



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter

"rooted and grounded in love..." Ephesians 3:17

Friday 13th October 2023

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Mrs Gow's Words for the Week...



Many thanks for wonderful welcome back to work after my poorly week. It has been a real lift to my spirits to be back with our school family. This week the staff and I have been busy preparing for our Open Week next week as we have been gathering photos and video clips of our school in action it has made me reflect on how special it is to be part of our small school. This week we have ventured on the next step of our maths mastery journey too, launching our new Mastering number course for our junior classes. These special fluency sessions are designed to help our children become more flexible and automatic in their responses to calculation. These sessions alongside our investment in Maths Shed and Spelling Shed are great new complements to our Balderstone curriculum.

How wonderful to see so many families join us for our Coffee Creative Lantern making this afternoon, ready for our Balderstone Brightness festival on 31st October. Although the craft was a little sticky at

times, the final results were truly stunning and I can't wait to see them all lit up! The fellowship and fun that these sessions create are testament to Mrs Turner's infectious enthusiasm and the Arts Council ingenuity. I so hope that many of you will join us for our Festival of Light parade on the 31st October, where the children can come and collect sweet treats without having to go out on the streets!

Our dedicated FOBS (Friends of Balderstone School) team met last week and have started to arrange some wonderful school events for the coming months. A huge thank you in advance to all of the helpers and organisers. The fundraising of FOBS is invaluable to school and over the next year we are going to be raising money to replace our well loved adventure trail with a brand new, sustainable adventure playground including a climbing wall! Please do support these events where you can, as they make a massive impact to our small school (and they are great fun too!)

Many of our Year 6 children have been finding out this week if their application to Grammar school has been successful. Every year a number of our children sit the Clitheroe, Westholme and other independent/Grammar school entrance examinations. I am a great believer that God knows the plans that He has for us and ensures that we are in the right place to fulfil that plan. Therefore, to all our pupils anxiously waiting for results please remember that you will be a blessing to whichever secondary school you attend and we are proud of you no matter what!

I hope to see many of you in school next Wednesday as you join us for our Open Day and to celebrate all that Balderstone has to offer. Please invite others from the community to come and see our school in action!

Many blessings,

Mrs Gow

Forest School fun - Year 2, 3, 4 & 5




*Next week Years **2, 3, 4 & 5** will all get a Forest School session. On Wednesday Mrs Riddell is planning a **full day of Forest School learning**. Could all children in these classes bring a change of clothing, spare socks, waterproof trousers & wellies (if you have them) into school on **Wednesday**. The children in the juniors will all need their PE kits too (including trainers).*

A special thank you this week to Mrs Riddell, Mrs Burton, Mr Ryan Dixon (one of our governors) and the children who helped lay new wood chippings and lay our Christian value paving stones on the Forest school path - it looks brilliant.

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!**



Join us at Balderstone Church

FOREST *Church*

Sunday 22nd October 4pm



Coffee Creative - lighting up Friday afternoon



Great fun was had by all this afternoon at the first of our Coffee Creative afternoons. We had a go at our very first willow lantern making, ready for our Balderstone Brightness parade on October 31st. Once we had mastered the instructions and base making, we could get gluey and brewy! Thank you to the Arts Council for their support and a massive thanks to Mrs Turner and to Mrs Riddell for cutting over 400 pieces of willow!









Safeguarding Section



This week we focus on dental health.



Dental Visits

It is important to ensure your child visits the dentist at regular intervals.

Dental visits are free for children up until the age of 18 years old. Their first dental visit should be before the age of 1 years old.

Why not let Dr Ranj and Supertooth help you and your little one look after their teeth in these brilliant age related videos: bspd.co.uk/kidsvids

Other fantastic resources that you will find helpful: bspd.co.uk/patients/patientinfo/dentalhealth.org/ childrens-teeth.brushdj.com

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



#LetsGetLancashireBrushing
or visit: lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/your-health-and-wellbeing/mouth-and-tooth-care

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NHS Lancashire County Council

Brushing your baby's teeth can help avoid infection and decay





Did you know? It's never too early to start brushing

Mouth & Tooth Care

Mouth and teeth care is vital for children. They need their teeth for eating, drinking, smiling, talking, singing and shouting. This does not happen on its own and they need your help to look after their teeth.

TOP TIPS

- Brush with a family fluoride toothpaste as soon as you see their first tooth.
- Brush your child's teeth twice a day; always brush before bedtime and at least one other time during the day.
- Use a smear of toothpaste on the brush if your child is under three years of age or a small pea-sized amount if over the age of three.
- Use a family toothpaste having between 1350ppm – 1500ppm fluoride content. This information can be found on the product box and tube.
- Help your child to brush their teeth up to the age of seven.
- Encourage your child to spit out the excess toothpaste. This is hard for under threes to spit so don't worry. Do not rinse with water.
- Plain, non-sweetened milk (not flavoured or milkshakes) or plain, still water is safe to drink in between meals.
- Sugar-free foods, such as chopped pieces of fruit or vegetables are safe to snack on between meals.

Introducing a Cup

Encourage your baby to sip a small amount of water from an open or free flow cup with their meals or with every taste of food from the age of 6 months until the age of 1. This should not replace the fluid received by breastmilk or infant formula.

From the age of 12 months give drinks, ideally water and non-sweetened milk in an open or free flow lidded cup instead of a bottle or sippy cup.




Flourishing Friday - Celebrating excellence in our Learning & Behaviour



Congratulations to this week's Flourishing Friday winners:

EYFS. Charlotte - wow start to full days in Pre-school

Year 1 Muhammad Aidan - wow writing

Year 2 Abu-Bakr - wonderful work and some amazing history writing

Year 3 Muhammad - great team work and reading dedication

Year 4 Poppy S - Wow writing and work rate!

Year 5 William - impressive progress

Year 6 Safaa - being an amazing role model

Special mention this week to Matilda - who has received a commendation from a parent this week for the difference she is making to her buddy's life at Balderstone. You are making a huge impact Matilda on Isla's enjoyment of school.

New menus



In the next week our new school menus will be coming home (on Microsoft Forms) for you to choose your child's meals for the second half-term of Autumn. Please, please, please go through this menu WITH your child to make sure that they know and have been involved in the choosing of the meals. We are having a number of children asking to change lunch choices every lunchtime, and as we pre-order and Miss Lee cooks to the number of orders, this is making it very difficult to ensure that we

are cooking the right amount of each meal. We are striving to make sure that we have very little food waste, so this would really help us to cut down on wasted food. Thank you.

Prayers for Peace



The news from Israel and Palestine has shook the world and many of our children have been deeply concerned by the events of the past week. As a school we believe that prayer makes an impact, and therefore we want to encourage our families and children to use our school's interfaith prayer space. This space is in the school library and will be open at lunchtimes and on a **Tuesday morning from 8.30am** for ANYONE who wants to come in and pray. Please use the main entrance to school. It is really special to have our children and staff of different faiths praying alongside one another.

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" When we gather as a school family to pray, we cultivate a sense of togetherness and strengthen our bonds

Open week and 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

🌐 Twitter @BalderstoneSch1

🌐 www.balderstoneschool.co.uk

A small school with a big heart - for learning, for God and for each other!

Outstanding Pre-school education from **3 years of age**

Maths mastery school

1:1 iPad scheme

Platinum school games accredited school and extra-curricular offer

Gold Artsmark school

Wraparound care from 7.40am till 5.45pm

RING NOW TO BOOK A TOUR

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.



FOBS & upcoming event dates



Please pencil in the following dates in your diary:

Bonfire Saturday **4th November** (see poster attached)

Children in Need **17th November** - non-uniform day/cake donations and money needed for the fun stalls

Non-uniform – chocolate gift donation please **24th November** for Church Christmas fair

Hamper gifts in return for Non-uniform - (more details to follow on year group donations) **8th December**

Church Christmas Fair **Saturday 9th December**

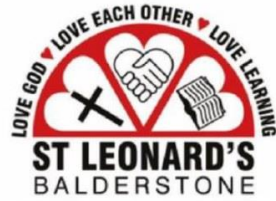
Infant Nativity in church - all EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 involved **Wednesday 13th December** 1.30pm and after -school performance

Carol service at Blackburn Cathedral (whole school going and joining with Mellor and Samlesbury school too) **Thursday 14th December 12pm**

School Christmas Disco and Christmas dinner **Wednesday 20th December**

Summer fun Saturday **29th June** (provisional date - the best event of the Summer!)

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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