



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary
Newsletter 3rd November 2023

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

Friday 3rd November 2023

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Mrs Gow's words for the week....



We have had a busy week in school with: Harry Potter themed lunch, Balderstone Brightness and Parent lunch. The children have returned to school really well and have buckled down to this half-term's learning. EYFS are enjoying their new theme of Balderstone heroes - people who help us. It was fabulous to see them in their new hand-made fire engine (thank you Mrs Hussain and Mrs Turner) dressed up in their costumes and using some amazing vocabulary. Fox class have drafted their Autumn poems this week..... and WOW, their imagery has been wonderful. Year 5 and 6 had a large number of teachers from across the North West come to observe their maths lesson on Thursday as part of Mrs Heyworth role leading the North North West Maths hub. The responses from the teachers was incredible - they were blown away by our children's mathematical thinking, use of maths language and their work ethic!

A huge thank you to Ms Lee, Mrs Chand and Mrs Burton for our wonderful themed lunch time this week. These themed lunch times are such fun and take a great deal of preparation. Miss Lee was decorating spider cupcakes for hours! It was a joy to see the children in their house teams, having a magical banquet together.

The clocks going back played in our favour this week for our Balderstone Brightness festival. Each class, in class worship time, designed their own prayer pumpkin, thinking about a message of hope they wanted to share with our local community. Then we got to work carving our class pumpkins. We used these in our festival and then put them on display at Sandersons Bakery wall to brighten up our Mellor Brook community. The lanterns made at our recent Coffee Creative looked stunning on our parade. We enjoyed hunting for the pumpkins, collecting tokens and swapping them for our treats back in school. A huge thank you to Mrs Turner, Mrs Riddell, the staff and the FOBS team for supporting our first festival of light,

Come and join us next Friday morning at 9.15am in school for our Remembrance Day service. Over the next week, we have a range of poppy themed Royal British Legion gifts. Poppies are on sale, as are snap bands, zip tags, rulers and wristbands for sale.

Many blessings,

Mrs Gow

Support the Royal British Legion - poppy appeal



Poppies and poppy themed gifts on sale from Monday. Please bring cash and then our Year 6 pupils will open the Poppy Shop!



Balderstone Bonfire - Join the fun!



It's nearly time for one of our biggest family evenings of the year - the Balderstone Bonfire Bonanza. Come and join us from 6pm on Saturday 4th, for our bonfire treats and fun! We have our BBQ, curry stall, delicious Stiks waffles, candy floss, cakes, drinks, popcorn and sweets for sale. Then we have our glitter tattoos and glow wands too. All this and the most amazing bonfire and superb firework display. No matter what the weather does, we shall brave the elements and have fun together. The entry fee simple covers the cost of our amazing fireworks. The funds raised at the bonfire are used to support the children in our school through buying resources for school, coach travel to trips, buying new technology for school and we are also fundraising for our new adventure trail! Our fab FOBS volunteers do so much to support our small school and we really appreciate the wonderful ways that they bring our school family together for such fun times!

**Balderstone
Bonfire**

**Saturday 4th November
@ Balderstone St Leonards'**

Doors open – 6pm
Lighting of the bonfire – 6:30pm
Fireworks 7:00pm

Family ticket – £10
Adults – £4
Children – £2

Cakes
Curry
Barbecue
bar
sweets
Glitter tattoos
Fibre optic glow wands
Candyfloss and popcorn

Forest school fun



Year 4 went exploring in Forest school this week. We looked for autumn treasures, found some great puddles and muddy paths and found a secret way back to the Forest School area! Shhhh! All the best walks end with emptying wet and muddy wellies!



<https://sway.office.com/v7maXLHTahb3U0aH#content=uqY2L9V4DaHrYT>







We love reading! Scholastic Book Fair



Our annual Scholastic Book fair, pop-up book shop arrives in school on Wednesday next week. The children will be able to browse the selection on Thursday during the school day and then the fair will be open at the following times:

Thursday 9th November after school till 4pm

Friday 10th November breakfast slot 8.15am - 8.40am

Monday 13th November after school slot till 5.30pm

Tuesday 14th November open for Toddler group parents 9.30am - 11.30am, after-school till 4pm

The commission that we raise through the book fair helps us to keep our school library stock up to date and buys new books for our class book corners.




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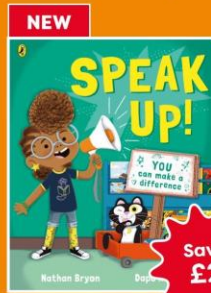
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£5.3M IN FREE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

Illustrations from Tom Gates © Liz Pichon

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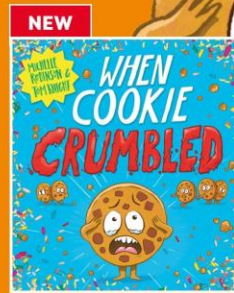


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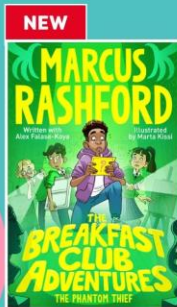
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Illustration from When Cookie Crumbled © Tom Knight, 2023

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Art © Dav Pilkey.

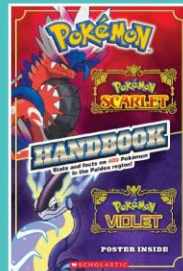


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Illustrations from Wings of Fire © Joy Ang, 2023

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You can pay online at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in **£5, £10, £15, £20 and £25**. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.



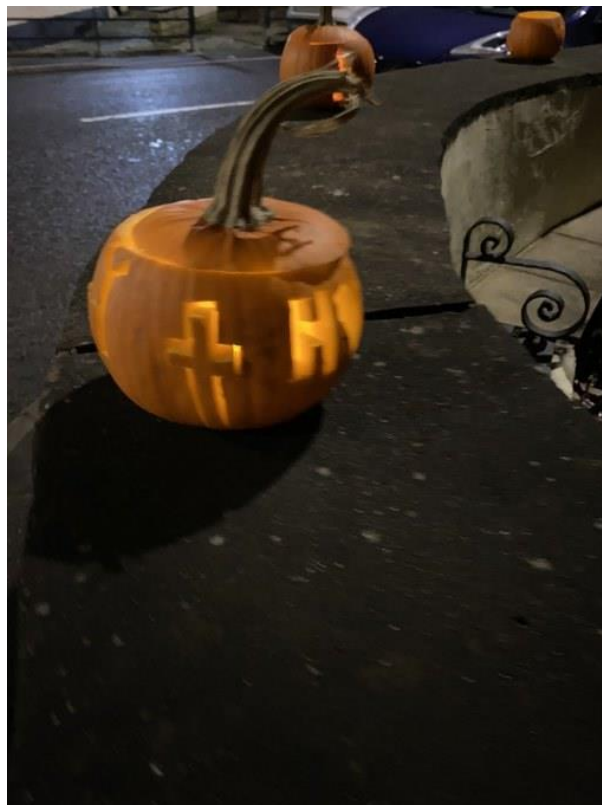
*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.
All books subject to availability. Book range may vary. ⚠ Warning: Not suitable for children under 3. Small parts.

Balderstone Brightness!



Tuesday evening's first Balderstone Brightness evening was a resounding success. We loved decorating our homemade willow lanterns and then going on a parade around the school grounds in the darkness - shining our lights! We collected tokens from the hidden pumpkins and then swapped them for some delicious sweet treats. Mrs Gow fell in love with Mars bar crispy cakes! What a lovely way to spend All Hallows' Eve. Thank you to all the families who supported this event, baked cakes and for FOBS for providing LOTS of sweeties.

We then took our school designed pumpkins up to Mellor Brook to light up the Bakery wall. The designs were so meaningful - the candles for peace, the children united and holding hands, the heart radiating love and the words hope and joy to bless others. A huge thank you to Mrs Dowson's who donated the pumpkins to school.







After-school clubs with Absolute

This half-term we have two most incredible clubs on offer with our sports coaching team - our UV Glow-in-the-dark dodgeball for Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 and then our creative dance club is open for children in any class. We are putting a competitive dance squad ready to perform on stage at Burnley Mechanics Theatre! Scan the QR codes and sign up to secure your place. The clubs need at least 10 participants to run.

ABSOLUTE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

KS1/KS2 CREATIVE DANCE



'Nurturing the next generation'

COURSE DETAILS

Dates: Nov 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th / Dec 5th
Times: 3:20-4:20
Price: £30
What to bring: Change of clothes, Refillable water bottle

We are committed to helping children reach their full potential physically and mentally. We believe that participation in sport and physical activity is key to achieving this, which is why our programmes are designed to include every child.

HOW TO BOOK



Registration Process

1. Scan the QR code above
2. Create/Sign in to your account
3. Click After School Clubs
4. Click Balderstone
5. Click your child/children
6. Proceed to payment

 admin@absolute-futbol.org  www.absolute-futbol.org

ABSOLUTE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

REC, Y1, Y2 & Y3 UV DODGEBALL



'Nurturing the next generation'

COURSE DETAILS

Dates: Nov 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th / Dec 7th
Times: 3:20-4:20
Price: £30
What to bring: Change of clothes, Refillable water bottle

We are committed to helping children reach their full potential physically and mentally. We believe that participation in sport and physical activity is key to achieving this, which is why our programmes are designed to include every child.

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 admin@absolute-futbol.org  www.absolute-futbol.org

Safeguarding Section

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

When we talk to the children about their online usage, by far, the most popular site/app is You Tube. This week, we feature a parents guide to You Tube.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers & trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, facts & tips for adults.



YouTube

YouTube is an online platform - owned by Google - where anyone can upload & watch video content. All different types of information, advice & entertainment are uploaded & billions of people tune in to watch, rate & comment on it. As a parent, it's important you understand exactly what content your children might be seeing.

What parents need to know about YOUTUBE

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EASY TO ACCESS**
Any child with a Gmail account can sign into YouTube & access videos. Some content is 'Restricted' - age-restricted - but that platform relies on self-censorship, meaning kids can get around the rules with a fake date of birth. This could enable access to vulgar, violent & dangerous videos.
- USERS CAN PRIVATELY CONTACT YOUR CHILD**
When your child is signed in to YouTube with their Gmail account, there are various ways they can send & receive messages. This could be via the messaging app, or via the 'about' tab. There is scope here for users who your child does not know to make contact.
- YOUTUBE SUGGESTS RELATED CONTENT**
Videos with often 'safe' play buttons based on your child's viewing habits. The aim is to show related & appropriate content, but the problem is it's possible your child will be exposed to inappropriate content that isn't accurately related.
- 'CHALLENGE VIDEOS' CAN GO TOO FAR**
Challenge videos refer to a trend you're encouraged to see & do. Many challenge videos can be harmful & for a good reason, like the 'Ice Bucket Challenge'. But some are dangerous & even life threatening, such as the 'Bird Box Challenge'.
- SHARING VIDEOS RISKS YOUR CHILD'S PRIVACY**
If your child has a Gmail account, they can upload their own videos. In doing this, they must create a personal profile page known as a 'YouTube Channel'. The videos uploaded here can be viewed, commented on & shared by anyone. This could put your child's privacy at risk.
- CREATE A 'FAMILY' GOOGLE ACCOUNT**
Create a Google account to be used by the whole family. This will allow you to monitor exactly what your child is watching & uploading. Also, your child's YouTube page will display their recently viewed videos, channels, recommended videos & suggested channels.
- GET YOUR OWN ACCOUNT**
Create your own account so you can explore features yourself. Learn how to flag inappropriate videos, how to moderate comments & how to block users. This will help you feel more confident when providing advice & guidance to your children.
- BE MINDFUL OF CYBERBULLYING**
Once your child has posted a video, a worldwide audience can see it. Strangers may choose to comment on the video, both positively & negatively. It's important to check comments & any other interactions your child is making through the platform.
- GET TO KNOW POPULAR CHANNELS**
It's good to know which channels are most popular with your children. Some of the most popular channels right now are: PewDiePie, T-Series, Cocomelon, MrBeast, and many more.
- DON'T ASSUME YOUR CHILD IS TOO YOUNG**
YouTube and YouTube Kids are quickly becoming the chosen viewing platform for children between the ages of 2-18. It's likely this trend will continue. It's also possible children will become familiar with the platform at a younger age, so it's important to understand the positives & negatives of the platform.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Meet our expert
Pete Smith is a writer with over 10 years in research and analysis. He has written a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police. Pete has contributed work which has been printed in numerous award-winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry's leading bodies.

Flourishing Friday



A huge well done to the following pupils who have flourished all this week in their learning, love of each other and love of God.

EYFS. Evie - wow participation in class

Year 1 Ibrahim - confidence in writing

Year 2 Rollover to next week

Year 3 Safaa - living our school mission everyday

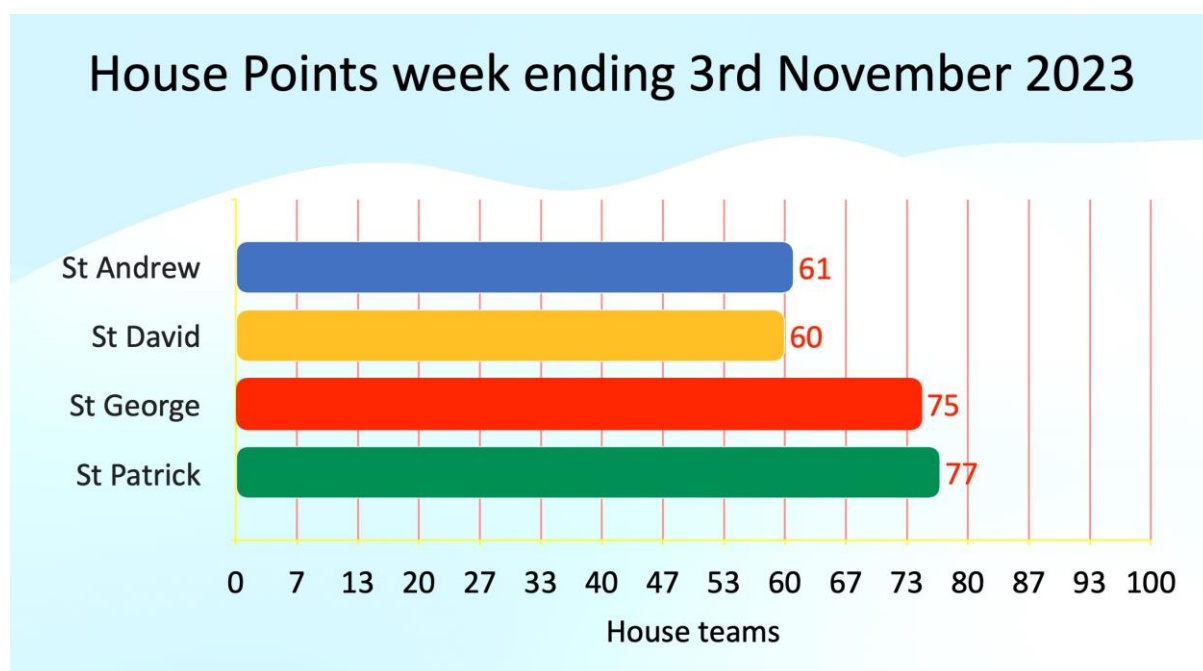
Year 4 Zayn - wonderful rounding in maths

Year 5 Alfie - wow maths

Year 6 Bilaal - humility and wonderful ideas in writing lessons

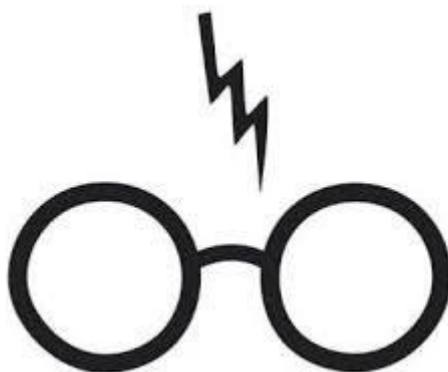
Special mention this week to Abigail - who has received a commendation from a parent this week for the difference she is making to her buddy's life at Balderstone.

House point winners



Congratulations to St Patrick - this week's house point winners!

Harry Potter - magical lunches at Balderstone!



This year's Harry Potter themed lunch was absolutely magical! The hall looked just like the great hall at Hogwarts with the floating candles, long banquet table and house teams. The food was equally magical and a huge thank you to Miss Lee, Mrs Burton and Mrs Chand for all their hard work. What a joy to see the children open-mouthed at the sight of the dinner hall magically transformed into the Great Hall. Look at the amazing photos!













Church and Community news



Do you love the sound of a brass band? Well the Christmas Brass Band concert is the event for you! Every year we get together, led by a wonderful brass band and enjoy singing a range of Christmas carols and songs. If you love a good Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer or Oh Little Town of Bethlehem then come along and join the sing-song! Ticket available from school soon.

St Leonard's Church Balderstone

Candle-lit
Christmas Concert
with
Coppull & Standish
Brass Band
plus our very own
Pop-up Choir

Sunday 3rd December 2023
6.30pm in church

£6 Adults Children free of charge

Refreshments will be served in school following the concert including mulled wine, mince pies, biscuits & soft drinks. Donations would be appreciated.


Tickets from:- School Office, Church or Catherine Dixon 01772 877289
Please also pay on the door

Busy Bees next week



There's lots of fun to be had next week. Miss Amy has planned some wow sports and also a bit of baking!

Y6B 6th November 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					
Breakfast options	rice pudding yogurts	scrambled eggs cereal	pancakes cereal	scrambled eggs cereal	toast & honey
Activities	Yoga	dodgeball	tennisball	multi-sports	Archery
After school snack	crackers & cheese / Jam	Jam / cheese sandwiches	Soup, bread & butter	Carrots + dips	crabula pizzas
	Fruit of the day	Fruit of the day	Fruit of the day	Fruit of the day	Fruit of the day
Activities	Harry Potter Thema Gweedilch movie	gymnastics Fr-sport games night	multi-sports make cookies dough	Just Dance make jelly	Football

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**

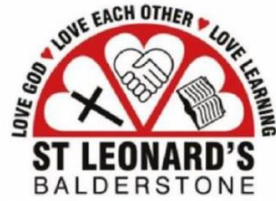
Infant Nativity in church - all EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 involved **Tuesday 19th December** 9.30pm and after -school performance

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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head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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