



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 1st March

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

Friday 1st March 2024

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



Happy St David's Day everyone - especially to our very one Mrs Riddell (who has her Welsh roots). This week in worship we have been Waiting and Journeying, travelling with many key figures from the Bible, such as Paul, Naomi and Ruth. We have learnt that sometimes God puts us on a path that we might not know what the end result will be, but God ALWAYS has a plan. We explored the story of Ruth and Naomi and the beautiful words that Ruth promised her mother-in-law, "For where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried." As we journey through Lent and as many of our families approach Ramadan, we have thought about how we can spend time in God's presence knowing that God will be with us no matter what the journey of life throws at us!

Today our Year 6 children should have discovered which high school is the next part of their journey. Please do let me know which school your child has been allocated and whether your child has been given their first-place choice. Our school may be small, but we certainly do feed into a very wide range of secondary schools - St Wilfrid's, Ribblesdale, Clitheroe Grammar, St Augustine's, TIGS/TIBS, Bowland, Oakhill, Bolton, Westholme, Moorlands, Pleckgate, Witton and sometimes others such as St Michael's in Chorley! We know that God has amazing plans for all of you and that every one of your secondary schools will be blessed to gain you as part of their team.

Our governors met this week and we are very much looking forward to welcoming Mr Pathan (Zaydene, Farrin and Fayha's daddy) who shall be joining us as a co-opted governor. I feel passionately that our governing body should be representative of our whole school community, as this is one way in which we make sure that our school family remains well informed. We are incredibly blessed by our dedicated governor team. I thought it would be good to just remind you of our governors and their current roles:

Ms Emma James. Former parent, Chair of Governors, maths governor, EYFS class governor

Mrs Sara Seedall. Former parent. Vice-chair of governors, Music and science governor, Year 3 class governor

Mrs Janet Smith. Current parent governor, History and MFL governor, Year 5 class governor

Mrs Janet Leaver. Current grandparent and Foundation governor, Geography governor, Year 2 class governor

Mrs John Evans. Current grandad and Foundation governor, Year 2 class governor

Mr Jonathan Greenwood. Former parent and Foundation governor, Safeguarding/online safety and Computing, Year 3 governor

Ms Yasmin Riaz. Former parent, English governor, Year 4 class governor

Mr Ryan Dixon. Former parent and Foundation governor, Admissions, Year 6 class governor

Mrs Louise Dixon. Current parent and Foundation governor, SEND governor, PE and Art governor, Year 5 class governor

Mrs Rosemary Cummins. Former staff member, parent and foundation governor, RE, PSHE and worship, year 1 class governor

Mr Scott Foster. Former parent (stepping down at the end of this academic year), governor training

Mrs Dawn Burton. Staff governor (up for reelection next month), EYFS governor, Admissions

Please do speak to me if you would be interested in supporting our governing body.

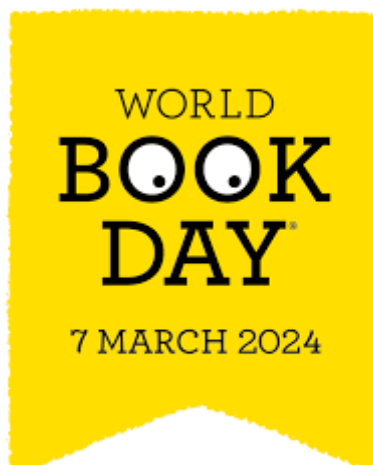
I have spoken to a number of parents this week about coordinating our events with our local mosque schools. This is something that I have been trying to do for a long time and I would be very grateful if you would share with me any term dates/exam date that your child has with their mosque. I am aware that our children attend a large number of different madrassas, but the more information that we have as a school, the more we can support your children. We would also like to celebrate your child's successes and exam successes outside of school and also we love supporting and attending presentation evenings too. We understand that at times there is a conflict of events and we are grateful for the times you approach clubs/madrassas for flexibility to support school.

For your information, our lovely neighbour Mrs Joy Heffernan passed away last week. Her family have always supported our school and as our closest neighbour she has been a wonderful supporter of our school - always allowing us to ramble through her woods and garden, never complaining about the noise or the parking, throwing back hundreds of footballs, tennis balls etc. Our prayers and love are with her family and we give thanks for her full and joyous life.

Blessing and prayers.

Mrs Gow

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March



We are very much looking forward to our SUSTAINABILITY themed World Book Day celebrations on Thursday. Your child can come to school in a **recycled** costume - try to use items that would have otherwise been thrown away and reimagine them into a **simple** costume. Please do not go out and buy anything new for this event. The idea is that your child makes, recycles or reuses something to make their costume. We shall be having a World Book Day parade first thing in the morning for the children to share their costumes. If you are looking for some inspiration - here are some sustainability themed stories:



Or your child could make a recycled costume for a well-known story. See this blog for some amazing ideas <https://blog.wob.com/sustainable-costumes-world-book-day/>

Please don't spend ages on this - make it a fun activity for your child to do! In school, we shall be focusing on books with a sustainability theme on the day.

Gymnastics competition Year 3/4



Some of our pupils are going to represent school at the Gymnastics competition this Tuesday after school. There will be two morning practises for the children to come along and go through their routines.

Monday 4th March at 8am and Tuesday 5th March at 8am. The children have brought home a floor and their bench routine to learn. Please do come along so we can make sure our children feel

confident and prepared to go out and perform their sequences. We are so excited to see their progress.

Every day counts - Attendance updates



One of the key indicators to your child's future success in school is excellent attendance. Every week we monitor our classes attendance very carefully to check if our families need any support. Many of our children have outstanding attendance, so well done and thank you. I know that there are a lot of illnesses, bugs and nasty viruses around at the moment and we certainly don't want you to feel that you should send your child in if they are definitely poorly - never in school with vomiting (for past 48 hours), diarrhoea, fevers etc. However, I would ask that you ensure your child is in school if they are 'mildly iffy' eg, tired, bit under the weather and will we always ring you if they don't improve throughout the day.

After speaking to governors this week, we are *currently* not a fining school for unauthorised absence, but current government and Lancashire advice is that we should be fining **each parent** after 5 days of unauthorised absence. **Please** do your very best to book your holiday, pilgrimage or family event with the least impact on your child/children's attendance at school. I know that there are many events, emergencies and cost implications to this, but together let's prioritise every day in school.



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/IQ6a9iUSzHHWG8TB#content=5bOu5tI3dZ00VN>

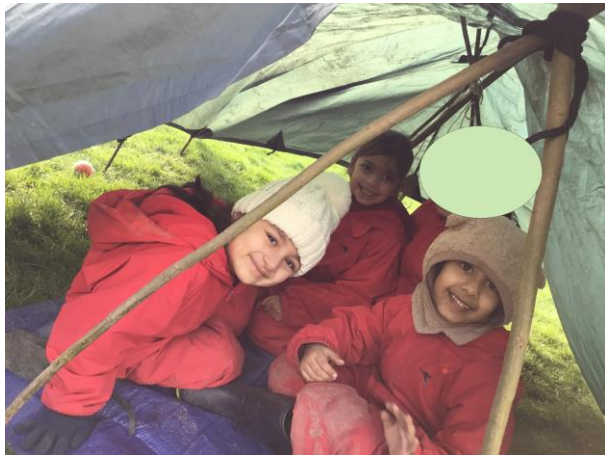
Forest School Fun



Year 1 have loved our Forest School sessions over the past 2 weeks. We've been mud painting, taking part in scavenger hunts, building dens, bug hunting and exploring the brook. There will **not** be a Forest School session on Monday 4th March due to the Year 3 and 4 concert trip. The next session will be on 11th March.



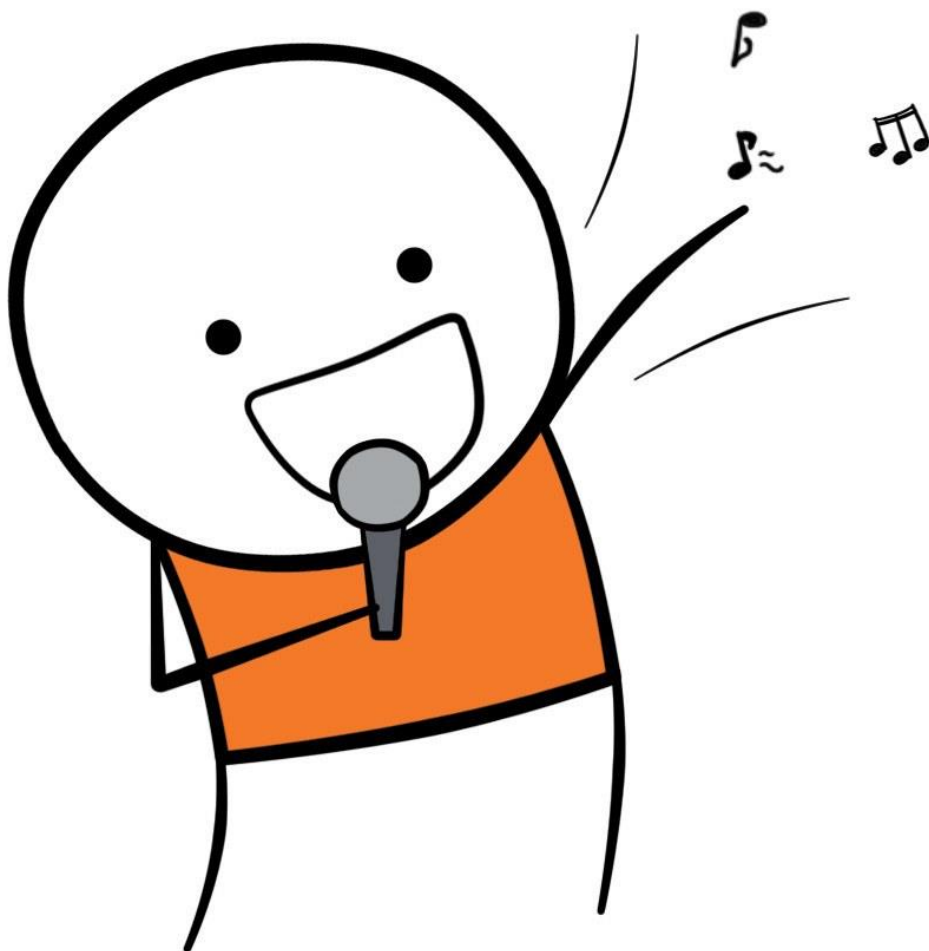








Let's Go Sing



LET'S GO SING!®

at

King George's Hall
Blackburn

2024

Concerts start at 6pm

Monday, March 4
Tuesday, March 5
Wednesday, March 6
Thursday, March 7
Friday, March 8

Monday, March 11
Tuesday, March 12
Wednesday, March 13
Thursday, March 14
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

We are very much looking forwards to the concert on Monday evening. Please remember your red t-shirts, smart uniform, your packed tea and of course your very best singing voices!

Chorister's Open Day

Saturday 9th March, 11.15am-4pm

For children aged 8
and over who are
interested in music,
come and see what
it's like to be a
chorister at
Blackburn Cathedral!

Please email
musicadmin@blackburncathedral.co.uk to book your
free place or for more
information.



We have some amazing links to Blackburn Cathedral's choir - our very own George Seedall as head chorister at the Cathedral and we are so proud of his ongoing achievements, commitment and talent. This year, Blackburn Cathedral's next open day for choristers, is on Saturday 9th March (poster attached). This is an exciting opportunity for music lovers aged 8 and over who would like to try something new, make new friends and experience what it's like to be a chorister at Blackburn Cathedral. The event is free to attend and can be booked by emailing musicadmin@blackburncathedral.co.uk.

Flourishing Friday



This week, here are our flourishers who have all shown progress this week! Here's who has flourished this week:

EYFS. Isaac - super listening and getting busy in Rabbits

Year 1 Rumaysa - wow work and participation in class

Year 2 Thomas B - wonderful learning and helping our newest class members settle

Year 3 Ameerah - infectious enthusiasm for learning

Year 4 Shifa - increased concentration and confidence

Year 5 Zaydene - Outstanding progress in your written work. Great attitude to learning!

Year 6 Aisha - acting as a wonderful role model to your buddies and serving others

Coffee Creative



We are looking forward to our next Coffee Creative on Friday 8th March 2pm - 3pm.

EYFS and KS1 Stay and Play - We're Going on a Bear Hunt themed

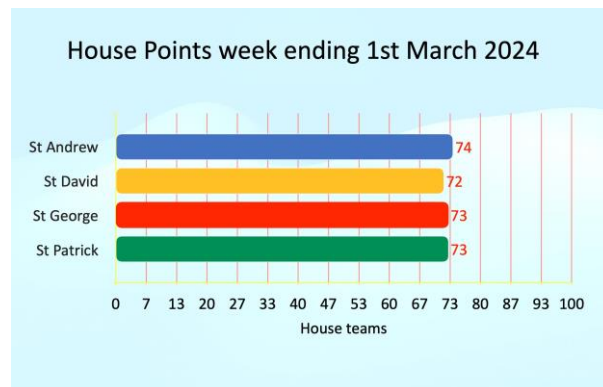


Sorry everyone - I got Gruffalo carried away last week. We're going on a Bear hunt, not a Gruffalo hunt this time. Our next stay and play session is planned provisionally for the morning of the 12th March. This event will be open to all of our EYFS and KS1 families - our toddler group will be invited to join us in the woods as we go on a Bear Hunt.

House points this week



Well done to St Andrew - it was a close on this week - my goodness, I had to recount and check lots of times.



Church and Community News



Our Children's Church council are going to meet this week with our two benefice, sister schools to look at how we can further work together to make our worship life even more engaging for our youngest parishioners. We'll share their ideas with you soon.

Ceilidh - come along for some dancing fun



United Benefice Ceilidh

Our United Benefice Ceilidh will be held on Saturday 23rd March at Samlesbury Memorial Hall, from 7:00pm to 11:00pm, with dancing to Frolicking Pete and The Fumbling Fingers Band. Tickets, costing £15, include a potato pie or cheese and onion pie supper, courtesy of Sandersons Bakery, but please bring your own drinks. To buy your tickets, please contact any of the following: Corinne Seedall (07483 212328 / 01254 812920), Gaynor Dockerill (07563 262784), Grace Eastham (01772 877076) or Rita Gorman (01254 812566). Everyone welcome!

Safeguarding section



This week we focus on making sure the grown-ups in our school family are happy, safe and flourishing so that our children can also be safe, happy and flourish! The current financial crisis and other pressures are making family tricky for many people and, as your school family, we want you to know that we are here for you.

This week, we include some support information from Blackburn with Darwen, outlining their Early Help Offer.

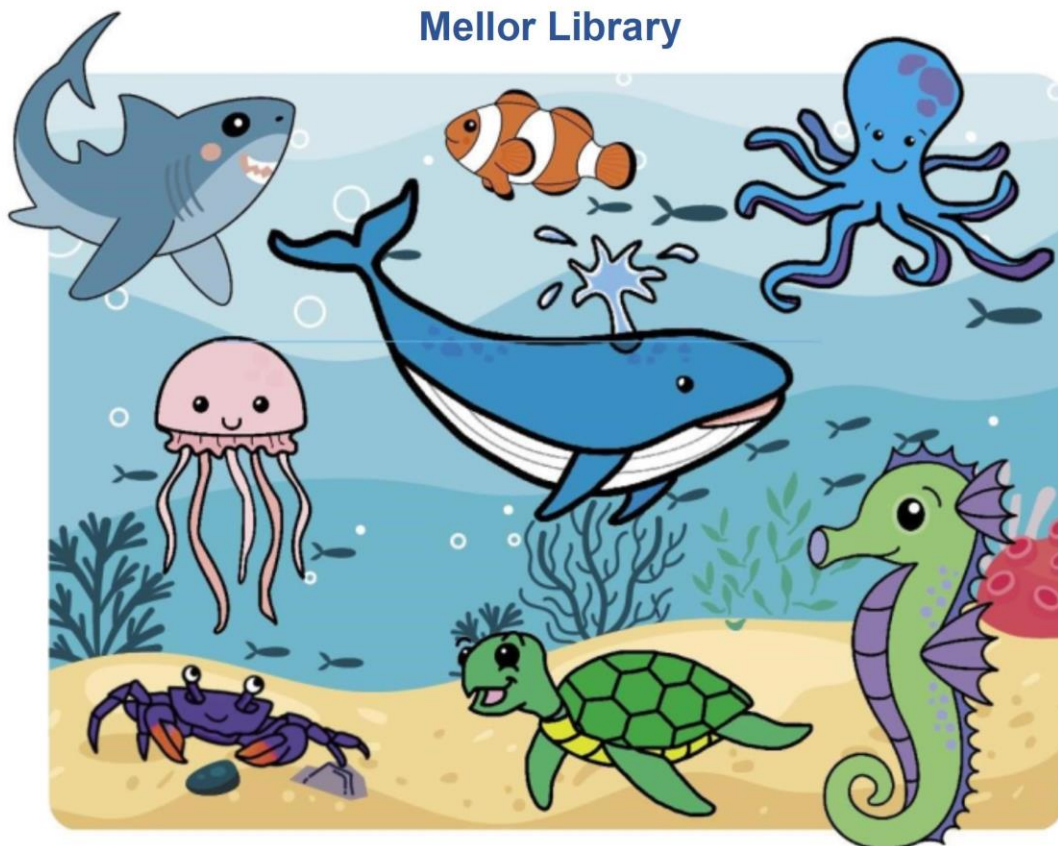
Blackburn with Darwen's local offer to support families is excellent. Here is the link to access the full offer: <https://www.bwd-localoffer.org.uk/kb5/blackburn/directory/home.page>



EME Little Steps Ocean - Mellor Library support for young families

Little Steps

Mellor Library



Little Steps sessions

Free family sessions for children aged 2 to 5 delivered in partnership with the Children and Family Wellbeing Service

Every third Wednesday of the month during term time
9.30am to 10.30am

**Come along to chat, play, read, and learn through
multisensory play!**

lancashire.gov.uk/libraries



Lancashire
County
Council



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Humraaz Support Services - Don't struggle alone!



Founded in 2002 and registered as a charity in 2005, Blackburn based Humraaz is led by and for black and minority ethnic women, sustainably supporting and nurturing women from diverse ethnic backgrounds to have a voice. Women who have fled domestic abuse, honour-based violence have been supported to move from crisis to safety in our refuge. Our structured programmes provide the women a safe place to grow, allow integration into society with social and economic stability.

We work in partnership with local and national statutory organisations and have vast experience with the voluntary sector.

We are a culturally sensitive service and understand the intersecting and diverse needs. Part of this work includes addressing personal issues, concerns around family life, the community and also the environment in which the women live in.

We aim to empower service users by teaching life skills which enable them to become independent, take control of their lives and determine their own future. They are encouraged to participate in challenging and stimulating activities within a safe environment, the ultimate goal being to build self-esteem and confidence. This develops the ability to access services and make the most of opportunities to provide their own security and financial independence.

Our Community Services has gradually developed over the last 3 years. We believe that women are crucial in the community to teach their children and to bring about social change. We do this by educating and supporting the women of the borough through companionship, crafting, sharing of experiences, laughter and food.

Our ProDIGY (Professional Development In the Great You) group offers peer support for professional women from ethnic minorities. Through the group we share skills, network, offer support and have a monthly session on topics selected by the group. The sessions are run by the members. We welcome all professional women from ethnic minorities. If you are interested to join us or learn more, please email ProDIGY@humraaz.org.uk. or complete this form: <https://bit.ly/ProDIGYEnquiryForm>

National Centre for Domestic Violence . Tel: 0800 970 2070 Text: "NCDV" to 60777 Online: [ncdvdirect.org.uk](https://www.ncdv.org.uk) Resources: <https://www.ncdv.org/resources>

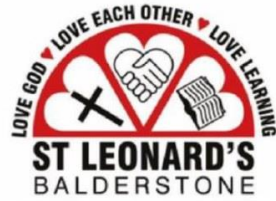
Muslim Women's Network 0800 999 5786 / 0303 999 5786 www.mwnhelpline.co.uk; info@mwnhelpline.co.uk

Women's Aid National Domestic Violence Helpline 24hr 7 days/week freephone 0808 2000 247 helpline@womensaid.org.uk

Samaritans Whatever you're going through, call us free any time, from any phone, on 116 123 www.samaritans.org

Ashwood Solicitors Provide Legal Aid in Immigration and Asylum Law, Legal Aid in Housing Law as well as other areas of law. Contact: (01254) 917425 or WhatsApp (07825) 235661 or www.ashwoodsolicitors.co.uk

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>