



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 1st December 2023

---

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

*Friday 1st December 2023*

---

## In This Issue



In this week's edition of the newsletter

- Mrs Gow's Words for the week
- Pantomime fun
- Hamper gifts
- Story Stay and Play success
- Sports review - Junior football
- Baubles
- Nativity tickets
- Raffle
- Swimming Year 3/4
- Church and community corner - Brass Band concert
- FOBS news - Christmas events- disco, hampers and raffle
- Safeguarding section - You tube Kids & Child and Family wellbeing events
- Flourishing Friday
- House point winners
- Dates for your diary - Carol concert
- Contact Us

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



It brings so much joy to hear music and singing all around school. Year 5 and 6 are loving learning their Christmas medley on their ukuleles and I had the pleasure of a sneak preview of some of the infant songs for this year's nativity this afternoon. The elves have been hard at work decorating the Christmas tree for the start of our advent period. This is a time where Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus by making ready their hearts, minds and spirits. It is a time in our school family where we consider our priorities, enjoy fellowship and fun together but also remember that Jesus came as a light to the world, to point the way to God. The Christmas tree lights symbolise the light in the darkness and the first advent candle gives us hope that even in the darkest of times, that God's light can have victory. We hold in our school prayers all those in the world struggling with the darkness of war, illness and poverty.

We started the week with our annual pantomime trip (oh yes we did!) and it is always such a pleasure to see our whole school family, with our EYFS and Pre-school parents too, together, laughing, singing and having raucous fun! A huge thank you to our parents and volunteers who came along to help us. A special mention to our own Mrs Louise Dixon who got well and truly picked on by the cast and even had to dress up in a cow costume and dance on stage - we were laughing with you Louise - not at you (honestly).

Tuesday saw our very first Stay and play story session based on Little Red Riding Hood. The actors from Year 5 and 6 really made the story come alive for our youngest pupils and parents and we loved making granny some biscuits and receiving our gifts from the woodcutters. We weren't scared of that wolf either - as it turned out to be our very own, lovely Matilda! We shall be planning in some other outdoor story sessions later in the year with plans for We're Going on a Bear Hunt and the Gruffalo already being discussed. Thank you Mrs Turner for all your energy!

I am looking forward to the brass band concert held in church on Sunday at 6.30pm. This is not a church service, but a chance to sing and listen to a range of Christmas themed songs including some

of our favourites like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and the children from school are all invited to come along and sing It's Christmas for everyone. Tickets are available on the door. This is always such a lovely atmospheric evening with the church all lit up by candlelight. I hope to see you there - even if you don't love singing, it's a great way to start a chilly December.

Stay warm and safe this weekend,

Mrs Gow

## Beauty and the Beast - Panto 2023



What fun we had at this year's pantomime - Beauty and the Beast! The children loved Tilly Teapot and Tommy Teacup and some of our children even went up on stage to perform Old Macdonald had a farm with the cast. Well done to Florence, Ayaan and Daisy and not forgetting Mrs Dixon! Thank you Mrs Johnstone for booking the tickets for us and to Mrs Burton and school council for our snacks. We love a good pantomime to start off the Christmas season (On no we don't! Oh yes we do!)





## Hamper and Raffle 2023



Your child should have brought home a book of raffle tickets tonight. Every year we hold a raffle to win a range of wow gifts for the Christmas period. This year these include a £100 cash prize, restaurant vouchers for local eateries, Fish and Chips vouchers for the best chippy around - Taylors and our wow sweet shop Patels! We shall also have some wonderful hampers when we get in your donations next Friday. Every year group brings in a different category of item and we use these to make up our delicious hampers. Next Friday (in exchange for coming into school in non-uniform) we would really appreciate you sending in:

EYFS and Pre-schoolers: A chocolate gift/selection box, chocolate orange, box of choccies.

Year 1 Sweet biscuits

Year 2 Savoury biscuits/crackers

Year 3 Christmas breads, minced pies, pannetone or cakes

Year 4 Preserves, honey, jams, marmalades

Year 5 Tea/coffee

Year 6 Bottles or candles - wine, non-alcoholic drinks, cordials, mixers etc

## Nativity Tickets 2023



Come and join us to celebrate this year's retelling of the nativity story with our amazing infant actors and our whole school chorus!

This year we have two performances (with changed times to help our youngest children at this busy and dark time of year). On Tuesday 19th December we shall be hosting our first performance starting at 9.15am in church - with refreshments beforehand served in the school hall. Then our second performance will start at 4pm.

**The children will be watching a film after school on 19th so will NOT need picking up after school until after the 4pm performance.**

The performance should only last an hour at the maximum, so the children should be finished by 5pm. Refreshments will be served after the afternoon performance and we shall be drawing the raffle at the end of the show. We hope this changed times will make it easier for our youngest performers to stay awake and shine!

**Tickets will go live next week on your parentmail account via your eldest child**

We allocate 2 tickets PER family PER performance and then any spares will be allocated via a waiting list - just let Mrs Johnstone know if you want any more tickets.

We do not charge for tickets but would appreciate donations and these can be made via Parentmail or via cash at the performances. Every year, we donate to a charity of the children's choice.



## Sports Review



Well done to our Upper Key Stage 2 team for their performance on Monday after-school. The team seemed to go from strength to strength, despite the startlingly cold weather, with a magnificent 3-0 victory to complete the tournament. Congratulations to the team for their sporting values, perseverance and resilience. Thanks to the parents who supported the team and to Mrs Heyworth and Mrs Riddell for their organisation and time. We have more friendly matches in the pipeline, so keep up the hard work with your lunchtime coaching.

## Baubles for our school family tree



Thank you so much to the families who have already made their Christmas tree baubles. We have absolutely loved hanging them on our school tree and seeing your creativity in action. If you still have your bauble at home and want to bring it in, then we would be thrilled to hang it on the tree, Mrs Burton and I are holding an in-school decorating session on Tuesday lunchtime if you want to complete your bauble in school time. If you are not going to use your bauble, then that's fine, but please return it to school, so we can decorate it.

# Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Many of our children have been talking about their YouTube subscriptions and people they follow. I have enclosed some information about YouTube Kids (not a perfect alternative) but certainly safer in terms of content than regular YouTube.

## YouTube Kids




YouTube Kids allows children and young people to watch and search for the shows they like and discover new ones. It contains videos that are uploaded to YouTube but it has an algorithm that pulls out appropriate videos for younger children.

Stay safe on YouTube Kids using the instructions on **Parental Controls**, **Blocking** & **Reporting** below.


### Parental Controls

Configure the Parental Controls with these simple instructions:

- Tap on  in the bottom right corner of the app & then complete the multiplication.
- Tap on **Settings** and then select your child's profile.
- Enter your password. Here you can configure content settings, allow search control and watch history.


### Block

Block a video using these simple instructions:

- Select the video you want to block and then tap on .
- Tap **Block**.
- You can choose from two options, **Block this video only** or **Block entire channel**.

### Report

Report a video using these simple instructions:

- Select the video you want to report and then tap on .
- Select **Report**.
- Select your issue and then tap **Report**.





## Child and Family wellbeing service events



**Festive Spectacular**

**Wednesday 6th December**  
**15:30 - 17:30pm**

**"Santa Claus is Coming to Town"**  
**Craft Activities & Refreshments**  
**To Book Your Place Please Call**  
**01200 420460**  
**or Email**  
**[cfwhrvgroups@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cfwhrvgroups@lancashire.gov.uk)**

**Clitheroe Children & Family Wellbeing Service**  
**Wesleyan Row**  
**Parson lane**  
**BB7 2JY**

**FAMILY HUBS NETWORK** **Lancashire County Council** **Wellbeing Service**





# WINTER Wonderland

January 4th 13:00 - 15:00pm  
 Craft Activities & Games  
 No Booking Required

Clitheroe Children & Family Wellbeing Service  
 Wesleyan Row  
 Parson Lane  
 Clitheroe  
 BB7 2JY




Join us for

# Snacks With Santa

**SATURDAY, 9TH DECEMBER**  
**10:00AM - 12:00PM**

**The Park Family Hub**

Norfolk Grove  
 Church  
 Accrington  
 BB5 4RY

CRAFT ACTIVITIES & GAMES

Call 01200 420460  
 To Book Your Place or Email  
[cfwhrvgroups@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cfwhrvgroups@lancashire.gov.uk)




## Swimming for Fox class and some Owl children



Next week, we start our curriculum swimming for our junior children (Year 3 and 4). Swimming is a **compulsory** part of our PE curriculum and it is **mandatory** for children to take part in these sessions for their health, safety and confidence. Swimming lessons are a **legal requirement** for all pupils under the National Curriculum and are therefore not optional. The children learn about water safety and learn basic swimming strokes and lifesaving. For more competent swimmers, the children learn about water stamina, safety and lifesaving techniques. The children are assessed regularly throughout the sessions and tracked to ensure that they meet the curriculum's basic standards. The swimming teachers are extremely skilled and the children make leaps and bounds of progress with them, especially if they are a little water phobic. If your child does not meet the required standards in Year 3/4 then they have to repeat the sessions, tailored to their needs again in Year 5 and 6. This means that in theory a child has the potential to have 4 consecutive years of school swimming (saving you a fortune in swimming fees!). The children from Year 5 and 6 will be assessed in the first few lessons again and if they meet the standards then they will not need to attend the full two weeks of sessions. For children who are non-swimmers or non-competent swimmers, they must attend all sessions even if they are in Year 5 and 6.

The nine suggested outcomes, which should be completed by pupils in sequence in *full reach depth water*, are:

1. Fall-in entry and recover to surface
2. Float on the back with minimal movement for 60 seconds without floatation equipment
3. Rotate from floating on the back to a vertical position
4. Tread water for 30 seconds
5. Whilst treading water, signal for help once, by extending one arm above the head and simultaneously shouting for help then returning the arm to the water to continue to tread water
6. Swim (without floatation equipment) 15m to a floating object, using a recognised personal survival stroke (head up long arm front paddle or lifesaving backstroke)
7. Retaining the floating object take up the heat escape lessening position/posture for 30 seconds
8. Form a huddle position as a group for 30 seconds
9. Swim 15m to exit the water unaided

We need to record evidence of the children reaching each of these standards in their **school** swimming sessions to assess them as passing the standard.

Mrs Riddell, Mrs Gow, Mrs Lorgat and Mrs Burton will be accompanying the children to their lessons every morning for the next two weeks and we promise to look after them (even if it is cold). If your child has a serious medical reason why they cannot attend swimming, then on this occasion, we need medical confirmation of the reasons why they cannot swim, as this is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum and we are obliged to ensure that our children are safe in and around water before they leave us in year 6. Without this, all children are expected to swim.

Please make sure your child has their full kit, costumes, swim hat, towel, warm coat, hat, gloves etc for next week. For children with skin conditions we are happy to supervise showering and cream application.

As always, we know that some children may be anxious about this new experience in school, but we are there to support them into enjoying swimming. Come and talk to us about any concerns. We're looking to seeing their splashing (sorry, smashing) progress!

## Christmas dinner help



I would really appreciate a few willing parents, governors, grandparents who wouldn't mind sitting with the children in the hall whilst the staff eat their Christmas dinner (we are adjacent to the children). This is the one day of the year where our staff get to eat together over lunchtime. If anyone feels able to watch a lovely Christmas film in the hall for an hour (all together) with the other volunteers then please let Mrs Gow know. The dinner is on Wednesday 20th from 1.10pm. Many thanks in advance.

## 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. Rollover

Year 1 Aminah for wow stamina in writing and a love of school, Raiyan - for super concentration and attitude to learning

Year 2 Fatima - for superb achievement and work across the curriculum

Year 3 Zahraa - for your contributions and enthusiasm in class

Year 4 Shifa - your increasing confidence especially in maths

Year 5 Maisie - for making wise and conscientious choices every day

Year 6 Abigail - for bringing joy to the lives of all she meets

**Special mention this week to Sophie year 6** - Sophie has made a massive impact on her buddy Ruby. They are quite inseparable and Ruby's mum wanted Sophie to know..."We think that everyone at Balderstone school is well aware of Ruby's one woman Sophie Fan Club, in fact, everyone that Ruby comes into contact with, even if it's in the supermarket queue, is soon told about her buddy Sophie who "makes me feel better if I cry". There have been so many times that we've said "thank goodness for Sophie" as we've bribed an anxious Ruby to go to school with the promise of seeing her buddy. Ruby now looks forward to going to school and we're so grateful to Sophie for helping her to settle in, and for doing it with such love and care. It's certainly made us feel happier, knowing that Sophie is on hand to help stop any tears! So thankyou Sophie, you've really made a difference! Many thanks for all that you all do, we feel so lucky to be a part of such a lovely school,

Dear Parents, I love getting news about the special things our children are doing and would like to establish a Parent appreciation trophy 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 Patrick this week's winners. Top table treat for you on Monday!

## Community and Church news







*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.*

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





*2 - 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! EYFS and Pre-school parents are asked to stay with their child at the event to help them have fun!*

Church Christmas Fair **Saturday 9th December**

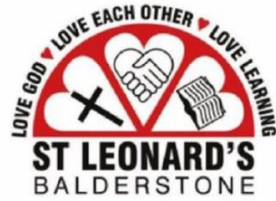
Infant Nativity in church - all EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 involved **Tuesday 19th December** 9.30pm and after -school performance 4pm (children to stay in school till the 4pm performance)

***Carol service at Blackburn Cathedral (whole school going and joining with Mellor and Samlesbury school too) Thursday 14th December 12pm. 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 31<sup>st</sup>  
October – 4<sup>th</sup> November. Ring  
school to book a tour.



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

**Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary school**

Commons Lane

Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

01254 769150

[head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

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