



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 8th March

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

Friday 8th March 2024

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



It has been a very busy week in school this week (just how we like it). With EYFS off on their bear hunt, exploring the forest school area on a daily basis - paddling in the book, enjoying the swishy grass and lots of mud painting going on! Year 1 and 2 have been busy with their weaving and Year 3 and 4 have completed some super sewing. I have seen some wonderful writing from year 5 and 6 this week, which has impressed me with varied sentences structures and some high quality vocabulary. Here's a brief summary of some of the amazing experiences from this week:

Monday - Let's Go Sing with Year 3 and 4, as all their hard work culminated in a wonderful performance at King George's Hall.

Tuesday - Gardening club and Gymnastics competition at St Augustine's for our Year 3/4 teams

Thursday - World Book day parade and themed lessons and lunch (with Willy Wonka's chocolate fountain!)

Friday - Coffee Creative family art fun in the hall.

Next week we are hosting our Bear Hunt Interactive Story stay and play on Tuesday and then on Wednesday our winning house team is off to the cinema!

It always strikes me that our children, despite being part of a small and close-knit school family, certainly do get a rich and varied curriculum and extra-curricular offer. This wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers and parents so a huge thank you to Mrs Riddell for her Let's Go Sing efforts, Mrs Turner and the team (Mrs Hussain, Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Chand) for her Coffee Creative organisation, Mrs Heyworth for helping me at the gymnastics and for all the volunteers, grandparents and parents who came along to support the children at these events this week.

As we celebrate Mothering Sunday this weekend, we remember all those 'mothers and others' who care for us. We give thanks for all those in our lives - mums, foster mums, adopted mums, grannies, nannas, aunties and others who help us to flourish. A huge thank you to all our Balderstone mums and grandmas who support our school. A special mention to our own Evie - whose mummy Rachel has just become a mummy to baby Thea. To all of you who may no longer have your mums, grannies etc with you, may you remember them with a smile and a prayer this Sunday.

Blessing and prayers.

Mrs Gow

World Book Day - Sustainable reading!

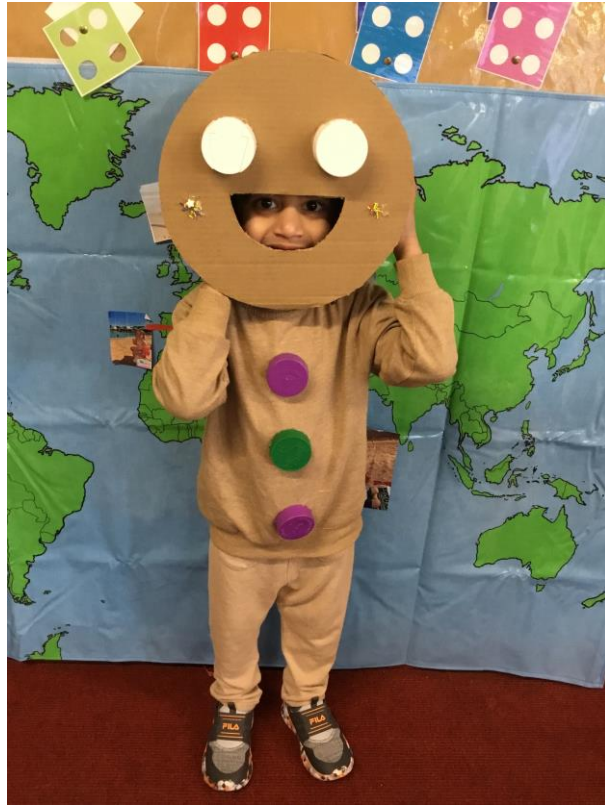


What a joy to see so many of our school family dressing up and having fun on Thursday for World Book Day. The event started in the late 90s and was designed to encourage children and families to fall in love with reading again. This is so much more critical in our digital world now where reading a book has to compete with the X-box, Playstation, phone and iPad.

It made our hearts dance to hear our children talk so positively about reading and books and to see the creativity of our families in some of your handmade costumes. Whether you came as Dobby, Harry Potter and sustainable mermaid, a book fairy, a lego block, an explorer or a Mr Men character - well done for helping us see that books really are fun. Well done to the staff team for being such good sports too!

The children in Year 3/4 came up with some amazing designs for a new reading space in school - so now we just have to find the money to build a library treehouse (with mood lighting), some mini-teepees, flower, log and animal cushions and a few other creative items. We also joined the BBC Teach Live lesson and met some real authors and illustrators.

Here are some photos from our Reading Parade. Thank you everyone for your amazing effort.

























Gymnastics competition Year 3/4

Gymnastics

Mrs Heyworth and I had the pleasure of taking our Fox class gymnastics team to compete at St Augustine's this week. The children had to perform their own floor and bench (beam) routines of which they were individually scored and were then awarded a level. We were phenomenally proud of them all, for their routines and progress over the past few weeks, for remembering the sequences of each routine, but also for their sporting values and the way they cheered on and looked out for one another. They stood out in the sports event for the way they smiled and cheered each of their squad through each routine. We could not have been prouder of them. Super placings and results for all children with Bronze and Silver gradings. Thank you to our supportive squad of parents and grandparents too, who came to cheer us on!













Coffee Creative - Sunflower planters



We LOVE inviting you all into school to be creative and to have everyone chatting, painting, colouring and constructing together. This time, we also had a bit of planting thrown in too. Thank you so much for coming along to these events. We have deliberately held it before the start of Ramadan, so we could enjoy some fellowship and a brew together. It was great to see such varied creations. Thanks Mrs Turner and the Arts team for organising the event. Remember to send us updates on the height of your sunflower!





















Comic Relief day (next Friday)



Red Nose Day is part of our school's traditional fund-raising calendar of events. This year, you may come to school in non-uniform or like the team at Blue Peter are doing - dress head to toe in red! In the afternoon we are having our very own Bake off - with Mrs Burton holding a make a silly face cake decorating whole-school activity. Your child's £1 donation buys their cake and decorations. After school our very own STIKS waffles (best waffles in the West!) are coming to sell their fares after school. We realise that many parents will be fasting so we shall have a room for scoffing waffles and one for parents who are fasting to wait. There will be a cake stall for you to box up some cakes to take home for when you break your fast or get home from school!



1 - Thank you to Stiks for their support. Waffles available to order for collection at the end of the school day. £3 each.

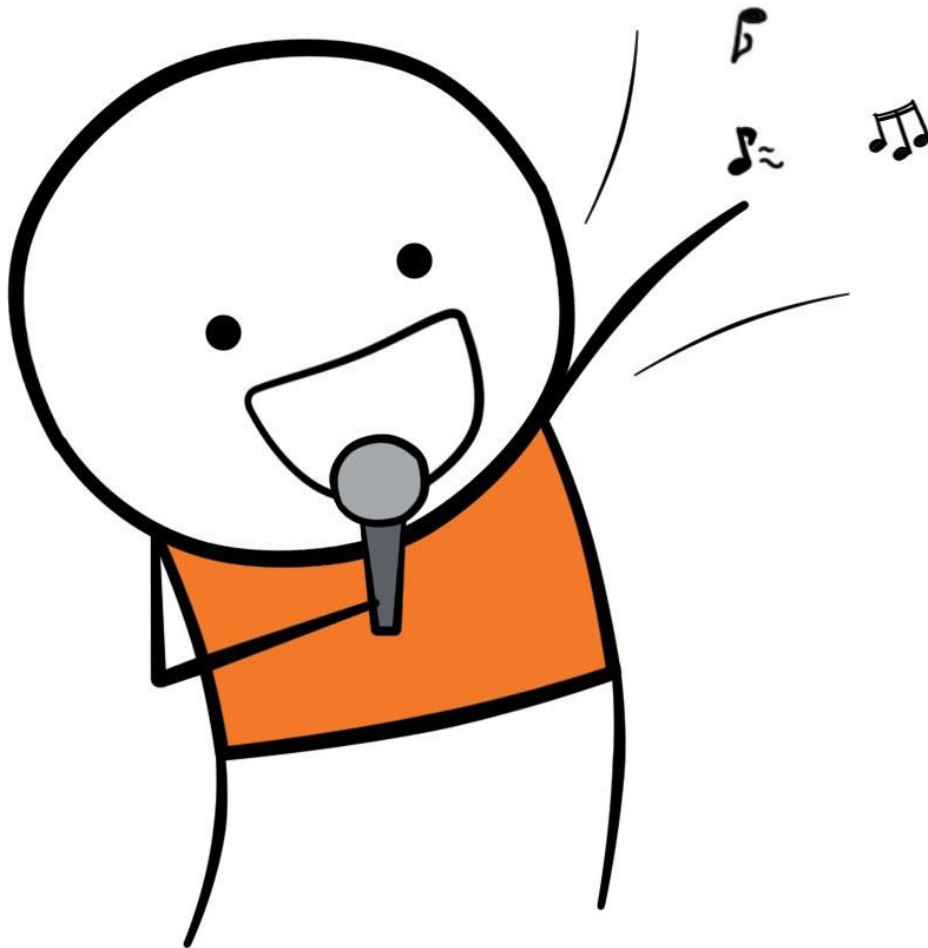
Chocolate Bouquet Raffle - in aid of Marie Curie



Mrs Johnstone's son, Andy, is running this year's London Marathon and we would love to support him in his bid to raise money for Marie Curie. His dad died of cancer recently and he wanted to find a way to give back to the charities that support those suffering with the disease and their families. With this in mind, Mrs Johnstone has made the most spectacular chocolate and sweetie bouquet and

if raffling it off before the Easter holidays. Tickets for the raffle are £1 each and sold at front office OR if you don't want to buy a ticket but would like to make a donation, then please place it in the box at front office.

Let's Go Sing



This year I got to sit in the audience and enjoy the show and my goodness what a show it was! I had goosebumps at some points as the harmonising and power of 400 voices was so moving. Well done to Year 3/4 for your hard work in learning all the songs and signing. A special well done to Mrs Riddell too as she got up and sang the teachers' song.



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/ERvr20nVH60XLNTY#content=WhXhjivHv7dsqO>

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. Fatima - great numbers bond work and being busy in continuous provision

Year 1 Zidan - super concentration on your weaving

Year 2 Liyana - wonderful art and helping others in class

Year 3 Yaqub - showing maturity in focusing on learning

Year 4 Juwairiyah - for conscientious work in maths journal

Year 5 William - marvellous maths and patience

Year 6 Daisy - unbelievable progress in writing

Ramadan prayer



To all of our families entering the holy month of Ramadan this weekend, we, as your school family wish that this is a blessed time where you get to grow in spirit and move closer to God. We

understand that fasting is a critical pillar of your faith and we shall do all we can to support you in this. Some of our children in **Owl class** have expressed a wish to fast and we shall accommodate this wherever possible. We would ask that:

OWL CLASS children in year 5/6

Children do **not** fast on days that they have curriculum PE (unless of course they are obliged to fast due to passing puberty)

Children only fast on set days of the week, so Miss Lee can still order school dinners, knowing who is fasting when.

Mrs Gow will collect a register of fasting children a week in advance and class teachers will be aware then of who is fasting, when.

Children only fast for one/two days maximum in a week (at least two of the other days will be PE days) to aid concentration.

Children will have access to a space without food/drink at lunchtimes and the prayer space to use throughout the time whilst food is being served

It is really important that the children make the decision to fast without peer pressure, as everyone's faith journey is unique and no one in our school should judge others (only God does this!)

Mrs Gow will fast with the children on set days throughout Ramadan and our Christian and Muslim children can join together for a hunger lunch/Lent lunch later in Ramadan and Lent to help us remember those who are less fortunate than we are.

A charity box for Blackburn Foodbank will be open in the school hall for donations of food/toiletries etc to be collected on a weekly basis.

Children from Year 4 may choose to join Mrs Gow and others for a day's fasting in school later in Ramadan.

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



EYFS have been busy preparing for TUESDAY'S Bear Hunt with some fantastic outdoor learning. They have been splash-splishing, swish-swashing and squelch-squirting in grass, water and mud this week. We look forward to sharing our Bear Hunt with all those who have signed up to join us on Tuesday! See you bear.... sorrysee you there!



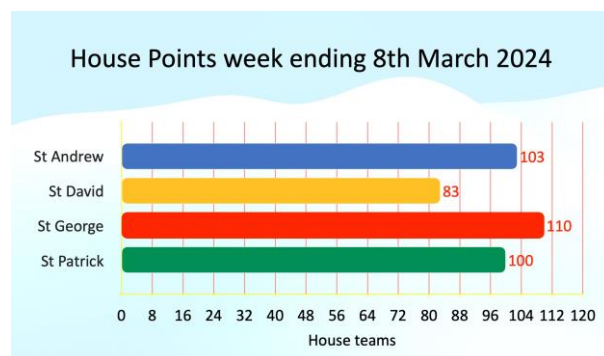




House points this week



Well done to St George - this week's winners.



Church and Community News



Come and join us for our special Mothering Sunday all-age worship at 11am this Sunday.

mothering sunday poster



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



We continue our focus on family wellbeing this week.

We have some exciting news. The new Blackburn Family Hub webpage has been launched

Please see the link below to access the new webpage for the Family Hubs which details the services and support you and your families can access

[Welcome | Family Hubs Test \(familyhubsbwd.org\)](http://familyhubsbwd.org)

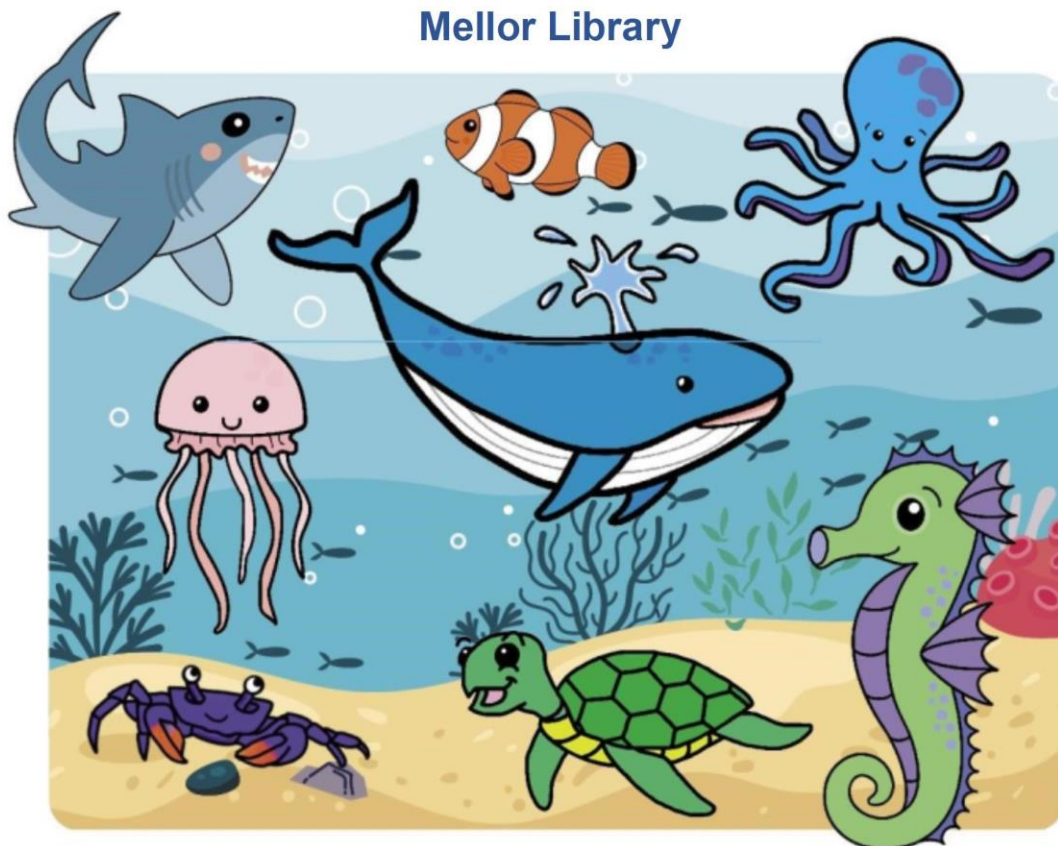


**Family
Hub**
Online

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

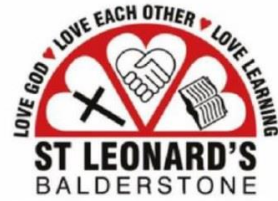


Lancashire
County Council



01753 83181

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