





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

Friday 22nd September 2023

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



Rain, rain go away.....come again another day! Despite the rain, it has been a very varied week in school, with Bikeability, Forest School, puddle jumping, some wonderful Roman artwork and outstanding maths journalling too!

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher meetings on Monday, we hope you found them informative. Year 5 and 6 parents, we shall be in touch with you regarding a convenient date. I shall put any supporting documents on our brand new school website. Find it on: <https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk/> It is still a work in progress, as it only came live yesterday - but we are excited about this new format.

*On Tuesday I accompanied Mrs Heyworth to the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Annual PE conference in Accrington. I didn't know quite what to expect, but the morning turned out to be an incredibly proud one for our small school. Not only were we presented our Platinum School Games award (of which there were only 4 schools in the Ribble Valley given this accolade) but then this was followed up by an amazing achievement.....Balderstone won the Ribble Valley school sports participation award for the number of sporting events and opportunities we provided/attended/ over the last academic year. The head of the sports partnership used our school as an inspiration to other schools, showing how a small school can make such an impact on children's sports lives. I was so proud of Mrs Heyworth's leadership, our staff, our children and our parents who all help make these sports events a reality. For a small school we have taken part in a **huge** array of sporting events - gymnastics, kurling, Animal olympics, football, cricket, dodgeball, dance, cross-country, sports festivals and the Lancashire School Games to name but a few. Thank you so much to all of you who have driven, supported, helped cheer on and support our passion for giving our children the very best extra curricular and curricular provision and opportunities as possible!*

The other moment of complete joy for me this week was seeing our newest EYFS members having the most fabulous time in their waterproof suits, splashing in the rain and giggling past themselves! It was so special to see them enjoying the puddles, calling out each others' names and loving the sensation of being dry whilst playing out in torrential rain! They absolutely summed up the joy of our school family and warmed our hearts.

A huge congratulations to all our Year 5 cyclists, who had to brave the elements to complete their Stage 1 and 2 Bikeability. A special mention to Mohammed, Falak and Eshaal who have all managed to ride independently for the very first time - we are so proud of you all.

Blessings,

Mrs Gow



<https://sway.office.com/RvbTUKEnKolFEZCD#content=S6BYgWJyFvy1f>

New school Instagram



Did you know that we had our very own school Insta page.

<https://www.instagram.com/balderstonesch/> This page, alongside our very popular Twitter and Facebook page, helps us to keep you informed about all the amazing things that happen in our school. I shall be sending out new consent forms for social media in the coming week. Please do be aware that if you opt out of social media photo permissions then you may not receive photo updates from school trips/residential holidays, as this is the way in which we post images of your child's activities.

Busy Bees Bulletin



The children this week have enjoyed some new sports activities but have also been enjoying making their own jelly, baking and also making their very own slime recipes!

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

WB - 25th September

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 BUSY BEES					
Breakfast options	• Toast & Jam • Cereal	• Cereal • Yogurts	• Toast & Jam • Cereal	• Pancakes • Cereal	• Spaghetti hoops & toast • Vegetables
Activities	• Multi-skills	• Tri-golf	• Yoga	• Tag Rugby	• Benchball
After school snack	• Fruit of the day • Pina colada	• Fruit of the day • Cheese / Jam • Wraps or sandwiches	• Fruit of the day • Crumpets	• Fruit of the day • Beans / Spaghetti • Hoops on toast	• Fruit of the day • Cheese / Jam • Wraps or sandwiches
Activities	• Dodgeball • Make jelly	• Kurling • Bookmarks	• Scavenger Hunt • Cinema	• Basketball • Bake rice • Knappe tray bake	• Ultimate Frisbee

Fab Forest School



Year 3 had a great Forest School session to start the year. We wrapped up ready for the rain but we were lucky, we even spotted blue sky! We set about making maps of our field and Forest School site but, as always, we found our creativity led us in many different directions! We loved making our own natural paints and we experimented with using flowers and berries to make all different colours. Some of us made flags from our maps and some camouflaged them by adding lots of mud! We just had to go down to the brook area and see the seasonal changes that are taking place. We can't wait to explore the brook over the next few weeks!





Admissions - Do you know someone who needs a school family for 2024-2025?



Please continue to promote our school in your local communities. From next week, we shall have a number of flyers available for our Open Week in school. Please feel free to pick up some to share with your colleagues and community groups - Brownies, madrassas, swimming clubs etc,

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 📧 [@BalderstoneSch1](https://twitter.com/BalderstoneSch1) 🌐 www.balderstoneschool.co.uk



RING NOW TO BOOK A TOUR

Community and Church links - save the date September 23rd



Tomorrow morning we are coming together as a school family to support our church in their annual work day. We are going to help clear the car park of any litter, clear the church path and grounds and help tidy up the school area. Please do come along from 9am to join the community effort. I cannot tell you how grateful I was and church was too for all the families (of all faiths) who turned up last year to show how our school family comes together. If you know of any other local places who would benefit from a tidy up, then let Mrs Gow know. Anyone who turns up tomorrow is in store for some rather yummy cake too! Even if you can only spare 30 minutes, then please come along and join us.







We love reading - Meet the author at Waterstones Blackburn



<https://www.waterstones.com/events/meet-loki-author-louie-stowell/blackburn>

On Tuesday October 3rd come and join us as we welcome acclaimed author and illustrator Louie Stowell to Waterstones Blackburn. No ticket required!! Just come along, buy a book and join the queue to have your books signed and have a chat to Louie!

Mrs Gow has also received a special letter from <http://www.lindsaylittleson.co.uk/books/> to help us to promote reading in our school. How exciting!

Author Wall Letter

To everyone at Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary,

I hope you've enjoyed a relaxing summer break and are looking forward to the new term. When I was school-age, I often felt a bit gloomy when the holidays ended and cheered myself up on my first day back by choosing a brilliant new book from the class or school library!

Libraries are Very Important Places. You can go there to escape into funny stories or travel on magical adventures whenever real-life gets sad or boring or lonely. You can visit to learn fascinating facts in the non-fiction section. Your friends might recommend books, and that's great, but remember to choose the stories that interest and excite YOU.

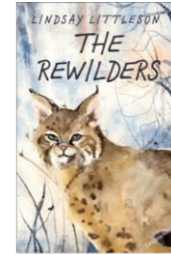
When I was a child I was an avid reader. It's a brilliant feeling, isn't it, when you're enjoying a story so much you don't want to put it down? Two of my childhood favourites were *Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C O'Brien and *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton. What's your favourite story? If you haven't found one yet, keep looking. Somewhere, in a bookshop or on a library shelf, is a story you'll love forever.



Keep reading!

Best wishes,

Lindsay Littleton



Sports Special - Netball News



Written by Josh Simpson (Eleanor's daddy)

The team thoroughly enjoyed the first of their tournaments! Although nervous at first they seemed to settle in as the games went on and even set up super shooter Laura twice to score against our other Balderstone team! Laura Barton, Matilda, Aisha and Georgia were players of the matches, along with Bilal! Wow Bilal, if you'd slowed down a little you would have scored 10 at least throughout the matches! You were the speediest player on the pitch. All seemed to really enjoy themselves (which is of course the main thing) though I do believe with continued coach guidance, they could win the league!! Stiff competition from some of the other schools with one school with as many as 5 RVNC (Ribble valley Netball club) players in their team and The mighty Balderstone still defeated them! 😬👍 well done to all!! Bring on November!!!

A huge thank you to Mrs Heyworth, Coach Aimy and all the parents who supported the team. Here's to more successes in the Stingers league.

Forest Church - October 22nd - Very special date!



Next month we have a **very** special Forest Church. On Sunday 22nd October 4pm, Blackburn diocese shall be attending our innovative Forest Church and also filming a promotional video about how Forest Church has brought our school and wider community together. You are VERY welcome to join us if you are Christian or ANY other faith to help us to show how our diverse school community comes together to unite through our common love of God's creation. Please book the date in your diary and Mrs Gow will send out more details asap.

Safeguarding Segment



This week we want to update you with information from our School Nursing team and our safer internet team. Please can I remind you that some of our children have severe nut allergies, and as such, we are a nut free school - absolutely NO Nutella sandwiches, nut snack bars etc to be included in packed lunches please.

parentline chathealth



SCAN ME

Young People
Scan this QR
code to find
support

Text a school nurse directly to talk about
health or emotional wellbeing:
If you're 11-19 text our ChatHealth line on:

07507330510

or scan the QR code



SCAN ME

Parents scan
this QR code to
find support

care.think.do.
WE CHANGE LIVES BY TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE.



If you're a parent of 5-19 year old text our Lancashire ParentLine for support on:

07312263554



or scan the QR code

Support with Medical Conditions in School

Confidentiality

We might inform someone if we are concerned about the safety of you, your child or someone else but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).



If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. If it is an emergency call 999 or go to the emergency department (A&E). Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number.

Messages are charged at your usual rates.

Skips Safety Net Keeping children safe online

Parent Guides to Online Safety



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures




A Parent's Guide to Gaming




A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming






A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skips.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with:

- Home Office
- West Midlands Regional Production Unit
- West Midlands police and crime commissioner

National Trust Free Passes



National Trust

Did you know that the National Trust is offering new, free passes this Autumn. Check out the following link for more information. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/escape-into-autumn> What a wonderful way to spend a weekend that touring some of the most beautiful sites in the North West (and beyond!)

Dates for the diary



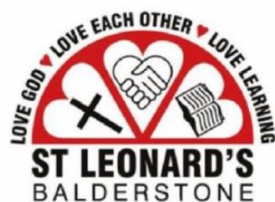
Monday 25th September. Forest school, Year 5/6 football match.

Tuesday 26th September 8.45am Rabbit class Phonics say, stay and play session

Thursday 28th September after school girls' football at Bowling

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 31st
October – 4th 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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Blackburn

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01254 769150

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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