



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 10th 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....



Today in school we have held our Remembrance Day service in church. It was a special moment in our busy day to come together as a school family to give thanks, pray and remember those who have served our country and also to pray for those who are experiencing the sorrow of war and conflict now. It was particularly moving to see Sophie's dad in his uniform and to hear Poppy read out In Flanders Fields. Our prayers are especially with the children who are suffering so horrifically due to conflicts. We have recently gifted £185 to Save the Children as part of their appeal for children caught in conflict, thanks to your kind donations. We have also donated £120 to the Bishop of Blackburn's Harvest appeal to help South Sudan recover after their civil war.

Whilst thinking about light and how we can pray peace into our world, we know that a few of our families are celebrating Diwali this coming weekend. May we wish you a Diwali that brings happiness prosperity and joy to you and all your family. We also remember all those who are attending Remembrance Sunday services or memorial services this weekend.

I would personally like to thank our FOBS team for their planning, hard work and organisation for Bonfire Night. It was a perfect demonstration of how our FOBS team rally around to create our wonderful school community. A great night was had by all, so a huge thank you to Susie Barton, Janet Leaver and the whole team. The profits from the night go exclusively to our children, providing additional resources, fund coaches for school trips etc. It was lovely to welcome Mr Holroyd back too as our chef and to have a brand new curry chef for the evening!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Remembrance blessings,

Mrs Gow

Children in Need appeal



Next Friday is our annual Children in Need fundraiser - organised by our wonderful Mrs Burton and School Council. The money raised for children in need supports disadvantaged children around the UK. Pupils can come into school wearing something Spotacular ... something spotty, something bright or even your PJS if you fancy a more relaxed day! Every child who comes in non-uniform needs to bring a £1 charity donation.

The afternoon is one of the most enjoyable afternoons in our school calendar. School council and Mrs Burton set up the most spectacular cake stall (all donations gratefully received) and then a range of fun stalls and games that the children play together in the afternoon. The children will need a purse/envelope with small change in eg, 20ps etc so they can play the games, buy treats etc. We can't wait to get together for a fun afternoon of fundraising!

Please watch your speed



On Tuesday evening, I went to meet with Balderstone Parish Council to find out the results from the recent SPiD camera (to anonymously monitor speeds on Common Lane). I will be honest, the results really shocked me. We know that despite being a country-type lane, the road past school can get quite busy and the narrowness of the road in parts makes it even more hazardous. Unfortunately, the speeds recorded by the mobile camera were not great reading, with a maximum speed of **55 mph** recorded at 3.20pm on school day. The results from the camera have been passed to the local police and they are now planning on undertaking some enforcement on the road to keep our children and families safe. They may also enforce seatbelt and car seat rules if they pull cars over. Please help us to keep the area around our school safe through driving as cautiously and courteously as possible.

Many thanks.

For Project:	Commons Lane South East					
Project Notes:	Balderstone					
Location/Name:	Incoming					
Report Generated:	15/10/2023	16:14:18				
Speed Intervals:	5 MPH					
Time Intervals:	Instant					
Traffic Report From	11/09/2023	19:00:00	through	24/09/2023		
85th Percentile Speed	37 MPH					
85th Percentile Vehicles	2838					
Max Speed	55 MPH	on	13/09/2023	15:20:00		
Total Vehicles	3339					

Forest school fun



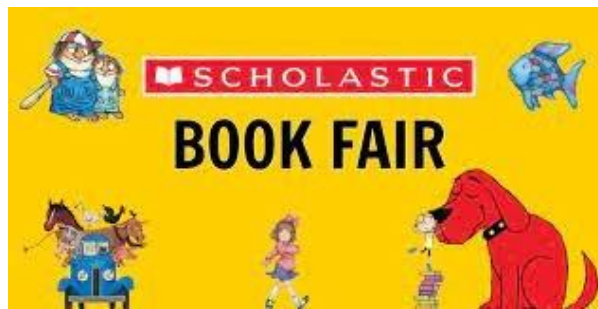
A huge thank you on behalf of Ribble Valley in Bloom to our Year 4 forest schoolers for planting over 100 daffodil bulbs during their session on Monday. We had over 100 bulbs donated through the parish council and the children made a wonderful job of planting them in our car park borders - ready to bring us some spring joy!

A huge thank you to Mrs Riddell and Alfie for replanting all the planters/window boxes at the front of school with some colour to hopefully survive the cooler weather!





We love reading! Scholastic Book Fair



The book fair is here! The children have loved having our very own book shop in the school. You still have time to come and browse or buy.

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.

FREE BOOKS
FOR YOUR
SCHOOL WHEN
YOU BUY AT
THE BOOK FAIR!

COME the **BOOK FAIR!**

A POP-UP
BOOK-STORE WITH
HUNDREDS OF BOOKS
FROM JUST
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£12.99 **£7.99**



£7.99



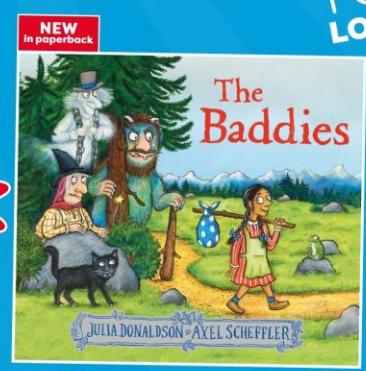
£7.99



£8.99



£7.99 **£2.99**



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£6.99

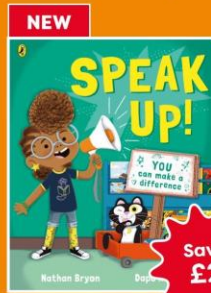


 **LOOK!**

LAST YEAR YOUR SUPPORT HELPED DONATE
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Illustrations from Tom Gates © Liz Pichon

Ages **2+**



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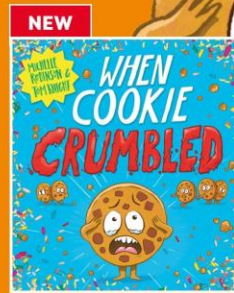


£6.99 **£2.99**

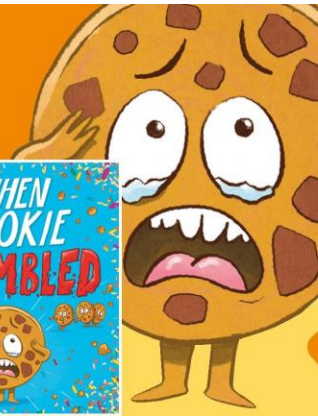
GREAT DEAL only **£2.99**



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Titles may vary.



£6.99 **£4.99**

GREAT DEAL only **£4.99**



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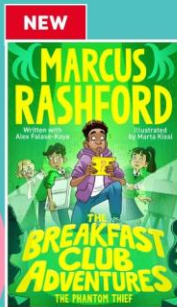
£19.96 **£9.99**

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Illustration from When Cookie Crumbled © Tom Knight, 2023

Ages **6+**

Art © Dav Pilkey.

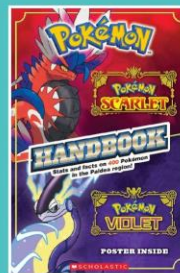


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£10.99 **£8.99**



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.

Safeguarding Section



After chatting with many of the pupils about their lives online, there are a couple of guides that I intend to share with you over the coming weeks. Many pupils enjoy gaming as part of their 'down' time, and many were talking about online spending. eg, buying currency for their games, tokens, v bucks, Fifa points etc. Here is the parent guide to microtransactions.

What are microtransactions?

Microtransactions are **real payments for virtual items**, usually occurring in free-to-play games. These can either be purely **aesthetic** or help **improve in-game performance**.

Loot boxes – virtual treasure chests you **pay to open** in-game – are one of the most popular forms of microtransactions. Players don't know what is in the chest they purchase until after they open it.

What are the risks?

Microtransactions have been criticised for **promoting gambling behaviour in children**. Often the contents are aesthetic improvements, with **no real value for the game**, which encourages players to buy another box to try and get a particular item they want.

Many have **questioned the ethics** of this, as games relying on microtransactions are often **advertised to children** who are more susceptible to this kind of marketing.

Young children may **keep buying in order to keep up with friends** also playing, and may not be fully aware that they are paying **real money for items**.

Microtransactions pose a particular problem for games where it is very **hard to succeed without making additional payments**. For example, success in EA's Sports Fifa Ultimate Team (FUT) largely relies on spending in-game.

Microtransactions

Parent Guide

A quick guide
to what you
need to know



What else should I do?



Making the occasional in-game purchase is no bad thing. However, make sure that **your card details aren't saved** on the device your child is using to stop bills from racking up.

The recently released **Age Appropriate Design Code** goes some way to **protecting children from overspending on microtransactions**. The new code requires all games to no longer use ‘**nudging**’ **techniques** – such as putting the ‘purchase’ button in overtly positive language or visuals.

Some **gaming companies** – for example Nintendo – have also started to **disclose the likelihood** of getting a high-value item from a loot box. Knowing the chance is very small should **stop children from spending too much**.

Make sure you continue to **talk to your child** about the concerns around in-game microtransactions. Encourage them to **think carefully** about what they spend money on, and help them identify when a game might be **manipulating them** into making a purchase.

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. Safiyyah - being busy, busy, busy!

Year 1 Farrin - wow writing

Year 2 Ralph - wonderful progress and attitude, Thomas B - amazing attitude to learning

Year 3 Eeva - living our school mission everyday

Year 4 Abdulah - wonderful poetry writing and love of maths

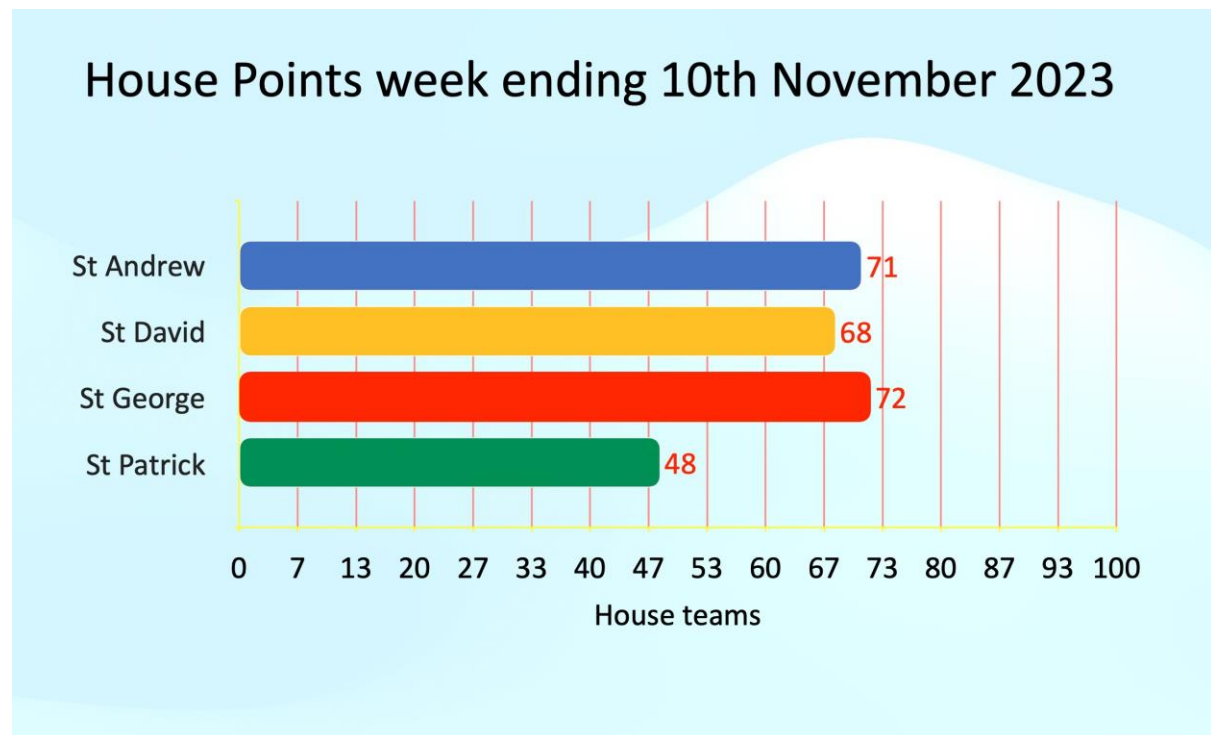
Year 5 Aisha - amazing friend and contribution to writing

Year 6 Sophie - being the most amazing buddy and role model

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

Well done to Matilda for her WOW writing and to Aisha for her creative writing. We are so proud of your efforts.

House point winners



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

The half-term winners (St David) had a wonderful trip to the cinema this week watching the Minions! We pretty much had the whole screen to ourselves!

FOBS & upcoming event dates



Please pencil in the following dates in your diary:

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 4pm (children to stay in school till the 4pm 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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