





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

Friday 29th September 2023

In This Issue



In this week's edition of the newsletter

- **Mrs Gow's Words for the Week**
- **Forest church - special service**
- **Community service day at church**
- **FOBS need your help!**
- **Open week in school**
- **Safeguarding section - keeping your child safe at clubs**
- **Dates for your diary -what's coming up!**
- **How to Contact Us**

Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



*This morning I had the pleasure of attending the Blackburn Diocese Headteachers' conference and joined many of our primary and secondary headteachers. Bishop Philip (the Bishop of Blackburn) led us in worship and then we explored our shared vision for our church schools. It always strikes me, and visitors who come to our school, how much love is rooted in our school. I feel incredibly blessed every day to lead a school family where our staff live to serve, our children love to learn and our parents and governors enable us all to flourish. Our vision is based on a verse from the book of Ephesians that states that when we are rooted in God's love, extend and understand this love, then we will live our lives to the full - aspirational and inspirational. I see this love in action **every day** in our school - whether it is the Year 6 monitor who cuts up a younger child's food without being asked, a teacher who gives up their lunchtime to record a podcast with some children or who gives us their evening so the girls can play footy, a parent who brings in spare uniform for the newly new uniform stall or the governor who gives up their time every week to make coffee for parents, run toddler group or run the daily mile. There are no exam results that show this kind of thing....but truly if they did, then our school would be top of every league table!*

A huge Balderstone welcome to the two new children who have joined our school this week in EYFS - Saffiyah and Fatima! The buddies (our gardeners) have been kept very busy this week, helping their little ones (seeds) settle into the school routine. I got a lovely cuddle one lunchtime this week from a little one who needed a lunchtime nap (I knew just how they felt) and Mrs Johnstone had to keep me awake too! It has been a real blessing to see the kindness, patience and fun that our Year 6 buddies bring to the youngest members of our school family. Did you know that your child is assigned a house team, a school family group (they sit with them on their lunch table) and a family patron? These diverse patrons are people of faith, who have acted as courageous advocates for others and lived lives rooted and grounded in love - like our mission statement. This year our patrons are:

Nick Vujicic (a quadriplegic Christian evangelist who inspires people to love themselves just as they are and to love others they meet)

Bear Grylls (adventurer and survival expert who uses his faith to help him face the toughest of challenges)

Harriet Tubman (social activist who after escaping slavery went back to help others find freedom through the 'Underground Railway')

Martin Luther King (American minister and leader of the civil rights movement)

Corrie Ten-Boom (her bravery sheltered Jewish people from the Nazis in the Netherlands)

Desmond Tutu (first Black African to hold the position of Archbishop in Cape Town and human rights activist)

Greta Thunberg (children's choice - activist for action against climate change)

Malala Yousafzai (Pakistani, Nobel Peace Prize winner for her activism for girls' education)

Mother Teresa (missionary worker based in India)

Mary Seacole (nurse, traveller and writer - she fought against social injustice, hatred and prejudice and served our country with her bravery)

William and Catherine Booth - (founded the Salvation Army to help serve the poorest in our society and those in need)

Sybil Pheonix - (British community worker and foster mum, who was first black woman to be given the MBE for her community cohesion work)

If you have any ideas of other people of faith, who have lived lives 'rooted and grounded in love' then please do let us know and we can introduce some new patrons for next year.

Today the children voted for their new school council members. The results of this democratic vote will be revealed next week. As part of their role, leading our pupil voice in school the children are invited to their first task - helping deliver our gifts to church at Harvest festival next Sunday 11am. We look forward to presenting the children with their badges at this service.

Many Blessings,

Mrs Gow

New school Website



We have recently updated our school website. The site is still under construction but the new format is superb. Hopefully, the new tabs will be easy to navigate, as we now have 5 new tabs and a new front page layout with a video too:

<https://balderstoneschool.ovw7.juniperwebsites.co.uk/>

Front page - scroll down and check out our new Upcoming events calendar, Facebook links and newsletter page.

About us (all useful info - holidays, term dates, school day, Busy Bees info)

Admissions - to help new parents find out how to get a place at school

Love Learning - Curriculum information, class pages, Forest school

Love Each other - Safeguarding, SEND, House teams

Love God - Church, worship and community news.

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

<https://www.instagram.com/balderstonesch/> Please do share the link to try and build our followers!

FOBS (Friends of Balderstone School) Meeting



Why not come and join our FOBS team and help plan out school community events. FOBS need your imaginations, creative ideas, offers of support and help to make our school fund-raising events a reality. We are planning our most popular night of the year - Bonfire Night. We are meeting in school (come in through the staff entrance) on Wednesday 4th October at 7.25pm. We need your help to make this evening a booming success! Definitely come along if you are new to the Balderstone family - some and meet the team and find out how FOBS help us to fund so many of the extras that our children enjoy! We hope to see you there next Wednesday - I'm sure there will be yummy cake!

Church work day - thank you so much!



A huge thank you to the members of our school ACTS team (Action in our Community team) who came out and helped to clear the school/church grounds on Saturday morning. What joy to see the adults and children working together, laughing together, hoovering together and chatting whilst they worked! Our church family REALLY appreciate your time and effort. Our ACTS team are now looking for other local projects to help - does your road/car park/mosque grounds need some love from Balderstone? Let Mrs Gow know.





Forest Church - EVERYONE welcome.



Our Forest Church service on 22nd October at 4pm is all about red squirrels. We will start off in church and then go outside for some fun in the church yard and on the school field. Hopefully it will be sunny but please wear waterproofs and wellies just in case! We'll be searching, planting, listening and singing! Then it's into school for delicious home made treats and fabulous craft activities. There will also be a very special appearance from Cyril the squirrel! The service is being filmed by our friends from Blackburn Diocesan Board of Education who would like to inspire other schools and churches to try Forest Church. Everyone is very welcome! It would be wonderful to show how our school family at Balderstone comes together, worships together (even if we are from different faiths) and how we can share the similarities in our beliefs and love of the outdoors!

VERY SPECIAL - Forest Church October 2023



Harvest Festival - This year's charity collection



This year we are supporting charities in Balderstone and beyond.

BALDERSTONE - we are going to collect dried foods, tins, toiletries and packet foods to support Blackburn Food Bank. Please bring your donations in to school on Friday. Baskets of food/bags would be very gratefully received.

BEYOND - Bishop Philip's Harvest appeal this year is to help the people of South Sudan recover and rebuild their homes after a period of terrible civil war. **Friday is a NON-UNIFORM day for a £1 donation** (if possible) to the Harvest appeal. Please bring your cash donation into school on Friday.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO OUR HARVEST SERVICE IN SCHOOL ON FRIDAY MORNING AND TO OUR HARVEST SERVICE AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY. ALL MEMBERS OF SCHOOL COUNCIL ARE ASKED TO ATTEND HARVEST THIS YEAR, ON SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER 11AM MORNING AS PART OF THEIR NEW ROLE. This service is suitable for all faiths - as we come together to say thank you for the gifts we share!

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 this week to take to mosque, Brownies, work, toddler groups and beyond. Mrs Riddell and Mrs Johnstone started our door to door canvassing in the local area today. 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 📱 [@BalderstoneSch1](https://twitter.com/BalderstoneSch1)

www.balderstoneschool.co.uk

RING NOW TO BOOK A TOUR

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!

Sports Special - Football Crazy



We've been a bit football crazy this week, with our junior teams in action. It is such a joy to see so many of our children representing our school in such a range of sports. A huge thank you to all the parents/carers who help us transport the children to these events. Mrs Heyworth was overwhelmed by the numbers of our children who volunteered to run in this year's cross-country event - with over 36 pupils putting their names forward! We saw real determination and commitment from our teams this week and although we faced some stern competition, the teams kept their sporting values and enthusiasm. It was also particularly noteworthy that we were one of the only schools to field a diverse team playing both girls and boys (the Lionesses would have been proud of us!) in Monday's tournament.

Monday's tournament saw our Year 5/6 mixed team take on Chatburn, Pendle, Barrow and finally Moorlands. The team started so well with a 1-1 draw against Chatburn. We then faced a couple of tough matches, where we had to keep our heads and defend. William (the Cat) Sagar did a great job in nets, gradually gaining in confidence even to save a penalty! Wonderful work from Bilaal, covering ground and piercing through the midfield. It was wonderful to see Zaydene, Abbas, Stanley playing so cooperatively and Abigail and Laura showing strength in defence. Laura had a great shot saved and Bilaal must have covered every inch of the pitch with his forward play. We were incredibly proud of our play against Moorlands (football academy). A huge thank you to our parent supporters and to Mr Pathan for his coaching.



Safeguarding Segment



This week we think about how you can keep your child safe when they attend clubs outside of school. You are also invited to an online safety event hosted at Westholme (see information below)

Online Safety Evening - Westholme



Dear all,

Online Safety Evening 26 September 2023

Westholme School are delighted to invite [Sharon Girling OBE](#), to host a two-day programme of e-safety on 26 and 27 September 2023. There will be parent sessions on the evening of 26 September which will be hosted in our Croston Theatre and Westholme students will benefit from year group talks during the School day on 27 September.

Sharon Girling OBE is a former police officer who retired following thirty years' service. Her final role was as an investigator at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP). She was at the forefront of a national and international response to online child abuse and developed the processes and procedures that led to the creation of CEOP. She is currently conducting training programmes for schools, law enforcement and businesses both nationally and internationally. Sharon has been awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for her services to policing.

The parent sessions promise to be informative sessions to help children navigate the minefield that is the Internet and a number of fantastic tips and essential guidance on using social media to ensure that children's devices are set up correctly and securely.

Please click on the link below to sign up for the parent sessions.

Tuesday 26 September Prep parents 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Tuesday 26 September Senior parents 7.00pm – 8.00pm

<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/jYp4yyamH>

Yours sincerely,

Carla Hornby

Senior Deputy Head

Principal: Dr Richard Robson BA(Hons), PGCE, MA, EdD

Wilmar Lodge, Meins Road, Blackburn. BB2 6QU
Tel: 01254 506070 Email: secretary@westholmeschool.com Website: www.westholmeschool.com

Westholme School Ltd., a registered charity, limited by guarantee, is registered in England under the Company Reference Number 926692



<https://sway.office.com/RhfYEK5QDVh40Jql#content=ZHH0KfUD0wpTOx>

HYNDBURN AND RIBBLE VALLEY



NO BOOKING REQUIRED

DADS
FOSTER DADS

UNCLES
BROTHERS

GRANDADS

ON THE MENU
A DELICIOUS BRUNCH AND A
COUPLE OF HOURS OF
QUALITY TIME AND FUN
WITH YOUR CHILDREN
0-11yrs


**LAST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
BEGINNING 30th SEPT UNTIL 16th DEC**
GREAT HARWOOD
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE BB6 7JQ

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL 01200 420460 OR
MESSAGE OUR PAGE




Lancashire
County Council





WESTHOLME
UNRIVALLED HOLISTIC EXCELLENCE




ONLINE SAFETY EVENING

hosted by Sharon Girling OBE

**ESSENTIAL TRAINING TO KEEP YOUR CHILD
SAFE ONLINE**

26 SEPTEMBER 2023
PREP PARENTS: 5:30PM - 6:30PM
SENIOR PARENTS: 7:00PM - 8:00PM

- Understand the dangers of children and phones
- Essential information for parents
- Up-to-the-minute vital advice for parents
- Practical tips to support your child better



Sharon Girling OBE

Dates for the diary



Monday 2nd October. Cross country - St Michael's and St John's 4-5pm

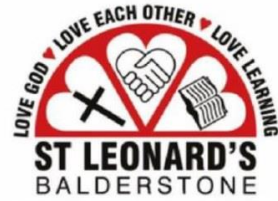
Tuesday 3rd October. Toddler group

Thursday 5th October Year 5/6 trip to Whittaker Art Gallery, Harvest Supper in school hall

Friday 6th October Harvest festival celebration worship 9am in church **NON-UNIFORM day £1**

Sunday 8th October Harvest festival in church - everyone welcome. School councillors to attend 11am.

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)

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>