



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 2nd February 2024

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

Friday 2nd February 2024

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



Welcome to February. Hooray... Spring is just around the corner now! It has been a busy week in school: Forest School Monday and SATS parents meeting, History Mark assessment day on Tuesday, Life Education bus visit on Wednesday, Dogs Don't Do Ballet workshop for EYFS on Thursday and just a *normal* Friday!

Today, in the Christian church, we celebrate Candlemas - the time when we remember Jesus being presented in the temple to Simeon and Anna. We think about how Jesus acts as a light in the world and how so much love, peace and light is needed in the world at the moment. This weekend we shall be asking Reverend Karen to pray a blessing over our school trinity candles, so that every time we light them we feel the love of Jesus spread throughout our school family.

This week I must thank our fabulous History Council, our own Mrs Turner (History subject champion), our teaching staff team and Janet Smith our History governor for all the incredible work that went towards the preparation for our History Quality mark from the History association, On Tuesday, we met our assessor and she thoroughly interrogated every part of our history curriculum, teaching, assessment and enrichment. She started our day with the History council and a tour of the school to see history in action in school. After only a few minutes with our fabulous History Council, I knew that we were going to be absolutely fine - as the children were the most outstanding ambassadors for our school and shone their love of history. They could talk with confidence about all they had learnt in history, about their many trips and visit and about our school innovative, interactive timeline. I was a very proud headteacher watching three history lessons across school with the assessor and seeing our creative and experienced staff in action. The pupils in every class were outstanding. We now await our written report and official confirmation of our grading of Bronze, Silver or Gold! A thank you to the parents who also wrote comments to support our application.

I also received a rather splendid letter from Damien Hinds (Minister for Schools) about our continuing successes in phonics and early reading. I wanted to share it with you and to say a huge well done to our reading and phonics team!

Have a wonderful weekend everyone - stay warm and away from the germs!

Blessings,

Mrs Gow

Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP



Minister for Schools

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Mrs Victoria Gow

Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Commons Lane

Blackburn

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Hinds'.

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 100 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 1 per cent of all primary schools in the country,

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

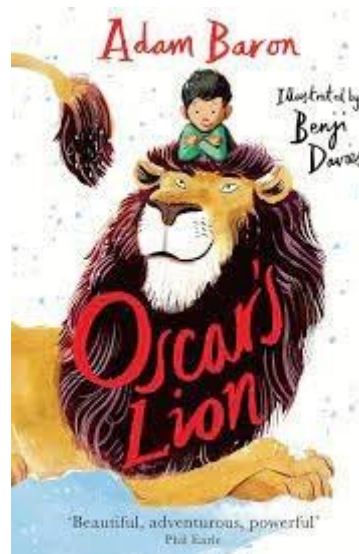
I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Hinds'.

Damian Hinds

Minister for Schools

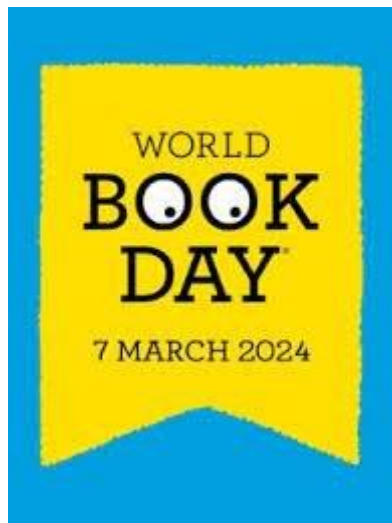
We are avid readers!



Fox class have been reading Oscar's Lion by Adam Baron, illustrated by Benji Davies. The class set of books was given to us by the Reading Agency (the summer reading challenge people) to review for the publisher Harper Collins. Guess what? We're loving the book! There are so many things to discuss, question and wonder about that we haven't finished it yet but we have sent our reviews to the Reading Agency. Ask anyone in Foxes and we'll tell you all about it!



World Book Day Thursday 7th March 2024



Did you know that reading for pleasure continues to be the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than family circumstances, parents' educational background or income

This year, for our World Book Day celebrations we are challenging you to create a **reduce, reuse, recycle** book day costume. You could use old plastic bottles, newspapers, yoghurt cartons, cardboard boxes, cereal packets etc to create your outfit. There will be book prizes for the best recycled crafts from each class. We don't want you to go out and buy a costume - we want you to get busy making one and we're giving you plenty of time to work on your creations, We shall be holding some lunchtime make and create clubs to help inspire you! Here are some ideas to start your creative juices flowing...









Forest School fun - Windy day fun!



The rain never stops us in Forest School! We had a fantastic time bug hunting, collecting rainwater (prize to Fatima and Mrs Burton for collecting the most over the afternoon!) and, of course splashing in puddles! We stayed out of the brook but enjoyed discussing the changes we could see and the importance of staying safe near water. Thank you to all the parents who had soggy clothes and children to dry out. We really appreciate your support. The children loved it!








Year 2 & 3 parent/carers iPad meeting



I'm so sorry but I wasn't well enough to host last week's iPad meeting on Thursday 1st February so I am rescheduling it to Thursday 8th February at 6pm (on Zoom) All our current Year 3 parents (current Year 2 parents are welcome too) can come along and find out about the 1:1iPad scheme that school offers. The scheme allows your child exclusive use of their own iPad between school and home and this has had a huge impact on the learning of the children in school. I will send the link out via Parentmail. Please come along, find out the options and the ways in which we use the technology to enhance your child's learning.



LET'S GO SING!®

at
King George's Hall
Blackburn
2024

Concerts start at 6pm

Monday, March 4	Monday, March 11
Tuesday, March 5	Tuesday, March 12
Wednesday, March 6	Wednesday, March 13
Thursday, March 7	Thursday, March 14
Friday, March 8	Friday, March 15
Monday, March 18	

Tickets £8.00 (Adult) & £3.50 (under 18)
Available now from King George's Hall, Blackburn
Tel: 01254 582579 or www.bwdvenues.com

1 - Make sure you book your tickets asap, year 3/4 parents. It's always an amazing evening.

Flourishing Friday award winners this week



A huge congratulations to the following pupils who were chosen for their hard work and love of learning this week:

EYFS Hunter - you are a ray of sunshine!

Year 1 Khadijah - wow attitude to learning

Year 2 Thomas - amazing attitude to the whole of Balderstone life

Year 3 Haniya - super listening (rollover), Umar - wow maths journalling

Year 4 Sophia - applying high quality writing across the curriculum

Year 5 Maisie - hard work and positivity

Year 6 Aleena - having an outstanding work ethic!

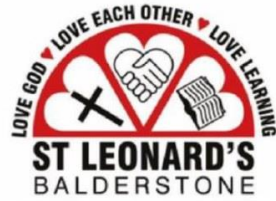
House points this week



Well done to St George - this week's winners

Team	Score
St George	44

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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