



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 19th April 2024

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

Friday 19th April 2024

Mrs Gow's words of welcome



I think we have pretty much had every kind of weather possible this week - from glorious Spring sunshine to epic hail storms! It was lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week and to hear about your adventures over the break. It sounds as if lots of Easter and Eid fun was had.

We have hit the ground running in the summer term with Forest school resuming (on quite a breezy day), sports events with some of our Owl class going to Team building and EYFS celebrating their own class Eid/birthday party. A warm "welcome back" to Miss Roberts who rejoined the Squirrel team this week.

The summer term always seems to fly past and so I have included some key dates to get us to the end of the year that you might need on your calendars - especially for our Owl class children!

Can I please politely remind you of our uniform, jewellery and appearance standards - to ensure that all of our children are treated with equity and parity and so we also look smart! All children should have black school **shoes** please (not trainers for the school day). I know that it is tricky if your child grows very quickly, but please try to ensure that they have a sturdy pair of shoes for school. Your child will need a pair of trainers in school for lunchtimes clubs, PE and sports events, so their trainers won't go to waste. Children should only wear a plain pair of earring studs if they have just had their ears pierced - if they can, these earrings should not be worn for school - especially for PE days. Smart watches with call or video/photo/internet/messaging capability should **not** be worn for school as these have safeguarding implications. Hair accessories need to be minimal please - no massive headbands or bows (as these can cause issues with snagging etc). Hair should not be cut below a number 2 setting (unless children are returning from pilgrimage and then we understand the reasoning for shaved heads). No child from Reception to Year 6 should have shaved lines or designs in their hair during term time please. These rules help prepare the children for their time in secondary school, when dress regulations are MUCH stricter than primary. Please see the notice

below about our new to you uniform stall and, as always, if you need any support with uniform purchasing, then let school know and we shall help.

We had some sad news last week, that one of our beloved former dinner ladies Mrs Christine Harrison passed away. Christine worked at the school for many years, with her two close friends Gill Oddie and Margaret Bond. She was a treasured friend and colleague to so many of our staff and I am sure will be fondly remembered by so many of those of you who have had long associations with Balderstone. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and we shall treasure memories of her glamorous sense of style, her bicycle riding, kindness and wonderful sense of fun.

We have had pleasing news about next year's admissions to Reception and we would now like you to support us in filling the places we have across our rather fabulous school (I know I am somewhat biased!) Our school community and partnership with you, our parent team, is one of the most special things about Balderstone. Please would you spread the word that we do have places available from September for families who might be moving into the area: places are available in Pre-school (part time/full time for children aged 3 and over), Year 1 (plenty of room!), Year 3 (1 place), Year 5 (1 place), Year 6 (1 place). It would make a massive difference to school funding moving onwards if we could fill some/all of these places and bring new families into the Balderstone fold.

Every blessing,

Mrs Gow

Forest school - it was a bit windy!



Year 5 had a very breezy Forest School this week but showed amazing resilience as they made their own kites! All the kites flew although some didn't stay in the air for long! We also played our favourite bee game and challenged them to trust each other in our blindfold game.







PE kit from September 2024



We are phasing in our new PE kit, starting from September 2024.

We are giving you advance notice of a change to our school PE from September 2024. *The new PE kit will **NOT be compulsory** for the next few years for children already in school*, other than for new Reception intake September 2024. However, if you are looking to purchase new PE kit for September onwards we are phasing out our red polo shirts and black shorts in favour of a new (super smart) grey, red and white kit.

OUR PRE-SCHOOLERS WILL STILL HAVE AN UNBADGED RED POLO SHIRT AND PLAIN BLACK SHORTS - from September 2024 (to keep costs down for our littlest learners until they start school officially in Reception class. These can be bought from any supplier/supermarket)

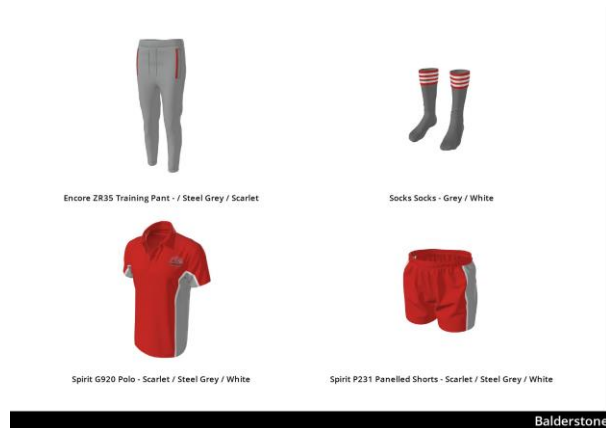
There will only be **2 compulsory items** of kit - a school badged PE polo shirt and school shorts.

In the juniors, we will also have a **compulsory pair of grey football socks**.

There will be two **optional** pieces - a badged tracksuit/zip top and either a pair of tracksuit trousers or leggings.

We will **NOT** be changing the main school uniform next year to help parents with the cost of living - but we would like to *start* to make changes to the PE kit, as we take our children to SO many external competitions that we need our children to be recognisable and smart. We have also had much of our school owned 'team' kits go missing and it is now more than 9 years old and has had a LOT of wear.

School shall be purchasing a full set of kit for competitions to use during the transition period - until the new kits have filtered throughout school. We are currently getting prices for the kit and as soon as we have confirmed prices from both our suppliers - Ribble valley supplies in Clitheroe and Whittakers in Blackburn, we shall let you know. This kit will be more expensive we know - but it will be used as both a competition and school kit.



1 - Here's a quick preview of the new kit



2 - More pictures to follow - with some of our children modelling the new kit!

Could you be our next football kit sponsor



We are looking for new sponsors for our football kit and our new athletics kit. We would love to support our own family businesses and companies. We are looking to purchase a new football kit which consists of:

- 10 long sleeved jersey tops
- 12 pairs of shorts.
- 12 pairs of football socks.
- 2 goalkeeper jerseys.

12 tracksuit tops/rainproof coats

12 pairs of tracksuit trousers.

The school will pay for all of the printing/embroidery on the jersey tops, goalie tops, tracksuit tops. The total cost of all kit would be roughly £800 and school would then pay for all the printing. I know that this is a huge investment but it is great advertising and considering we have had our current kit for over 10 years now, it has some longevity! If you know of anyone who might be able to help with the sponsorship then please do come and see Mrs Gow. We are happy to split the jerseys and tracksuit tops between sponsors if this helps with costs.



New to you uniform stall



Thanks to Mrs Leaver we now have a wonderfully stocked 'New to You' uniform stall with lots of Summer term stock. We have summer, gingham/checked dresses available from age 5 - age 9/10, grey shorts age 5/6 to 13 year old. Come along and have a browse after school on a Friday. If you have any nearly new uniform to donate, then please do bring it in. Please let's reduce, reuse and recycle uniform.

Can you help with our outdoor provision?



Over the coming term we are going to be developing the zones in our infant outdoor provision and we are looking for some help. We are desperately trying to become more authentic, sustainable and use less/limited plastic in our indoor and outdoor provision. That means that we are looking to stock up on lots of reusable, natural and real-life resources for our children. We are looking to gather and buy in reusable and authentic resources that are open-ended and the children can use in lots of the different areas of learning. We are particularly looking for:

- tin/stainless steel - bowls, teapots, cups, pans etc for our mud kitchen areas - big pans, mixing bowls, jars
- wooden/metal spoons, utensils, spatulas, pestle and mortars etc
- real life dress up clothes - eg, handbags, hats, walking sticks etc
- pebbles, rocks, shells
- old (no longer working or defunct) toaster, kettle, microwaves, clocks, telephones, typewriters
- milk crates, cable drums, pallets (safe ones), wooden planters
- guttering offcuts, drainpipes, tubes, trellis
- soil, herbs and scented plant cutting eg - lavenders, herbs
- clean offcuts of wood, drain pipes, cones
- tree stumps, offcuts, branches, logs, small tyres
- outdoor rugs, cushions etc
- decking pieces



Guitar lessons in school



From next term, we have the opportunity through Lancashire Music Service of running acoustic guitar lessons for Years 2 to 6 with one of their instrumental teachers. We know many of you have been interested in guitar lessons for your children and we're pleased that we can offer this within school.

The guitar lessons will take place on Tuesday mornings and the children will come out of class lessons for these. We will try and move the music lessons around so the children are not missing the same class lesson each week.

You can choose for the children to be taught in small groups or individually and the price will vary depending on your choice. The children will need to provide their own guitar or you can rent one from Lancashire Music service. Payment for these lessons will be direct to the Music Service.

To register an interest please click on the link below and scroll down to Acoustic Guitar. Information about price and instrument rental is on the website.

<https://uklancashire.speedadmin.dk/registration#/>

Please feel free to talk to Mrs Riddell if you have any questions.

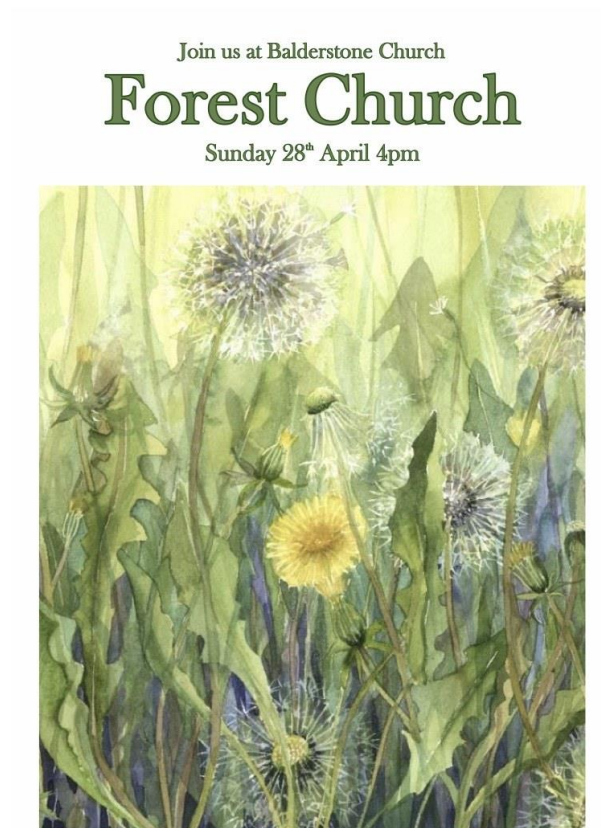
There is a lot of scientific research to suggest that there is a positive correlation between learning to read music/play an instrument and academic achievement in all areas - but specifically in maths too (so lots of reasons to learn to play earlier rather than later).

Calling all eye specialists!



Our Owl class children are learning all about light and linked to this is a biology unit on the eye. We would love to have some expert teaching - an ophthalmologist, optician, vet, doctor etc with knowledge of the eye to come and share their expertise with us, We'd love to see some real images of the human/animal eyes and someone to help us understand how eyes and brains work together! We could be flexible with dates/times but around the 24th/25th April would be absolutely perfect!!

Forest Church - Come and join us!



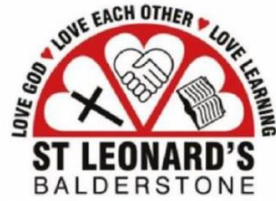
Save the Dates Summer Term 2024



To help you plan at this busy time of year, we have tried to include key dates till the end of term. Most of the dates are subject to change but the events in BOLD impact/involve whole school. Please note, that the events are subject to change dependent upon high school transition days (we have only been given these dates for 2 of our secondary feeder schools so far).

Weekly reminders	Martial arts sessions now every Tuesday
22nd April	Netball Year 5/6 after school
23 rd April	Toddler, Pre-school and Reception lunch 11.45am
24 th to 25 th April	Anderton Centre – Fox class
	Reception children vision screening 10.30am
26 th April	Friday EYFS in rainbow colours dress up for Rainbow Fish book.
1 st May	9.00am Tempest class photo day
	Youth games 19 children from Year ¼ @ Accrington Cricket club during school day
2 nd May	Juniors Cross Country event after school St Michael & St John
Week Beginning 7 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
7 th May	Animal Olympics – Y1 and 2 whole class during school day.
10 th May	Y5 and 6 parent lunch
	Pirate day EYFS and Parent stay and play
11 th May	Walking Day 2.15pm meet at Community centre
Week beginning 13 th May	SATS week in school for Year 6
13 th May	9.15am Paper 1 Grammar paper
	10.30am Paper 2 – spelling test
14 th May	English Reading paper
15 th May	Maths Paper 1 9.15am
	Maths Paper 2 10.30am
16 th May	Maths Paper 3 9.15am (40 minutes)
22 nd May	York trip Owls. 7.30 – 7.30pm
24 th May	INSET day – no pupils in school
HALF TERM WEEK	
3 rd June	INSET day – no pupils in school
6 th June	Parent Lunch Year ¼
Week beginning 10 th June	Phonics screen week
	Multiplication tables test week
10 th June	Year 5/6 boys' football tournament
11 th June	Phonics screen test day, New Reception lunch and parent information session (12.30 – 2.30pm)
12 th June	Netball tournament CRGS
14 th June	Orienteering whole class Year 5/6 during school day
15 th June	Church summer tea party
Week beginning 17 th June	Sports Day (dependent on weather)
21 st June	Year ½ parent lunch
22 nd June	Mellor Brook Bicentenary celebration
23 rd June	Confirmations 3pm Mellor St Mary's
Week beginning 24 th June	Themed lunch week
27 th June	Ribblesdale transition (evening)
29 th June	FOBS summer fun day
1 st July	Ribblesdale transition days
2 nd July	Ribblesdale transition days
	Day to Create Year 3/4
3 rd July	Aladdin Arts trip
5 th July	Coffee Creative 2pm
Week beginning 8th	Transition week in school
	Euros dinners week
9 th July	Move up morning
	School garden open after school
10 th July	Move up morning
11 th July	Move up morning
	Year 6 moving up session pm
15 th July	Dress rehearsal for school play
16 th July	Performance day 1.30pm and 6pm (all children involved in the show to attend both performances please)
17 th July	Talent show
19 th July	Year 6 parent/leavers' lunch
	Leavers' service 10.30am in church
	Leavers' lunch 11.45am
	School finishes at 1.30pm

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>