



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 8th December 2023

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

*Friday 8th December 2023*

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



I have had the pleasure of accompanying our swimmers to their lessons this week and it has amazed me to see their progress within a weeks worth of swimming. A few of our beginner swimmers were quite terrified and anxious at the start of the week and today they were all swimming with their armbands doing laps independently, even in the deep end! For some of our children this was the very first time they had been in a pool and swimming! It really brought home to me the importance of positive mindset, self-belief and encouragement to help our children succeed. I can't wait to see their progress over the next week!

We welcomed Reverend Karen (or should I say reindeer Karen - as she was wearing her antlers!) to lead our celebration worship this morning and she helped us to think about this time of advent as a time of preparation and getting ready. We have been focusing on preparing as our theme for advent, thinking about how we can prepare ourselves and encourage peace, hope and faith in our school and beyond. I am really excited about next week's joint Christmas service at Blackburn cathedral, where we join with our two sister schools - Mellor St Mary's and Samlesbury. EVERYONE - all parents, friends, grandparents, governors and carers are invited to join us for some traditional and some modern carols. Please do join us on Thursday at 1pm at the cathedral. All the children from all the schools will be taking part and I do want to make sure that our school is supported and our diverse community are represented in the benefice.

Next week our Christmas countdown truly begins with the start of our community events:

**Tuesday** afternoon is our Winter Wonderland Arts themed afternoon run by Arts Council who prepare fun, arts based activities for all our children to explore and enjoy.

**Wednesday** afternoon is our Coffee and Carols community tea party for the elderly, friends and invited visitors to school. All our children will be entertaining our guests and warming their spirits with carols, ukulele playing and dance. (if you know of any older people/grandparents who need a bit of cheering up at this time of year then do let Mrs Gow know).

**Thursday** is our Benefice Carol service at Blackburn cathedral. The WHOLE school will be travelling by coach to the cathedral and taking part in the service.

**Friday** is our Coffee Creative wreath making afternoon where Mrs Riddell and Mrs Turner will be leading us through all the skills we need to make a winter wreath.

It certainly is a busy, but fun week ahead. Many thanks for your patience this week whilst Mrs Johnstone has been poorly and there has been no-one staffing the office full-time. We are hoping that she is feeling better soon and can join us for next week's fun!

See you next week everyone.

Mrs Gow

### Swimming Successes - bring shorts and T-shirts on Monday!



It has been a real joy to be able to take Fox class and some of our Owls swimming this past week. A huge congratulations to William for passing his assessment after just a couple of sessions!

On **Monday** ALL swimmers need to bring their swimming costumes/trunks **AND A PAIR OF SHORTS AND A T-SHIRT** as we are doing our lifesaving skills. We will NOT be swimming on Thursday of next week.

Today we discovered all the dangers of open water and why we should never go open water swimming in places such as docks, reservoirs or canals. The swimming curriculum covers, not only swimming but also lifesaving and water safety education too. I have been incredibly impressed by the standard of teaching from the Fulwood team. Well done to everyone for your outstanding efforts this week. It has been rather tiring though - with lots of sleepy children on the bus and in the afternoon!





*1 - Sleepy heads on the coach back!*

## Hamper and Raffle 2023 - WOW prizes



Thank you so much for your donations for our Christmas hampers. Our FOBS team will be making up our hampers on Monday, ready for the draw, We have (thanks to some rather persuasive pupil letters) been gifted lots of amazing prizes for this year's raffle including:

£100 cash, £50 cash

£50 meal voucher for Tigris

£50 voucher for Yu restaurant

£30 Bukhara voucher

Sunday 3 course meal for 2 at the Millstone

Asda chocolate hamper

Patel's sweet shop sweet treats hamper

£20 Village bakery voucher

Taylor's Chippy 2 x £20 vouchers

Blackburn Rovers tickets

Everything Retreat special Christmas gin

Canberra club vodka

9 Christmas treat hampers

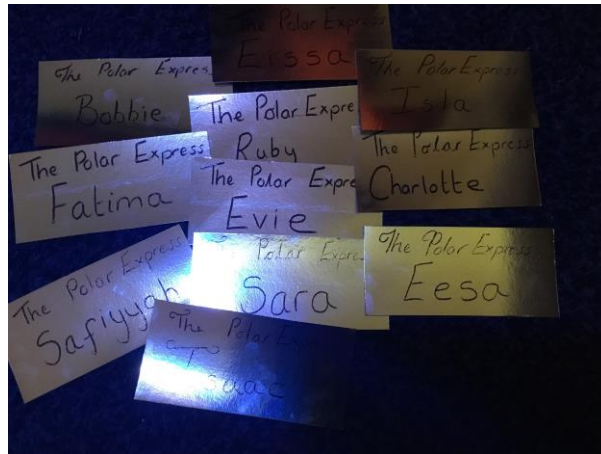
Please sell your tickets and there are plenty of spare books of tickets in the office. We need to sell as many as possible before the draw on the 19th December (after 4pm nativity).

## EYFS and KS1 Visit from the Police



As part of our local superheroes theme, our EYFS and KS1 class were visited by some of our Lancashire police and PSCO friends today. They loved asking lots of interesting questions and finding out about how the police help us in our communities.

Mrs Turner and the children in EYFS have been travelling on the Polar Express this week - having their special tickets stamped and even enjoying hot chocolate!











## Martial Arts Club 2024



Gary and the team are desperate to build up our Friday morning martial arts club - as they say that our children are one of the very best schools that they attend and they want to make the club viable for the long term. If your child is full of energy, needs some discipline, you are interested in self-defence and building your child's self esteem, then please consider applying for a place in the club - 8am every Friday. If your child normally attends breakfast club on a Friday then we can automatically shift their place from breakfast club to martial arts club. Many of our children have really benefitted from the club and are doing exceptionally well at their gradings with many of our children in line for their brown belts before leaving us in Year 6. Gary and the team are hoping to show you their club's potential next Friday at Celebration worship.

Let Mrs Gow know if you would like your child to join this fabulous extra-curricular club. We need 5 more children to ensure that the club keeps running on a Friday with the current staffing levels.

## 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 should be live 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.

## Santa Dash



Today the whole school family took part on our annual Santa Dash inter-house competition and the results are as follows.

St Andrew 330 laps

St David 285 and a half laps

St George 333 laps

St Patrick 283 laps

Congratulations to St George on their swimming score (treats next week). That means in total our whole school ran:

68 miles in total! That's like running from Balderstone to York. Santa would be proud.



## National Education Nature Park - Frosty photos



Balderstone has signed up to become part of the National Education Nature Park. This is a new initiative to support young people to make a positive difference for the future.

We're always looking closely at nature here in Balderstone and it's amazing what wonders we can see! The National Education Nature Park has set a Hidden Nature Challenge and Stanley's wonderful photo this week has shown the beauty of nature in the frost. If you see any wonderful Hidden Nature, please take a photo and send it to me! Let's take time in this busy season to look, be curious and appreciate God's wonderful world!

Stanley's frosty photo is at the top title of this week's newsletter!

Send your frosty photos to:

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

## Fox class - Egyptian clay masks



Foxes have been inspired by Tutankhamun's death mask and sculpted and decorated their designs. Don't they look amazing!

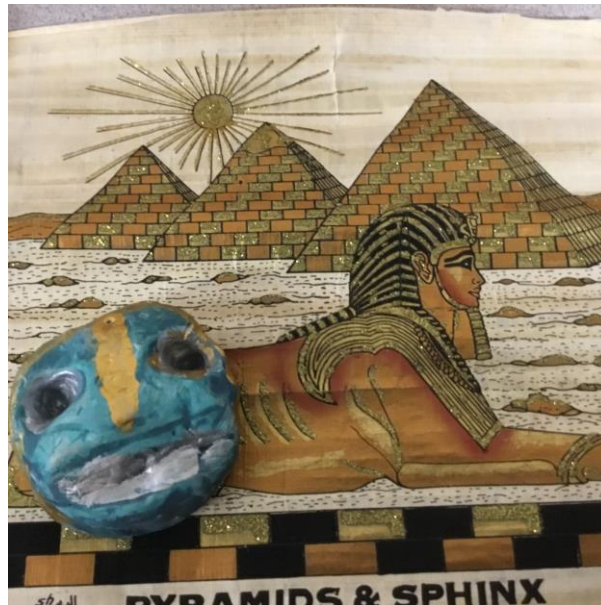














<https://sway.office.com/3MwAG3ZoKHc80ZcT#content=lvKG3wAc9eH7Ho>

## Safeguarding Section



This week we feature the NSPCC guidance on positive parenting. We are hoping to run our own Positive Parenting course in the coming term. There is no more difficult job than being a parent and unfortunately our children do not come with a user manual! Here is a link with more information from NSPCC on practical information

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1195/positive-parenting.pdf>.

In the coming term we are hoping to run the triple P parenting course to help us all navigate the fun and games of bringing up our little ones in an ever changing world.

## Build a positive foundation for your baby, and for you

**AVAILABLE IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN**

**TRIPLE P ONLINE FOR BABY**

## Support your baby's development, and your own wellbeing

Most parents-to-be and new parents feel a mix of emotions. Welcoming a baby into your life is incredibly exciting, but also has challenging moments. There are positive ways to handle all of this! Triple P for Baby gives you skills and strategies to support your baby's development, communication, and learning. And it also helps you care for your own emotional wellbeing, which is good for your baby, too.

## Why Triple P works



Triple P for Baby is part of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program®, world-renowned and backed by research. You'll get proven parenting strategies to help you create the best environment for your baby's development, with a full toolkit of tips and ideas. And you'll learn effective ways to cope with changing emotions and relationship strains, too. Research indicates that both mums and dads who do Triple P for Baby feel happier and less stressed.

**Now, there's Triple P Online for Baby, so you can set your own parenting goals, learning step-by-step whenever you like. It'll help you:**

- Promote your baby's social, emotional, and cognitive development
- Be empowered and have confidence in your own choices- different options to cope with frequent crying, sleeping, partner conflict and more
- Read your baby's cues and encourage their language learning • Take better care of your own emotional and mental health

- Enjoy life as a new parent a lot more!

### **START TODAY – NOW AVAILABLE!**

This is a worldwide recognised programme you can do online in your own time.

**Find out more at your local Family Hub,**

**E-mail: [parenting@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:parenting@blackburn.gov.uk)**

**Phone: 01254 666536**

Triple P is brought to parents by Family Hub Blackburn with Darwen

\*Be quick! Access can only be offered while available!



Welcome to our second parenting newsletter. I want to continue to ensure you all have the most up to date information for our parenting offer here in Blackburn with Darwen. It has been a busy few months and we have had some fantastic outcomes for our children and families who have accessed our parenting offer and Family Hubs.

## **Parenting Newsletter- Winter**





We have some exciting news to share!! We are delighted to announce that our Parenting Team have been fully trained and accredited in Triple P for Baby. This will be another evidence based programme for parents of children aged 0-1 year, supporting parents and carers with suggestions and ideas around positive parenting to support them to enjoy parenthood whilst supporting their baby's development.



We will also be launching Triple P for Baby online on the 6th December, our new digital offer for parents and carers of children aged 0-1 to access independently. Please speak to a member of the team for more information around this and how this works or click [here](#) to read more information.

Please see below details of the parenting offer across our Family Hubs ahead of the Christmas holidays and what will be on offer from January, please contact me if you have any questions or queries. All of our parenting programmes are evidenced based programmes facilitated by our highly knowledgeable and skilled parenting team and a crèche is provided. Please see [here](#) for more details about our programmes and how to make a referral for a family.

## December workshops and coffee mornings

A space for parents to meet our parenting team and find out more about our programmes

Where?	When?
Livesey Family Hub	Tuesday 5th December 2023 11-1pm
Little Harwood Family Hub	Thursday 7th December 2023 11-1pm
Darwen Family Hub	Friday 8th December 2023 11-1pm
Shadsworth Family Hub	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 11-1pm
Audley Children's Centre	Friday 1st December 2023 11-1pm

## HENRY Fussy Eaters workshops-

These workshops are for parents and carers and can support with, how to encourage your child to try new foods –and begin to enjoy them! Ideas for child-friendly foods that provide what they need to

grow and be healthy, ideas for happier family mealtimes. A crèche is also available. No need to book just come along!

Free HENRY resources will be provided for families at the end of each session, no need to book just come along!

Family Hub Darwen	Family Hub Little Harwood	Family Hub Livesey	Family Hub Shadsworth
14/02/2024 1-3pm	16/02/2023 9:30-11:30am	12/02/2024 10am-12pm	13/02/2024 12:30-2:30pm

## Parenting Programmes

Where?	What?	When?
Family Hub Livesey	Healthy Relationships	Monday 9.30am -11.30am starting on 08/01/2024 For 5 weeks
Audley Children's Centre	Healthy Families right from the start 0-5 years	Tuesday 12.30pm -2.30pm Starting on 09/01/2024 for 8 weeks
Family Hub Darwen	Healthy Families Growing Up 5-11 years	Wednesday 12.30pm – 2.30 pm starting on 10/01/2024 for 8 weeks
Family Hub Darwen	Incredible Years Baby	Thursday 12.30 pm – 2.30pm starting on 18/01/2024 For 8 weeks
Family Hub Little Harwood	Healthy Families right from the start	Friday 9.00am -11.30am starting on 19/01/2024 For 8 weeks

Nicola Mortenson and Beverley Hussain are our Family Hub Parenting Link Workers, Nicola and Beverley are the first line of appropriate information to support expectant and new parents during the transition to parenthood. Nicola and Beverley will support the delivery of our evidence based parenting programmes across the Family Hubs and contribute to the planning and delivery of identified work activities and intervention packages that support children young people and families to work towards achieving positive outcomes - [Nicola.mortenson@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.mortenson@blackburn.gov.uk) 01254 666890 [Beverley.hussain@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:Beverley.hussain@blackburn.gov.uk) 01254 266360.

I would also like to welcome Danielle Morrison who will be joining us in January, Danielle will be co-ordinating and delivering our HENRY offer for 0-2 year olds, including Preparing for Parenthood, Becoming a new Family and Starting Solids workshops. For more information on this, please click [here](#).

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, please make contact with me if there is anything all you would like to discuss.

Thank You

**Laura McKelvey**

**Parenting Lead**

**01254 666536**

**[laura.mckelvey@blackburn.gov.uk](mailto:laura.mckelvey@blackburn.gov.uk)**



# Family Hub



Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth

## 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. Isla - Wow letter formation and positive attitude to school!

Year 1 Aasiyah - wonderful sentence writing and punctuation

Year 2 Tessa - for a wonderfully meticulous approach to your learning

Year 3 Danyal - for excellent RE and resilience in swimming

Year 4 Inaaya - positive mindset

Year 5 Zaydene - for making wise and conscientious choices this week

Year 6 Georgia - for great maths and living our values every day.

See you all for yummy hot chocolate treats on Monday.

## House point winners



Congratulations to St Andrew - this week's winners.

## Community and Church news - Church Fair this Saturday 2pm



Come and join us tomorrow afternoon supporting our church Christmas fair. Come along and join in the fun - with stalls, refreshments and even Santa might make it. All the children are opening the fair singing 'It's Christmas' at 1.55pm to open the fair. Come and join Mrs Gow and Mrs Riddell for some wintery fun and have a go at our famous chocolate tombola stall!



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 on 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 2pm**

**All age worship 11am on Sunday 10th 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)

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