm-6pm to find out more about what's on offer and join in with some family friendly activities.

Welcome speeches from 3pm.

Clitheroe Children and Family Wellbeing Services, Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane, Clitheroe, BB7 2JY

Drinks and nibbles will be provided!

[lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk)



**Lancashire**  
County Council



## Dates for the diary



Monday 18th September. Meet the Teacher evening (NOT FOR YEAR 5 & 6 - as they are playing a netball league

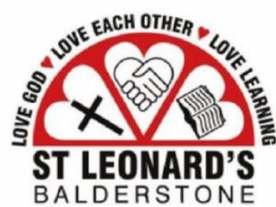
match)

Netball league Uper Key Stage 2

Forest school Year 4 (bring your gear)

Friday 22nd September. Celebration worship 9am in church

## Contact Us



**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](http://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)

### **Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary school**

Commons Lane

Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

01254 769150

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

Visit us on the web at <http://balderstoneschool.co.uk>