



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 12th January 2024

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

Friday 12th January 2024

In This Issue



In this week's edition of the newsletter

- **Mrs Gow's Words for the week - Happy New Year everyone**

- Owl STEM news
- Jurassic Park - EYFS
- Extra-curricular
- Forest School Fun
- Egyptologists in Fox class
- Church and Community news
- Flourishing Friday
- House point winners
- Dates for your diary
- **Contact Us**

[Mrs Gow's words for the week....](#)



Firstly, we wish everyone a happy and peaceful New Year and may your families know health, happiness and security throughout 2024. It was a joy to welcome the children back to their school family on Monday. A special welcome to our newest school members in EYFS and their families: Hunter, Adam, Rayyan and Raeis.

I trust that your Christmas break was restful and a time to recharge your batteries and spend some quality time with your families. As always we would like to thank you for your generosity and gratitude at the end of term for the gifts and messages of goodwill. Father Christmas (when he

visited school in the last week) delivered some gifts to our allocated charities, one of which being the Salvation Army who help provide for those most in need in our local area.

This term there is lots to look forward to: Let's Go Sing performance at King George's Hall, Sports competitions - gymnastics, dance festival, 3d printing, trips, Forest school for Year 1 and 2, our History mark Gold assessor visit, starting our first joint Benefice children's council and lots more!

Our worship theme this term is focusing on wisdom and on how we can make good decisions following our school mission of love at the root of all our deeds. We have been thinking about the Kings brought symbolic gifts to Jesus and how we all have gifts to share with others. Reverend Karen joined us for Celebration Worship yesterday to tell us about this time of Epiphany when the wise men came to visit Jesus. This Sunday is All-age worship at church from 11am - everyone is welcome as we share the story of Samuel and we are going to get the puppets out!

I know that there are lots of germs and bugs around at the moment, but can we please try and do our best to focus on excellent attendance this term. We promise to ring you if your child is struggling. These are shorter half-terms but crucial ones in term of the content of your children's learning, especially in the juniors. However, it is essential that if your child has suffered from vomiting or diarrhoea, then the children must not be in school for 48 hours from the last bout - to avoid spreading bugs and increasing absence rates.

We are optimistic that this is going to be a fantastic term - Spring is coming!

Blessings from your grateful and happy headteacher,

Mrs Gow

Moo's Memories - this week

Moo
is in this room.



Moo, our school therapy dog came for her first visit of the new year.

Happy Moo Year!

"I was so excited to come back to school and see all my friends. It has been ages since I've been in school because my mum has been teaching and so didn't want me to be in her office by myself (I wouldn't have minded though as load of people pop in to see me!)

My day started with lots of loves and hugs from all the staff. I loved getting lots of pats! Mrs Johnstone is one of my favourites as she always has a lovely scent of cats! I set up my bed in the office and settled down for the day.

Then my favourite thing happened....children started to come and see me. They brought their reading books and also their work to share with me. I learnt loads about Antarctica and penguin survival from Alfie. I sat and read through his English work and I was very impressed by his knowledge. Alfie always finds the time for a quick game of tug with me too (which I love). He was laughing at me though when I make my snuffly sniffing noise that sounds a bit like a baby piggy!

I went into toddler group to meet the youngest children in school and they could give me a pat or even pull my ears (gently of course). There was a yummy smell of toast in the hall. I loved seeing Dougie and Olivia again.

My best time of day is lunchtime - not because I have any food because I never go into the dinner hall but because I get to see all the children playing. I walk on my lead next to my mum's leg (like a good girl) and LOTS of you had a go at holding my lead and walking me around the yard. There was a game of football going on, netball training and lots of toys but I just wanted to walk with my friends. I'm not bothered by the noise or the balls flying around as I am trained to just ignore them unless they are mine. It's lovely to see that so many of our children are no longer scared of me. They don't have to touch me or be near me if they don't want to but it is nice to know that they know I won't hurt them. The children have learnt never to run from a doggy like me, as it can get some dogs excited and they think it is chase. Zayn was very clever this week when I was walking on my lead. He put out a gloved fist to let me sniff it. I knew straight away that he was friendly and I sniffed it and then just carried on walking.

I loved meeting some of the new children too! Thank you for walking me and I hope some of you will come and read to me, draw a picture or write a story for me soon.

Owl class engineers!



Our very own Owl class have been doing some higher level problem solving, collaboration and engineering work as they have been designing and building their own moving fairground rides - complete with engines, circuits, switches etc. The children have been amazing at problem solving and overcoming glitches and difficulties. They have really had to be critical and creative thinkers to get their rides working. Well done Owls for showing such resilience and determination - engineers of the future!

We also have some amazingly exciting news. For the next half-term we have our very own 3d printer. We have enrolled in a programme with Create education and Mrs Heyworth has been trained in 3d printing. Over the coming half-term and then for the next 3 years we shall be learning about this amazing technology and using it to design and create our own products.



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/R3LB52tULOm526hc#content=IHVMu84zrnRFWQ>



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/R3LB52tULOm526hc#content=0DoHZmHh4VS5il>

One of our dinosaurs is missing!



EYFS have been dino-mad this week - learning lots about the different species of dinosaurs. They were even archaeologists and palaeontologists digging for dino bones in the sand. Then they received a video from ranger Stan saying that some of the dinos were missing! The herbivores had gone down onto the field for some lunch but the T-Rex was missing. Don't worry though, our intrepid EYFS had it covered. Great work this week at the start of your new Balderstone Beasts topic.





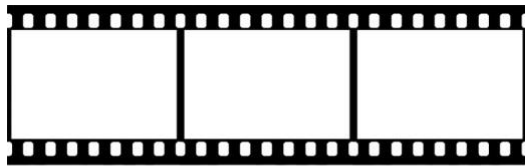








Extra-curricular clubs this half-term



SPRING TERM CLUBS



We are so proud of our extra-curricular offer at Balderstone, with morning, lunchtime and after-school clubs on every day. This half term we have:

Daily Mile - Monday and Wednesday mornings

Gardening club - Tuesday after school

Glow dodgeball -after school

Dance club - after school

Mindfulness club - Thursday lunchtime

Art club - Tuesday lunchtime

2 sports club every lunchtime - eg, hockey, sportshall athletics, football, KS1 games

The school library will be open on a Tuesday lunchtime (we are looking for new librarians)

The prayer space is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes.

Martial arts club on a Friday morning.

More club news to follow...

Forest School fun!



This week our Year 2 children started their block of Forest school lessons on a Monday afternoon.

Year 2 loved getting outside and muddy in Forest school this week. We created dens that had to withstand an impromptu rain shower from Mrs Burton's water can and then paddled in the brook trying not to get stuck in the mud!

Charlotte sent in a photo of some hidden nature she had found over the holidays. We love seeing the patterns and little surprises in nature. Send in any photos of hidden nature to Mrs Riddell and we upload them to the National Nature Park website. Thank you, Charlotte!



1 - What a stunning photograph Charlotte!







Egyptologists assemble!



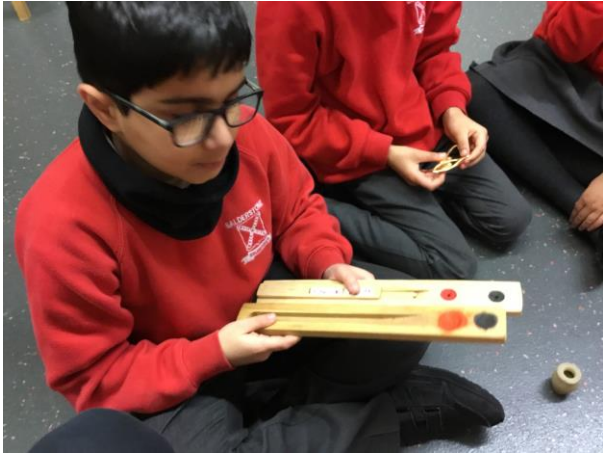
Fox class enjoyed a really informative trip to the Egyptology section of Blackburn Museum on Thursday. We met Blackburn's very own mummy and got to see and handle lots of artefacts from the Egyptian period. Did you know that Blackburn museum's Egyptology artefacts were donated by a Blackburn resident from the late 1800s who was a mathematician and archaeologist? We used the

different sources to explore and examine who the mummified person may have been. The children asked some amazing questions and were very knowledgeable. The museum staff were very impressed with their level of knowledge and facts.

We saw the Egyptian Gallery with its very own mummy, we looked closely at Egyptian artefacts (some that were 3000 years old!) and we learnt how to write our names in hieroglyphs.

Blackburn Museum is a fantastic place to visit. On Saturdays and in half term holidays they have free craft sessions for children. All the information is on their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.









Flourishing Friday award winners this week



A huge congratulations to the following pupils who were chosen for their wisdom this week:

EYFS Eissa H

Year 1 Rayyan S

Year 2 Olive B

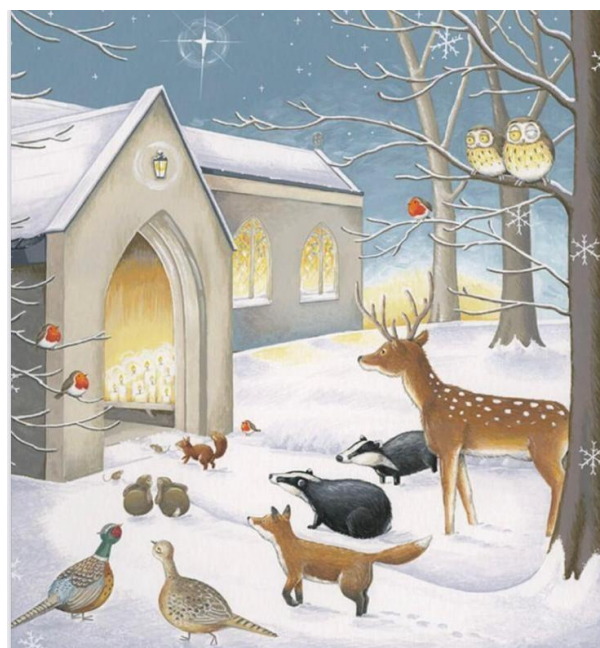
Year 3 Ameerah

Year 4 Aliza

Year 5 Laura

Year 6 Mohammed Faizan

Community and Church news



Join us at Balderstone Church
Forest Church
Sunday 28th January 4pm

House points this week



Congratulations St David on your excellent win this week. This was partly due to your successful 'no waste' lunches where we set a challenge for lunch tables to have no left-over, waste food! As we pray for those in our country and abroad who are starving, we count our many blessings and try not to waste the food we are blessed to have.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Reminder: Deadline for Reception place admissions is Monday 15th January.

Save the date - in-person Parents' Evening Wednesday 21st February 2024. (more details sent out soon)



We have released our holiday/term dates for 2024/2025 this week. We broadly follow the suggested Lancashire school holiday pattern to help with our families with secondary age children to coordinate holidays. We have put in an INSET day to start the term, one in April (hopefully to give our families & staff who celebrate Eid some extra time), and 2 at the end of term in the hope that if you book to go abroad you might be able to get cheaper flights/travel)

2024/2025 Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

INSET day Monday 2 September 2024

Starts: Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Half term: Monday 21 October - Friday 25 October 2024

Ends: Friday 20 December 2024 1.30pm finish

Spring Term 2025

Starts: Monday 6 January 2025

Half term: Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February 2025

INSET day: Tuesday 1st April 2025

Ends: Friday 4 April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Starts: Tuesday 22 April 2025

May Day: Monday 5 May 2025

INSET Day: Friday 23rd May 2025

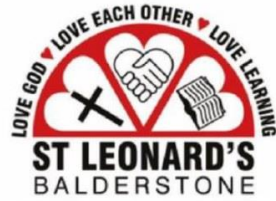
Half term: Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May 2025

Term ends: Friday 18th July 2025

INSET Days: Monday 21st & Tuesday 22 July 2025

Total number of openings - 195

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)

Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary school

Commons Lane

Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

01254 769150

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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