



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 15th December 2023

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

Friday 15th December 2023

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



The third advent candle symbolises joy and there has been no shortage of joy in school this week. It has been full-on and full of festive fun in Balderstone St Leonard's this past few days. In probably the busiest week of the school calendar, our children, staff and parents have been outstanding. We have welcomed two new members to the school family this week - a massive Balderstone welcome to Hunter and to Adam who have joined us in pre-school and will be with us from January.

This week began with our Winter Wonderland afternoon, organised by Mrs Turner, Mrs Hussain and our enthusiastic Arts Council. The whole school had festive fun making a range of wintery crafts and also enjoying some hot chocolate and their own snowman marshmallows!

Wednesday was a particularly exciting afternoon, as our electricity went off (despite being assured by Electricity North West that we were not included in the planned power cut!). Mrs Burton and Miss Lee had planned our Coffee and Carols afternoon for our *older* friends for our school. We were joined with many of our church and local community, for an afternoon of festive dance, carols and ukulele playing. The event was actually made even more magical by the lack of electricity, as the carols were sung by candlelight instead! Miss Lee's soup and Mrs Burton's delicious nibbles went down fantastically well, despite the lack of brews!

Thursday afternoon saw the long-awaited first ever joint Benefice carol service at Blackburn Cathedral. It was great to have our three sister schools together: Balderstone, Mellor and Samlesbury. Our readers, singers and tableaux actors shone. A special mention to the youngest tableaux shiny star Charlotte who was incredibly brave to walk to the front of the cathedral with our 500 people watching. This benefice service lets Reverend Karen, who is the vicar of all three churches and schools bless us all together. A huge thank you to all the parents, grandparents, governors and friends of the school who came along to represent our school community.

Friday was the next in our series of Coffee Creatives - bringing back our favourite winter wreath making session. The hall was filled with chat, greenery and ribbon. Mrs Riddell and Mrs Turner had collected a treasure trove of winter greenery for us to adorn our winter wreaths. Everyone made some wonderful wreaths ready to decorate their homes over the holidays. It is always lovely to see our families and children working, chatting and laughing together at these sessions. We have taken on board the suggestion for an adults only coffee creative one evening too!

As well as all this, we have been continuing with learning - with our swimmers continuing their daily lessons, our infants honing their speaking and listening and drama skills with their nativity preparations, Year 3 and 4 busy with their times tables and Year 5 and 6 working hard on their DT project of making a moving fairground ride!

Your child should have brought home their new format short report on Friday (some children who were at Coffee Creative did leave theirs in school so they will come home on Monday). This is designed to give you a brief update of your child's progress in the first term of their new year group. This will be followed up with interventions and support in the new term. Have a wonderful weekend and we'll see you next week for the final week of the Michaelmas term!

A grateful,

Mrs Gow



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Coffee Creative - winter wreaths



Take a look at the wonderful winter wreath making from Friday's Coffee Creative. A huge thank you to everyone who helped and to Mrs Riddell for coming in on her day off (again!) and to Mrs Turner for organising a re-run of our favourite session. Mrs Leaver, as always, was our brewing up superstar - thank you to everyone who attended and it was especially special to have some of our newest school families with us - Hunter, Evie, Ruby and Bobby.



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Cathedral Benefice Christmas Carol Service



What a pleasure to have our three Benefice schools together to share in one 'united' Christmas service. Many thanks to all the children who took part and for their wonderful reading and singing. Thank you governors, parents, grandparents and friends for supporting this event and to FOBS for funding the coaches so we could get there and back



Community Coffee (Soup) and Carols



Mrs Burton doesn't let a little thing like a power cut stop her at Balderstone. What a wonderful afternoon we spent together, bringing some of the most valuable and experienced members of our

local community together to share in some Christmas joy. It was lovely to welcome back Mrs Finch and Mr Tuner, previous headteachers of the school too. A special thank you to our ukulele orchestra and Mrs Cast for their Christmas medley. If you come to the nativity next week, you can also catch their superb rendition of some Christmas favourites. Here's a sneak preview!



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Hamper and Raffle 2023 - Please return unsold tickets



Please continue to sell your raffle tickets. **Can we ask that if you have any unused or unsold tickets, that they are returned to school on Monday, so we can sell them at the nativity performances this week.**

£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

The raffle will be drawn after the evening nativity performance on Tuesday.

Sports Showcase



It has been a pleasure taking our Year 3/4 and some of our Owl children to their swimming lessons over the past two weeks. Mrs Riddell, Mrs Lorgat, Mrs Burton and I have seen outstanding progress by all of our swimmers and have been amazed but the talented swimmers that we have in our school. Mrs Heyworth is going to be spoilt for choice for this year's swimming gala.

A particular well done to our beginner swimmers who have conquered their fears and made the first brave strokes to becoming swimmers.

We had a special surprise for our swimmers on Friday - courtesy of Alfie's grandma owner of Taylor's Chippy. Our coach driver (bribed by Alfie) stopped at the chippy for us to pick up a sack load of chips for our dinner. What a treat after all that swimming.





<https://sway.office.com/GrLHu8OnShmzK5cc#content=L2zijL5UjCcc1A>

Martial Arts Club 2024



This week was the last martial arts session for the term. We have had some interest in new starters for the new year. Please do see Mrs Gow for more information about the club. It costs about £35 for the half term. I cannot recommend this club enough for the impact it has both physically and mentally on your child - teaching them self-control, discipline and controlled physicality.

We are the Champions - Kurling Superstars!



Oh my goodness - we could not be prouder of our KS1 kurling teams- who smashed the competition this week at the Ribble Valley kurling competition with both our teams finishing 1st and 3rd. Mrs Burton and Mrs Draycott were thrilled with their teams' performances and how strategic they were using clear tactics and skill. A huge congratulations to our two winning teams and their coaches Mrs

Burton and Mrs Draycott. Our mild-mannered Mrs Burton turns into a mean kurling fighting machine at this competition - but it certainly makes all the difference.

1st place - gold medal winning team: Florence, Adah, Thomas B and Ralph

3rd place - bronze medal winners: Abu-Bakr, Liyana, Muhammad-Aidan and Primrose.

Thank you to the mum supporters who did a sterling job of supporting!





Nativity Tuesday 19th December



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 nativity should finish by 4.45pm so please come to the

school hall for then to collect your child. We shall bring the children to the internal hall doors for collection, so adults please get your brew, enjoy the ukulele band and then line up by your child's internal door and we'll bring the children to you. If you have more than one child in school then please collect the youngest first and then move to the next door.

EYFS children from the Bunny Hole door.

Year 1/2 from internal door to their classroom

Year 3/4 from the library to hall door

Year 5/6 from the junior corridor to hall door

The nativity takes place in the church building and the front door of church will be open from 9am and then at 3.45pm.

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.

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

Goodbye Mrs Pinnington



As you may remember, our very own Mrs Pinnington went on secondment in September to help Barden primary school in Burnley set up their own school library. Since then, Mrs P has fallen back in love with her roots as a librarian and has successfully been appointed by Bowland High School as their new librarian from January. This means, that sadly, Mrs P will not be returning to us in September 2024, but is off to start her secondary school librarian career! Therefore, we wanted to give her a Balderstone Blessing and Bye -Bye. On Monday morning, 18th December at 9am you are welcome to join us in school to wish Mrs P all the very best on her new adventure and to thank her for her loyal service to our school.

Community and Church news - Christingle 24th December



Christingle 2023





Let's come together to celebrate Christingle

Christingle is a great way for communities everywhere to get together this Christmas to catch up, make some special memories, and have fun.

Come and join us!

Location:	Balderstone Church		
Date:	24 th December	Time:	4pm
To find out more, contact:			
Mrs Riddell in school			

christingle.org

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Scan the QR code to find out more.



1 - This is a really blessed and special service! Do come along and enjoy the carols and candlelight - all in aid of a very important cause.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY NEXT WEEKK



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

Monday 18th December pm - Year 3 & 4 Inside out session with Lancashire wellbeing team working with the children on resilience. **Please make sure your consent form is brought back on Monday.**

Tuesday 19th December - Nativity Day. All children in school till 4.45pm

School Christmas Disco and Christmas dinner **Wednesday 20th December**. Many thanks to the parents/grandparents who have offered to supervise the children whilst the staff eat.

Thursday 21st December - non-uniform - party clothes day. Christmas parties pm, Balderstone's Got Talent am.

Friday 22nd December - rock band performance 9am in school during our end of term celebration worship - all parents/carers/grandparents welcome as we present our termly STARS awards and reveal our House team half-termly winner.

WE FINISH SCHOOL AT 1.30pm on FRIDAY



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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