



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 24th November 2023

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

Friday 24th November 2023

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



School is starting to get busier and busier as we approach the start of December. It was wonderful to start the week with our Children's Rights International breakfast on Monday morning, where we not only spent time in fellowship eating some rather yummy breakfast treats, but then followed this with

a special prayer worship in school where we prayed for the children around the world suffering the impact of conflict and war. It was really moving to have our school family come together to light candles for peace and to pray for other children. A huge thank you to Stiks waffles and Abdullah and Amirah's mummy who made over 60 scrumptious waffles. Starting the week in prayer was a poignant start to a busy week and made us reflect on what is really important - God, health, peace, family, friendship and humanity,

As you know, I am always happy to hear from parents and carers but could I ask that you only email me on my head address now as I no longer use the askmrsow address or my deputy account. I have accidentally missed a couple of email that have been sent to these addresses. Please use my head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk address only as I don't monitor the others.

Thanks

Winter weather plans



Cold mornings seem to be upon us again so it seems timely to remind us all of our winter weather protocols in school in case we struggle to get into school due to snow/ice. Fingers crossed we won't need to use them...but here they are.

- 1 Mrs Riddell (who is a local to school will act as our Met office reporter and will let Mrs Gow know if the local conditions are poor). Mrs Gow will aim to get to school by 7am.
- 2 If school OR the local roads are particularly impassable then Mrs Gow/Mrs Draycott will send an immediate Parentmail to all parents/carers and a decision to close school will be made before 8am.
- 3 A scrolling emergency banner will be placed on the school website's front page saying that school has been closed and the class pages of the website will be updated by staff with the day's work by 9.30am.
- 4 School will inform local radio and Lancashire of school closure too.

If the weather is poor but passable, then the front door of school will be open for parents to drop off your children -please do **not go down the church path**/through the red gates. *Staff will meet the children on the car park and we shall operate a roundabout system in the car park to get you off the road as quickly as possible.* Children will be collected from **inside the school hall** at the end of the day (there will be a sign at the front of school if this is the case).

If the weather deteriorates during a school day and the roads are becoming treacherous a Parentmail message will be sent out advising of collection as soon as possible. **We shall ALWAYS strive to keep school open if we can get enough staff in to school to run safely,** but given the nature our roads and

the fact we have staff who live a fair distance away, we have to be mindful that we may on occasion need to move to emergency closure - better to be safe than sorry!

We have a full week ahead of us with pantomimes (Oh no it isn't!), sports events, Red Riding Hood themed walks and parent lunches - with lots of learning too!

Every blessing,

Mrs Gow

Courageous advocacy in action at Balderstone



A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our charity work over the last week in school. our school mission is based on the bible verse from the book of Ephesians that says that "Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." As we see suffering we ask all of our children to speak out and to act up to ensure that we do our part as children of God to speak love into Balderstone, Blackburn, Britain and beyond and that is what our children, staff and families have done this past week.

We raised £436 for Children in Need and £428 for the Red Cross' international appeal with our breakfast. The children, as part of our WOW write in school have written to their local MPs about issues that are close to their hearts and prayers and a selection of these letters have been sent in to make our local MPs aware of children's voices.





People who help us....the fire service visit school



Year 1 and 2 got a little shock this week when they saw a fire engine parked right outside their classroom....but it was absolutely fine as the fire service were visiting our EYFS to show them the fire engine and how they work to keep us safe. The children in EYFS and their very keen buddies came through to sit in the engine, spray the hose and meet the firemen.

We've had some wonderful visits from Sara's mummy and Zayn's mummy too showing us how to stay healthy. We are looking forward to meeting some people from our police team soon too.

Evil pea attack on EYFS classroom - Buddies to the Rescue



<https://sway.office.com/TfFVxs02uDKC98Gs#content=4rQJLUpsKTtmoD>

The evil pea was caught on school CCTV causing all kinds of chaos in the EYFS classroom. Don't worry though our super buddies came to the rescue and as part of our DT work helped our EYFS children design, build and test their own traps. Well done buddies! (I however am a little suspicious about this pea - he sounds rather familiar Mrs Turner doesn't he!)







Forest school fun



Year 4 enjoyed toasting marshmallows and cooking baked apples on the campfire this week in the Forest School area. We all had a go at using the Dragon Sneezes (flint and steel fire lighters) to light

cotton wool. We also carried out a hedgehog habitat survey as we work towards being a hedgehog friendly school!





Calling our Toddlers, EYFS and Year 1 parents



If you go down to the woods today - you might find Little Red Riding Hood. Parents of our toddlers, pre-schoolers and Year 1 children why not join us for a special trip to the woods to meet Red Riding Hood and some of her fairytale pals this Tuesday from 9 am to 10.15am - bring your wellies and lock up your grandmas just in case that wolf is around!

It's panto time (Oh no it isn't)



Oh yes it is! We are off, as a whole school family, to see Beauty and the Beast at Blackburn Empire on Monday morning as part of our annual whole school celebrations. The school office will be closed for the morning so if you need to get hold of us in an emergency then please ring 07922 058729. Children will be in full school uniform and our lovely school council have provided drinks and snack for every child. Please try to be on time for school, so we can set off on the coaches on time. Pre-school and Reception parents, as you are accompanying your children, please stay in the school hall as your child registers and we'll have a brew ready for you.

Balderstone Brushes run another masterclass



Well done to the children from our Balderstone Brushes team who went to teach at Euxton Primary school this week. They ran a masterclass in watercolours and helped the children design and paint their own 2024 calendars. The feedback from the school was incredibly complimentary about the children, their confidence and expertise. Thank you to Mrs Turner for accompanying her new trainee art teachers!



Sports Review



We've had a very busy sporting week at school with both our netball and football teams in action!

Mrs Dixon (thank you for your help) and Mrs Heyworth supported our netball team. Here is Mrs Dixon's pitch-side review:

The girls and Abbas played really well tonight, some great team work from the B team, real perseverance in the face of adversity! Marvellous Maisie scoring 2 goals, Abbas finding space and reading the game, Khadijah quickly learned the art of interception, Sophie found her netball feet and played with real team spirit, Sawdah never gave up ... having relentless energy in every position! Falak had huge motivation to work hard throughout and determination. Daisy played hard to keep possession of the ball. An evening full of sportsmanship, teamwork and respect for each other!

A huge thank you to all of the team and a special mention to our super-subbs who stepped in at the last minute to make us our two teams, after a number of pupils were poorly. You were superb!

Mrs Gow and Mrs Riddell took the Year 3/4 team out to their first competitive tournament on Thursday (Mrs Riddell coming even though it was her day off because she wanted to cheer not her squad). The boys played with real determination and, despite some tough competition, kept trying to move the ball upfield. Some great goals scored and some superb goalkeeping from Tamim and Abdullah. A special mention to Tamin in goals (playing his first ever match in the UK). A special mention to Mr Topia who helped coach the team from the sidelines. There was some brave defending going on throughout the match and the boys were certainly committed. They played with resilience and sporting values throughout.

As always we couldn't attend these competitions without the support of our parents as drivers - so thank you.





Baubles for our school family tree



School council have sent home to every family a Christmas bauble wooden frame. We are hoping to decorate our school Christmas tree on Friday of this week and wanted some meaningful decorations to put on our tree. Every family has the opportunity to decorate a Woden bauble frame (pens, paint, sequins, glitter - whatever you fancy) and then please place a photo of your children, family or a

suitable Christmas quote/message/word in the frame. These will then be prayed over and placed on our tree on Friday. All baubles need to be back in school first thing on FRIDAY please,

If any children cannot make their bauble at home or want to use resources from school, Mrs Burton and Mrs Gow will be doing a lunchtime decoration session on Tuesday in the Year 1/2 classroom and you can send your child along with their frame and a photo and we'll make it in school.

Safeguarding Section



Keeping Children Safe on TikTok. After talking to a number of children this last week in school, many of our children are using TikTok and they are subscribing to accounts on You tube. I wanted to share the most recent guidelines about TikTok from the Safeguarding Hub.



TikTok is a social media app that allows users to create and share short videos. While the app can be a fun and creative platform for children, it also poses several dangers that parents should be aware of. One of the significant risks is the potential for grooming, exploitation and fake news.

The Dangers of TikTok for Children

1. **Inappropriate Content:** TikTok has been criticized for its lack of content moderation, which means that children can easily come across inappropriate content, including sexual content, violent content, and hate speech.
2. **Cyberbullying:** TikTok can be a breeding ground for cyberbullying, with users leaving hurtful comments and messages on videos. Children who are targeted by cyberbullying can experience anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.

3. **Privacy Risks:** TikTok collects a significant amount of user data, including location information, device information, and browsing history. Children may unknowingly share personal information on the app, which can put them at risk of identity theft or other forms of online exploitation.
4. **Addiction:** TikTok's addictive nature can lead children to spend excessive amounts of time on the app, which can negatively impact their mental and physical health, as well as their academic performance.
5. **Grooming for Exploitation:** TikTok can be a hunting ground for predators looking to exploit vulnerable children. Grooming is the process of building a relationship with a child to gain their trust and exploit them, while exploitation involves the manipulation or coercion of a child for sexual purposes.

Mitigating the Risks

1. **Set Boundaries:** Parents should set boundaries around their children's use of TikTok. For example, they can limit the amount of time their child spends on the app or restrict access to certain types of content.
2. **Monitor Activity:** Parents should monitor their child's activity on TikTok, including the videos they watch, the comments they receive, and the people they interact with. This can help them identify any inappropriate behaviour or content.
3. **Educate Children:** Parents should educate their children about the dangers of TikTok, including the risks of cyberbullying, online predators, and addiction. They should also teach their children how to protect their privacy and use the app responsibly.
4. **Use Parental Controls:** Many smartphones and tablets have parental control features that can be used to restrict access to apps like TikTok. Parents can use these features to limit their child's use of the app and monitor their activity.
5. **Report Suspicious Activity:** Parents should report any suspicious activity or contact to the authorities or the app's moderators. TikTok has a reporting feature that allows users to flag inappropriate content or behaviour.

Resources:

There are a number of resources available in the UK to help parents talk to children about the dangers they face online. Here are some useful links and summaries:

1. **NSPCC – Talk to your child about staying safe online:** The NSPCC offers advice and resources for parents and carers on how to talk to children about online safety, including a guide on setting up parental controls and a downloadable family agreement template. The website also offers information on popular social media platforms and messaging apps, and how to manage privacy settings. Link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>
2. **Childnet International – Online safety advice for parents and carers:** Childnet International offers a range of resources and advice for parents and carers, including guidance on managing screen time, setting parental controls, and talking to children about online safety. The website also provides resources for teachers and professionals who work with children. Link: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

3. UK Safer Internet Centre – Conversation starters for parents and carers: The UK Safer Internet Centre offers conversation starters for parents and carers to help start discussions about online safety with children. The website also provides advice on setting up parental controls and managing privacy settings on social media platforms.
Link: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
4. Internet Matters – Parental controls and privacy settings: Internet Matters provides advice and guidance for parents and carers on setting up parental controls and managing privacy settings on popular social media platforms and messaging apps. The website also offers information on managing screen time and dealing with cyberbullying.
Link: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>
5. Government guidance – Child safety online: A practical guide for parents and carers: The UK government provides a practical guide for parents and carers on how to keep children safe online. The guide offers advice on setting up parental controls, managing privacy settings, and talking to children about online safety.
Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

These resources offer practical advice and guidance for parents and carers on how to talk to children about the dangers they face online and how to keep them safe. I hope you find them useful.

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. Ruby - wow start to pre-school, being so brave and confident

Year 1 rollover

Year 2 Florence - outstanding work standards in all areas

Year 3 Fayha - perseverance and hard work in maths

Year 4 Eleanor - always making kind and wise choices &

Year 5 Muhammad-Hasnayn - kindness and thoughtfulness all week

Year 6 Khadijah - amazing energy with your buddy

Special mention this week to Aleena year 6 - Sara's buddy. I have had an email from Sara's parents expressing their sincere thanks for your wonderful manner with Sara.

"She is very kind and really helps look after Sara. I have seen the way she looks after Sara on parent lunch day and would like to say a special thankyou to her"

Well done Aleena for living our the mission of our school in the way you treat Sara - we are very proud of your care!

Dear Parents, I love getting news about the special things our children are doing and would like to establish a Parent appreciation award to be given out every week. If you have a special mention then please do email me and let me know. Your opinion matters.

House point winners



Congratulations to St Andrew again 2nd week on the trot- you must be doing something right!

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 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

1 - Don't miss this amazingly Christmassy event. Everyone invited - it is not a church service but a chance to sing and/or listen to the band play Christmas songs and carols. All children in school will be performing.

Forest Church - this Sunday



Please bring in a donation so we can make some fabulous Christmas hampers for our raffle:

Pre-school and Reception -

Chocolate gift

Year 1- sweet biscuits

Year 2- savoury

biscuits/crackers

Year 3 - Christmas bread/cakes

Year 4 - Preserves, jams, sauces

Year 5 - tea/coffee

Year 6 - bottles (wine, non-alcoholic, fizzy)



2 - Hamper gifts in return for Non-uniform - 8th December

Each children from year group in school brings in a gift to make up our amazing Christmas hampers. These are part of our Christmas raffle. First prize is £100 in cash, there are other cash gifts and sponsored gifts including £50 restaurant vouchers and other wonderful prizes, alongside at least 10 treat food and drink hampers.

On 8th December your child can come to school in Non-uniform in return for a gift from their Year group list.

Raffle tickets on sale soon - please take some to your workplaces etc to help us sell as many as possible.

FOBS & upcoming event dates -Please pencil in the following dates in your diary:



3 - Christmas disco Wednesday 20th December from 6 - 7.30pm. Fun filled pre-Christmas fun - DJ, dancing, games, glitter tattoos, all refreshments and treats included - unlimited drinks, sweet bag, crisps. £5 per child all in! Payments of Parentmail from next week!



4 - Scroll down our new website front page for a reminder of key events this week in school.

eg Parent lunch - this Wednesday for Year 3/4 and photographs on Thursday.

Our wonderful FOBS team met this week and they have planned some wonderful activities in the lead up to Christmas. A huge thank you for the events they plan and the fund raising they do, as this makes a HUGE difference to the extra things we can provide our children. The bonfire raised in excess of £1100 so thank you so much.

Church Christmas Fair **Saturday 9th December**

Photograph day - this Thursday

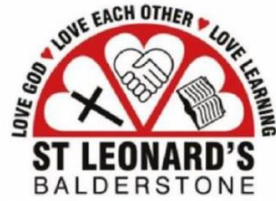
Infant Nativity in church - all EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 involved **Tuesday 19th December** 9.30pm and after -school performance 4pm (children to stay in school till the 4pm performance)

Carol service at Blackburn Cathedral (whole school going and joining with Mellor and Samlesbury school too) Thursday 14th December 12pm. ALL PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS OF SCHOOL, GOVERNORS WELCOME - ALL FAITHS WARMLY WELCOMED - let's celebrate the diversity in our school family with our local community.

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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