



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 15th March

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

*Friday 15th March 2024*

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



Spring is most definitely in the air and it has been a joy to have some lighter mornings and hearing the bird song. This past week, some of our Arts council took our infant children and toddler group off on a Bear Hunt - to share our love of story and also our passion for children learning stories by heart. A huge thank you to Mrs Turner and the children who planned and led the event. It was amazing to hear the children performing such expressive recitals of the story. Thank you parents, grandparents, aunties and friends for joining in too and being such good sports. It was a shame that the weather wasn't kinder to us, as we would have loved to journey through the woods to tell the tale - there's always next term !

I wrote to many parents/carers earlier in the week to explain that there are a few staffing changes after Easter. Miss Roberts is rejoining us after the Easter holiday, but will only be working on Thursday/Friday and she will be working with Mrs Burton in Squirrel class. Mrs Turner shall be continuing her journey with EYFS, Mrs Chand and Mrs Hussian. Whilst, Mrs Draycott and I will be working with Mrs Riddell to support our Fox class at the end of the week. We hope you agree that consistency in staffing and having staff who know your children well, are key strengths of our school family.

I had the pleasure of attending the Headteacher and Vicar conference on Wednesday, where our three Benefice schools (us, Mellor and Samlesbury) got to listen to Bishop Philip talk about how we can build God's Kingdom here on earth through the work we do in our church schools. It reminded me just how precious our school make-up is - our school is a place where families of different faiths unite under the same love of God and we play, praise and learn together. This week, as many of our parents (and some older children) have started fasting, we pray alongside you for blessings to pour upon you, your families and all of God's creation - may God's peace flow like a river in our school, country and world.

Next week we look forward to our themed Round the World lunches, to our Dance festival competition on Tuesday and to our Year 5/history council trip to Gawthorpe Hall. We are hopefully welcoming our new chicks to the world and to EYFS, as the eggs get ready to hatch VERY soon, Thank you Dixon family for sharing this 'eggcellent' experience with us.

Blessing and prayers.

Mrs Gow

## Safeguarding section - Health: Scarlet Fever and measles updates



**This week we focus on health and wellbeing - with updates about the immunisation programme in the local area.**

There has been a rise in infectious illnesses at the moment, *specifically Scarlet fever and also measles*. We have had a confirmed case of scarlet fever in school this week, so we thought it would be good to remind you of the signs, symptoms and treatment options.

One of our parents Mrs Tailor has sent in this information:

A urgent Mumps, Measles and Rubella immunisation catch up programme has now started.

Just a few points:

We have been advised by NHS England to vaccinate anyone aged 5-11. (However anyone else who has not had the vaccine, should get in touch with their GP).

Only selected pharmacies can vaccinate,

One of them is:

**Everest Pharmacy Darwen, 21 Cemetery Road, BB3 2LZ**

Also with the number of cases increasing parents should just be aware of symptoms:

The initial symptoms of measles:

- Resemble a cold with runny nose, cough and a slight fever
- Eyes become red and sensitive to light

As the illness progresses, children may develop:

- A high fever
- A raised red rash that usually begins on the face and spreads downwards to the neck, trunk, arms, legs and feet
- Small white spots inside the cheeks and lips

For some people, measles can be very serious if it spreads to other parts of the body, such as the lungs and the brain. Problems can include pneumonia, meningitis and seizures (fits).

If you think your child does have measles, do not attend GP practices or pharmacies, instead call your GP practice.

If anyone has any questions, i am happy to answer them.

Kindest regards Aisha Tailor(Eesa & Adam's mum)



## Scarlet fever Signs and symptoms



Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*, or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious, but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others. The early symptoms of scarlet fever include **sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue.**

If you think you, or your child, might have scarlet fever:

- contact your GP or NHS 111 as soon as possible
- make sure that you or your child take(s) the full course of any antibiotics prescribed. Although you or your child will feel better soon after starting the course of antibiotics, you must complete the course to ensure that you do not carry the bacteria in your throat after you have recovered
- **stay at home, away from nursery, school or work for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection**

You can help stop the spread of infection through frequent hand washing and by not sharing eating utensils, clothes, bedding and towels. All contaminated tissues should be disposed of immediately.

## Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the

bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still very uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection.

As a parent, you should trust your own judgement.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

## Stop the spread

Children and adults with suspected scarlet fever should stay off nursery / school / work until **24 hours** after the start of appropriate antibiotic treatment. Good hygiene practice such as hand washing remains the most important step in preventing and controlling spread of infection. We shall make sure that the children continue to wash their hands regularly in school. Please let me know if your child is diagnosed with Scarlet Fever, so I can take the appropriate action.

## Resources

[NHS – Scarlet Fever](#)

[Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment](#)

[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)

[Hand hygiene resources for schools](#)



We've Been on a Bear Hunt ..... and we found one!



Listening to a chorus of little voices chanting.... "We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day. We're not scared!" on Tuesday made my heart sing. It unfortunately wasn't a beautiful spring day, but was a bit soggy. As always, Mrs Turner had an alternative plan up her sleeve! Thank you so much for supporting this Stay and Play session and reinforcing to our children that a love of story and storytelling is crucial! A special mention to our Year 5/6 children who did such a fabulous job of bringing each part of the journey to life.









## Easter holiday clubs

Below is some information about the holiday clubs running during the Easter break. Remember, if your child is in receipt of pupil premium, they are entitled to meal vouchers for the holiday and a free place at holiday club. See Mrs Gow for more information.



**EASTER HAF EVENT**

4th April 11-3pm  
New Era  
Accrington  
BB5 1PB

9th April 11-3pm  
Great Harwood  
Primary School  
BB6 7JQ

**FOR AGES 5-11YRS**

**FOOD**  
**GAMES**  
**MAGIC**  
**CRAFTS**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE  
CALL 01200 420460  
MESSAGE OUR PAGE  
OR EMAIL  
CFWHRVGROUPS@LANCASHIRE.GOV.UK  
WITH YOUR HAF CODE

**Family Hubs** Lancashire  
County Council  
Made with PosterMyWish



**HAF**  
**EASTER EVENT**  
**THE ZONE CLITHEROE BB7 2JY**

**Free Entry**

**Ages 5-11yrs**

*Come join us for a fun family event!*

**FOOD • FUN • GAMES • ART AND CRAFTS**

**11th April**

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE  
CALL 01200 420460  
MESSAGE OUR PAGE  
OR EMAIL  
cfwhrvgroups@lancashire.gov.uk  
WITH YOUR HAF CODE

**11am Until 1pm**

**Family Hubs** Lancashire  
County Council  
Made with PosterMyWish

## Sporting Round-up



This week we have had both our Year 5/6 football team in action at Edisford Bridge and then our Year 3/4 class played in the Glow Dodgeball competition on Friday.

Despite having a number of tough matches, all credit to our footballers who kept going despite a few defeats. We had to make anymore of changes to the team sheet and the team coped admirably. A character building performance. Thank you Mrs Heyworth for supporting the children and to the parents who went along to cheer on the squad.

Sixteen of our Fox class played in the Ribble Valley Glow dodgeball competition on Friday. Mrs Riddell and Mrs Dixon spent the morning in the dark - watching our glowing superstars represent Balderstone incredibly well! This competition was to encourage children to have fun in sport and to give them a chance to show their sporting values. Well done to everyone who played so well as a team and for living out our sporting values.

## Red Nose Day fun 2024!



A huge thank you to everyone who helped support our fundraising for this year's Red Nose Day. The children enjoyed their non-uniform day and also decorating their funny face cakes with our school council. Thank you Mrs Burton for all your preparation! What a delicious way to end the week.

We raised over £300!

A special thank you to Abdullah and Amirah's family, especially mum for our delicious waffles. The family donated all the profit to the Red Nose Day appeal. Thank you to all the families who brought and bought cakes for the cake stall (and to all those who supported despite fasting too).



*1 - Thank you to Stiks for their ongoing support of school fund-raising.*

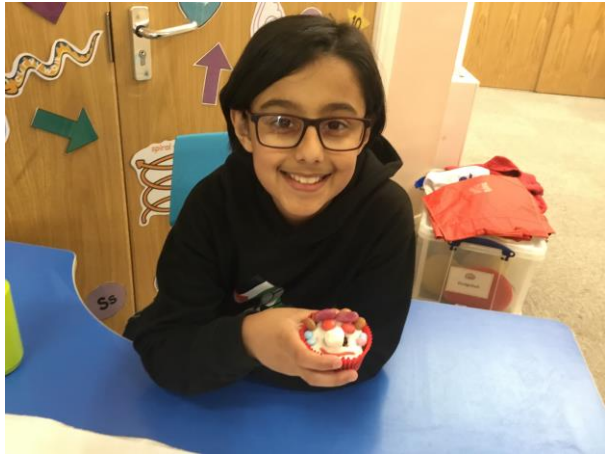
















Last week for Chocolate Bouquet Raffle - in aid of Marie Curie



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.

## Forest School fun!



In Forest School this week, Year 1 had a fire. We talked about the reasons we were having a fire, what we needed to make a fire and how to stay safe when the fire was lit. They all had a go at lighting cotton wool with a dragon sneeze. If you're not sure what a dragon sneeze is, ask any of the children! We then enjoyed toasting marshmallows and eating baked apples. We even had time to explore the brook! A perfect afternoon! Well done Year 1!









Vet Visit - Thank you Mrs Seedall



EYFS got to meet a real life vet this week, when our very own governor, Mrs Seedall came to join us to tell us all about how she helps keep animals fit and healthy. The children got a chance to have a go themselves! What an inspirational visit. Thank you Mrs Seedall - we all want to be vets now.







## Flourishing Friday



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

EYFS. Bobbie - Wow retelling of Bear Hunt and for showing kind and caring hands!

Year 1 - Phoebe - for being so much more confident

Year 2 Primrose - for showing kindness and compassion when a friend needed you

Year 3 rollover due to Dodgeball competition

Year 4 Zak - for amazing science

Year 5 MH - kindness and hard work

Year 6 Georgia - for humility and kindness

## House points this week



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

## Church and Community News



Next Friday from 2pm - 3.30pm we are holding a VERY special interfaith Forest church session. EVERYONE welcome. Bring your wellies and waterproof and join us for an Easter themed adventure. Mums, dads, grannies, grandpas, aunts and uncles all welcome.

Children from Year 3 & 4 will be helping to lead the event. We shall be joined by the Bishop too (so it is very exciting). Come along and show what a very special school family we are - we play, pray and praise together. Meet in church at 2pm. Refreshments and crafts in school afterwards too.



DUE TO THIS SPECIAL FOREST CHURCH THERE WILL BE NO CELEBRATION WORSHIP NEXT FRIDAY  
(COME TO FOREST CHURCH INSTEAD)

## Children's Church Council

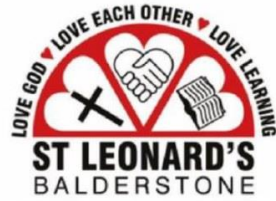


Our joint Benefice Children's church council met this week - a few children from Mellor, Samlesbury and Balderstone churches got together to think about how we could make worship even better in our Benefice. A huge thank you to the children for your enthusiasm, ideas and fellowship. It's lovely to have the three schools working together on this project,



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/wCkyt2iPlpO03FyN#content=ChDrziPDe7TSP7>

## Contact Us



**A small school  
with a big heart**

**We are currently accepting  
applications.**

Join us for our Open Week 31<sup>st</sup>  
October – 4<sup>th</sup> November. Ring  
school to book a tour.



For more information visit  
 **[www.balderstoneschool.co.uk](http://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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