



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 17th November 2023

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

*Friday 17th November 2023*

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



This week has been a powerful reminder of the importance of prayer. Thank you for asking about Mrs Draycott after her car crash this week. Thankfully, she is in one piece, if a little battered and stiff. In school we have been focusing on peace this half-term - peace in our school, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts and praying for peace in our world. This week has been anti-bullying week, where we have been teaching the children to make a noise about bullying. This made us think about the things we stand up for, and to.

Today, we have supported our annual Children in Need charity event through sharing an hour of games, stalls and eating lots of treats! It reminds us of the importance of fun, fellowship and friendship and also how blessed we are. School Council, led by our very own charity champion Mrs Burton, did an outstanding job of transforming the hall into a games hall.

Year 5 (and a few of History council) had a superb trip to Lancashire Museum earlier in the week, where we learnt all about World War 2, the sinking of the Bismarck, the importance of Bletchley Park and also how to decipher morse code. We explored mapping skills, interpreting sources such as aerial photographs and even the technique for parachuting from a plane. Lots of the children commented afterwards that it must have been terrifying to have lived through the wars and this made me think even more about those facing the horrors of war now. A huge thank you to Mrs Turner for organising the trip and to our wonderful taxis - Mrs Leaver, Mrs Johnstone and Juwairiyah's daddy who stepped in at the last minute.

We have some wonderful news to share with you.... our recent visit from His Majesties Inspectors went incredibly well and the formal report was released last week. The Lancashire Telegraph featured the school (although I will be sending them a more up-to-date photo of the school) <https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/23913059.balderstone-st-leonards-primary-rated-good-ofsted/>

The Ofsted inspectors really did pick up on the ethos and feel of our school that makes it a special place to work and learn. This was an ungraded inspection, which means that they were ratifying that the school was still in a good position and they definitely agreed. They have asked us to work on retention of knowledge (something we are already doing this year anyway) so there were no surprises for us there. A huge congratulations to everyone in our school family, the children, staff, governors and parents for all we do together to make our school great. We shall continue our mission for excellence in a context of love and community. The Diocese was thrilled with our report and the Director of Education sent us a much appreciated letter, which I have included below.

So prayers this week for safety, prayers for peace, prayers for those who are facing the horrors of war, prayers for those charities in the UK that make such a difference in our communities and prayers of thanks for our school and a prayer of gratitude from me to God for blessing me with our school.

Mrs Gow

## Balderstone Ofsted Letter November 2023



Diocesan Offices

Clayton House

Walker Office Park

Blackburn

BB1 2QE

Dear Victoria and Balderstone St Leonard's School Community

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you on the wonderful achievement of Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School. After your recent visit from OFSTED, we are delighted to see the excellent news that the school has received a **remarkable** report highlighting the *exceptional* qualities and achievements of your school.

Balderstone St Leonard's School has shown **remarkable excellence** in several key areas, with particular emphasis on the school's ethos and its dedication to fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment.

The report underscores that Balderstone St Leonard's is a friendly and close-knit learning community, where both staff and students have developed strong connections with each other. Students have emphasised the kindness of their teachers, who create a safe and supportive space for them to share their concerns. This sense of security contributes to the students' overall happiness in the school.

Moreover, the school's mixed-age classes have been recognized for their success in fostering collaboration among students from various year groups. The school's careful choice of topics ensures that all students can build their knowledge effectively. The school's high expectations for behaviour and learning have yielded **remarkable results**, as students **consistently exhibit exceptional behaviour and excel across the curriculum**.

Balderstone St Leonard's School is commended for its commitment to diversity and inclusion, as students enthusiastically share their experiences of various traditions and religious celebrations. The report underlines the school's warm and inclusive atmosphere, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. The students possess a clear understanding of discrimination and are well-prepared to challenge any instances of intolerance or unkind behaviour.

Finally, the school is praised for its efforts in preparing students for life in modern Britain, imparting essential knowledge about safety, including online safety, and promoting fundamental British values in everyday actions.

In closing, Balderstone St Leonard's School has **truly excelled in numerous areas**, and your dedication to providing an exceptional educational experience is evident in the OFSTED report. The Board of Education commends the entire school community for its tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to students' wellbeing and academic success.

We look forward to witnessing the continued growth and success of Balderstone St Leonard's School.

With warm regards and best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. R. M.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Iain Parks

**Director of Education**

## Children in Need appeal



This afternoon we have been in the hall doing all different games to help Children In Need. When we came in the hall was full of like fairground games such as: the Malteser Masher (where you have to smash a hammer on a moving Malteser hurtling down from a tube/pipe), rolling a coin to create spots on Pudsey, our annual cake stall and delicious snacks, football - beat the goalie games, the strawberry lace/marshmallow munching game (I won a few times!), match the card game where you win a prize every time. We helped each other at every game and there were lots of smiles on faces. Lots of money - £410 - was raised from all the activities and cake sale.

In worship this morning, we learnt that the money from Children in Need supports children all around the UK and lots of places in and around Blackburn have had money this last year.

Blackburn Youth Zone had £90,000

IMO got over £29,685

The Wish Centre got £30,000

Opportunity Sports Federation got £29,760

Bahja Initiative £45,000

Z's Defence Academy £23,100

A huge thank you to everybody who brought money for sweets, drinks, sweets and games and especially to our School Council who were on the stalls and Mrs Burton who organises it all. Lots of people made and donated lovely cupcakes and Miss Lee made her special Oreo icing cupcakes. What great fun!

Written by Stanley Nuttall

C.R.I.B. (Children's Relief International Breakfast) in aid of the Red Cross Emergency fund



## The emblem

The emblem of a red cross on a white background is the visible sign of protection under the Geneva Conventions.

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*Please do come and join us and support our urgent appeal to raise funds for the Red Cross emergency fund. This is a humanitarian crisis that is so close to so many hearts, minds and prayers at the moment. As a school we have vowed always to act for those in need in Balderstone, Blackburn, Britain and beyond and this is one of these times. Please join us for a delicious waffle (from our favourite Stiks) with a range of healthy (and not so healthy) toppings. Join us for a brew, some toast or a croissant and then please stay for a time of reflection and prayer as we pray for peace tougher as a school family. The school hall will be open from 8am.*

*School are providing all the toppings for waffles, tea, coffee, milk, sugar etc.*

*Stiks are donating all the waffle mixture (and kindly making the waffles)*

*We have some families bringing apple and orange juice.*

*If there is anything else you would like to donate to the breakfast then please let Mrs Gow know on [head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk). We have already started the fundraising pot and have nearly £50.*

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## Forest school fun



Year 4 were out in the rain again this week planting more bulbs along by our willow fence on the field. We decided to start making a big bug hotel with the pallets and filled plant pots with natural materials to help bugs overwinter on our field. Of course, we found time to play games and jump in puddles. A shout out to Poppy and Juwairiyah for fantastic creative teamwork, building up our bug hotel!







Calling our Toddlers, EYFS and Year 1 parents



Come along and join us for Parent stay and story play for our Toddlers, pre school, Reception and Y1 parents

Tuesday 28th Nov 9-10:15am. This is a chance to come and play alongside your child, in our setting with our fab team in EYFS and KS1. We know you want to play in the sandpit!!

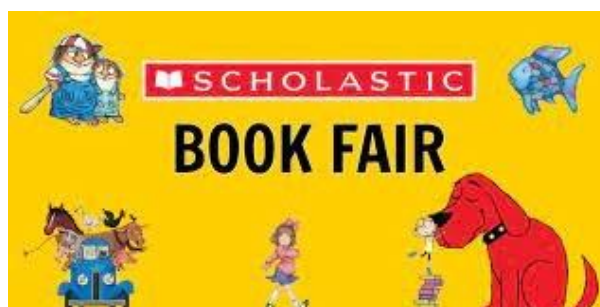
## Coffee Creative - Winter Wreath making



Back by popular demand. We are bringing back our Christmas winter wreaths session this year - after requests from parents. I think we secretly have some budding florists amongst us! Coffee creative – winter Wreaths with Mrs Riddell

2-3pm Friday 15th December (Book the date in your diaries now)

## We love reading! Scholastic Book Fair



A huge thank you for the support for this year's Scholastic Book Fair. We sold just over £600 worth of books and this gave us £250 of commission to use at Scholastic. We have bought a copy of all of the children's favourite novels/titles from the fair as a starting point and will be letting the children choose some new books for their classrooms.

We love reading at Balderstone - and we love books too. It was heartening to see how excited so many of our children were when they could browse the new books. There is nothing better than the smell of a new novel, a hot chocolate and read on a snuggly sofa at this time of year. Enjoy your new reads everyone!

## Safeguarding Section



This week has been anti-bullying week in school, where we have been thinking about the difference between banter and bullying. This week I wanted to share with you the advice from the NBH - the National Bullying Helpline about how to keep your child safe from online bullying. So much chat, messaging and conversation now goes on between young people using their phones, headsets, tablets and messaging services - so it is essential that we as grown ups are reinforcing the same message of importance of speaking out and staying safe digitally too. Here is their guide to online bullying.

### **Keeping your child safe from bullying online**

Parents, you have a role to play. Remember, the police can often trace the perpetrators. You need to check that your child is safe and that they take care. Check their sites and monitor their browsing and mail content periodically. Sit down and talk to your child about his or her concerns.

Criminal Charges may be brought under The Harassment Act and other legislation that is there to protect you and your child. Talk to your family and those who you trust. A problem shared is a problem halved! If you ever come across anything on the internet that makes you feel uncomfortable, no matter where it is, please report it. Be Cyber-Savvy in all your on-line activities. Teach your children how to be Cyber-Savvy. Being Cyber-Savvy is the new "Don't talk to strangers"

Read this out to your child

Don't give your name, age, address or contact details to strangers over the internet even if they sound really friendly and you have spoken to them lots of times. If you have never met them, don't fall for their charm. A good person would never ask you to tell them personal information about

yourself. If someone over the internet or phone asks you for information, close the computer down or hang up the phone. Come and talk to me about it.

Don't tell people where you live or which school you go to. NEVER arrange to meet them. If a stranger asks you to meet them, see this as a warning sign and tell me or tell a grown up, a responsible person, about this. Confide in someone you trust. If you call a helpline, the volunteer might ask you some basic questions but that is OK provided you telephoned the helpline and they did not phone you.

Do not give any confidential information to someone who calls you. If you are worried or scared, hang up and come and talk to us. Tell your friends or tell us if you are worried about anything. We can help you. Also, change your log-in details regularly and change your passwords. When did you last change the password on your child's mobile phone or computer. Who did you tell? The only two people you should share your password details with are your mum or dad.

## 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. Bobby - wow start to pre-school

Year 1 Amaarah - displaying a super attitude to learning in all subjects

Year 2 Ayaan - what a great start to your life at Balderstone

Year 4 Rollover to next week

Year 5 Liyaana - for being focussed on her work and eager to do well.

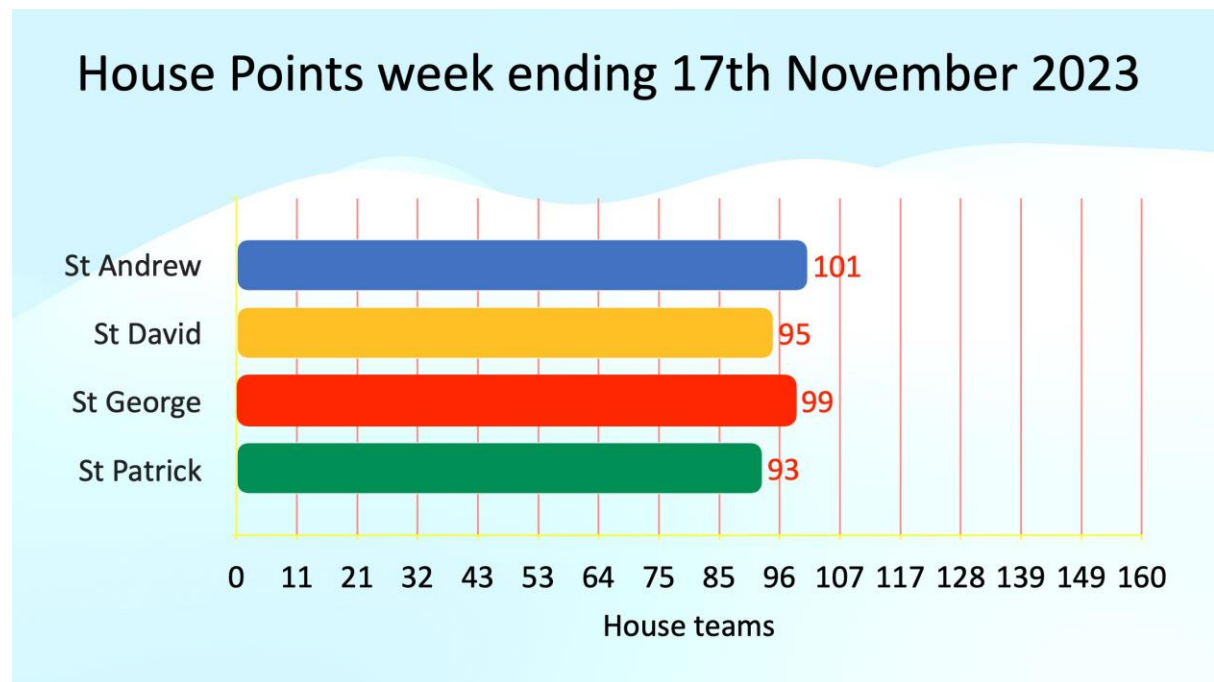
Year 6 Aleena - Aleena for being super thoughtful, kind and helpful

Special mention this week to Raiyan - Year 1- who has been doing some wonderful fundraising for charity with his brother in the creation of Candy Knights. A huge thank you for your donation to our charity events this week. Keep up the great courageous advocacy boys. We're proud of you!



*They are kind  
They are brave  
They aim to help those in  
difficult situations 💙*

## House point winners



Congratulations to St Andrew - this week's house point winners! Enjoy your top table experience on Monday.

## Community and Church news



St Leonard's Church Balderstone

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

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## FOBS & upcoming event dates



Please pencil in the following dates in your diary:

FOBS MEETING THIS THURSDAY EVENING AT 7.30PM IN SCHOOL - TO ORGANISE CHRISTMAS EVENTS.  
 PLEASE COME ALONG - EVERYONE WELCOME.

CRIB breakfast Monday 20th 8am in the school hall. Donations to the Red Cross.

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 31<sup>st</sup>  
October – 4<sup>th</sup> November. Ring  
school to book a tour.



For more information visit  
**f** [www.balderstoneschool.co.uk](http://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk) **t**  
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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