



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 31st January

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

*Friday 31st January 2025*

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## In This Issue



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## Weekly Words



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*This week seems to have been democracy week in school! We started the week with a visit from Mr Paul Danton and his associate Liz, to teach the children in Owl class all about our legal system and the role that the Magistrates' Court plays in this. The children asked some really thoughtful questions and particularly loved the mock trial! Later in the afternoon they were joined by Aisha and Sophia's mum who came to help the children learn more about the heart and circulation. They asked some outstanding, thoughtful questions which made some wonderful links across the curriculum such as: "Is your blood group determined by genetic factors or not?" Dr Adam even brought in an ultrasound machine to let the children see live images of their circulation in action! We really love it when our community comes into school to help give our children real life experiences and aspirations. If any of our parents/carers and families have any careers or interests that you feel would inspire our children, then please get in touch. We are hoping to hold a careers and aspirations week in the coming term.*

*On Friday we were thrilled to welcome Ribble Valley MP, Maya Ellis to school. She met with our two new pupil parliamentarian candidates - Sophia and Abdullah. It was great to welcome her in true Balderstone radical hospitality fashion to join us for a brew and then to worship with us. She kindly agreed to present our week's Flourishing Awards and also launched, with our own Parish Councillors, our new A.C.T.S community service scheme (more details later on in the newsletter).*

Balderstone is **always** busy with visiting teachers. This week Mrs Heyworth welcomed a large group of recently qualified teachers to Balderstone as part of her role working with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics. Mrs Heyworth is a local leader of maths education and spends a lot of her time training other teachers. We are blessed by her expertise and the fact that she is at the forefront of new developments in the teaching of maths! Next week we host even more teachers as they come to watch some of our lessons too.

Mrs Cast held her first SEND open house meeting last week too - a huge thank you to her and to the parents who came to chat with her. This was a wonderful opportunity for our parents/carers to come and chat about their child's current and emerging needs. We are very blessed to have Mrs Cast as our SENDCO, as she cares so deeply, and works so hard for our children and especially our children who may need a bit of additional care/planning. As always, if you have any concerns about anything about your child's wellbeing, educational achievement or behaviour, then do come and chat with us- the quicker we work together and share observations, then the faster we can all respond on your child's behalf.

As part of our reading promotion in school we are always looking to welcome new reading volunteers to school. If you have any spare time (especially if it's just 10 minutes at drop off time in the morning 8.40am - 9.am) I would love to hear from you. I am hoping to make it so that every child who needs one, has a book buddy - an adult or Year 5/6 child who can listen to them read first thing in the morning and do some book talk with them. Please do email Mrs Gow on [head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk) if you could spare 10 -15 minutes in a morning to be a Book Buddy.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Gow





# Balderstone Parish Council

On Friday we officially launched our new, Balderstone Parish Council sponsored ACTS awards. Colin Everett, Peter Barnes, Stuart Shorthouse and Stella Brunskill joined us for our special worship to launch this new initiative between the school and the parish council. These awards shall recognise the courageous advocates in our school community who try to live out our school mission of loving each other in Balderstone and beyond.

Throughout our worship life and our curriculum, we strive to encourage all our school, from the youngest to the oldest staff member, to be Jesus' hands and feet out in the world, speaking up, standing out and making a difference to those around us. Mrs Gow attends Balderstone Parish council meetings and the council have been very keen on increasing their involvement and support of the school. With this in mind we have launched the award scheme - tailored just to our children!

Over the next six months the children can gather points under 6 categories:

- Serving the elders in our community
- Serving young people in our community
- Serving the places of worship in our community
- Serving the local environment
- Serving our school
- Serving beyond Balderstone (global citizens)

Every time the children get involved in an event or give their own time to support others in the community they can win a badge (5 points on class dojo) under each category.

eg, if the children help at the church clean up days litter picking on the car park, if they go tree planting, help out at a FOBS event, raise money for a cause that is close to their hearts, help at toddler group or go with their buddy to a Play Away day etc

Parents/carers/ church and mosque leaders can send in photos or write a few sentences about what your child has done and send it in to

[acts@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:acts@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

The Parish Council are going to arrange a wonderful social event up at the community centre to celebrate the children who make the greatest impact on our local community over the next 6 months! There are six badges to collect - see below:



World Book Day- advance notice!

WORLD  
**BOOK**  
**DAY**<sup>®</sup>

6 MARCH 2025

Just advance notice World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**- we are going to continue in our school tradition of celebrating World Book Day together. This year we are adopting a Mr Men and Little Miss theme for the day. This is to celebrate (not only this super range of books) but also to celebrate our uniqueness! You can go all out and make a full costume OR simply wear the colour of your Mr Man/Little Miss and bring an accessory. We are going to have a range of reading based fun events, book swap/book stall, booky brekkie and competition on the day. PLEASE DO NOT BUY A SPECIAL OUTFIT for the day - it should not cost you any money, but is more about using your creativity, recycling and reusing items to make a fun costume! A full list of the characters can be found at:

<https://mrmn.com/pages/characters>

We shall hold a craft making session in school before the event too! This might be a fun half-term art project for the children too!







## Flourishers



It was lovely, in Friday's worship, to celebrate the achievements of children in school and a huge well done to **ST GEORGE** who were this week's winning team. The following children were presented with a Flourishing Award for shining brightly this week:

**Pre school.** Wren

**Reception** Raeis

**Squirrels** Raiyan

**Year 3** Florence

**Year 4** Fayha

**Year 5** Aliza

**Year 6**      MH


**Coach Joe**      Aasiyah

TESCO- Community grants- Collect your blue tokens!


# Starts

...children thrive

**Vote for the project that means the most to you. Each project could receive up to £1,500.**

<p><b>Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary and Pre-school</b></p> <p><i>Trin Trail Togetherness</i></p> <p>Building a new sustainable adventure playground for school, toddler group and community use, giving our diverse families a place to meet, play and have fun together.</p> <p>Balderstone</p> <p>Vote in-store until 31 March 2025</p>	<p><b>The BIG Sing SOUL administered by Imagine The Day</b></p> <p><i>FREE Music for Children</i></p> <p>Support mental health, wellbeing, increase self-confidence, reduce social isolation for children by delivering FREE positive music resources at Oadby Primary School.</p> <p>Blackburn</p> <p>Vote in-store until 31 March 2025</p>	<p>Working with </p> <p><b>Cruse Bereavement Support Lancashire</b></p> <p><i>Bereavement Support for Children</i></p> <p>Grief can be devastating. Can you help us be there for more children and young people who are struggling with the death of a loved one in the Blackburn area.</p> <p>Blackburn</p> <p>Vote in-store until 31 March 2025</p>
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*Every little helps*



Please do support our school's Stronger Starts collection at our local Blackburn Tesco stores over the coming weeks. The blue token scheme fundraiser finishes at the end of March. All of the three charities in stores is worthwhile, but we do need your help to spread the word. Our project - Trim Trail togetherness - aims to raise money so we can build our new adventure playground (with community access) so our children and families can come together to actively play together, bridging all divides!

You can vote for Balderstone at the following stores:

Blackburn Superstore BB1

Darwen Express Express BB3

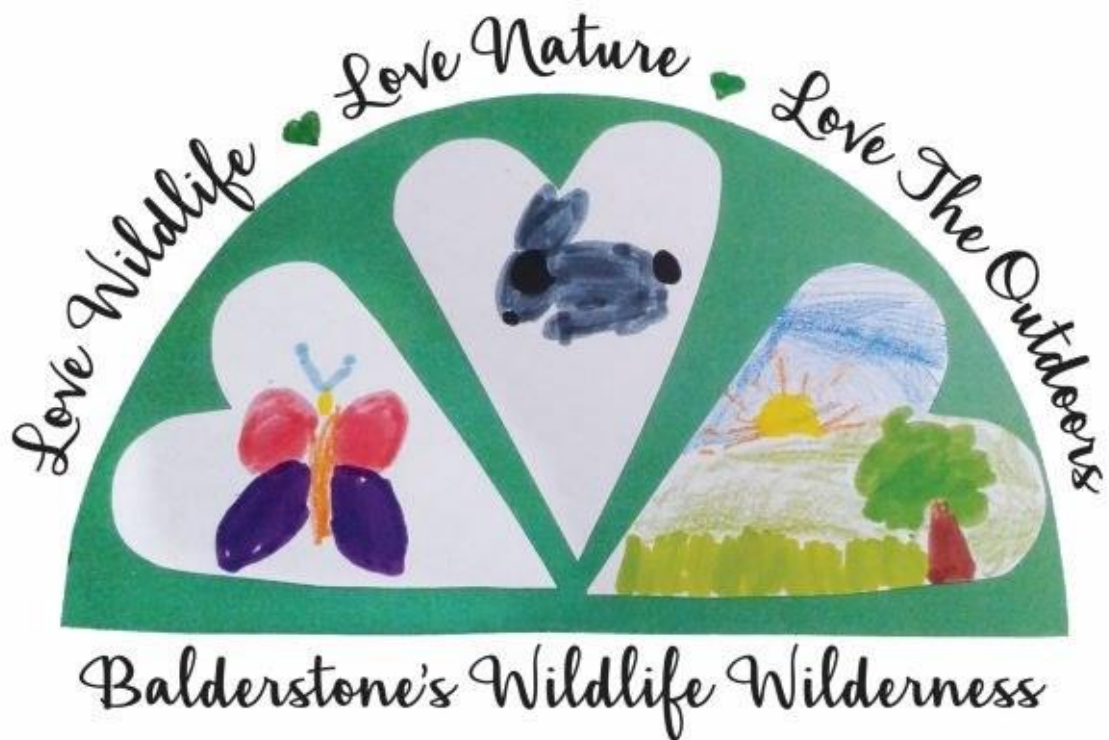
Blackburn Bank Top Express Express BB2 1TN

Roe Lee Blackburn Express BB1 9AX

Livesey Blackburn Express BB2 5AY

***Please check out our video of support from Jessica Ennis-Hill (how exciting!)***





In Forest School this week, Year 3 went down to the brook to look for any changes. It's wonderful to see the children noticing more and more every time we go down there. We love searching for any treasures that might have been unearthed! After foraging for some sticks ready for a fire in the coming weeks, we went back on the field to build some dens. They all managed to stay dry inside their dens when the storm came through, courtesy of Mrs Burton and a watering can!









Safeguarding section- Parenting support



[Lancashire County Council Events.](#)

**Being a parent is one of the most difficult jobs in the world. As a school we are here to support each other through the ups and downs of parenting, Our weekly safeguarding section will signpost you to courses, support documents and groups in Lancashire and Blackburn. If you are struggling, either individually or as a family, come and talk to Mrs Gow in confidence to see if we can signpost you to any further support.**

This week our Lancashire Children and Family Wellbeing service have the following courses on offer:

'All families have arguments, it is part of how we negotiate, make decisions, understand each other and live together. This is constructive communication which children learn from seeing how arguments are resolved. However, when arguments become frequent, intense and poorly resolved it is destructive communication and children suffer from being exposed to it. There is support on hand and we would encourage you to come along and give this course a go if you find yourself entrenched in ongoing destructive conflict with your co-parent'



**WELCOME TO**

**POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS STRONGER FAMILIES**

Here to support with family relationships and emotional health

**FAMILY HUBS NETWORK**

**HOW CAN WE HELP**

All families have arguments, it is part of how we negotiate, make decisions, understand each other and live together. This is constructive communication which children learn from seeing how arguments are resolved. However, when arguments become frequent, intense and poorly resolved it is destructive communication and children suffer from being exposed to it. There is support on hand and we would encourage you to come along and give this course a go if you find yourself entrenched in ongoing destructive conflict with your co-parent.

The course runs for 4 weeks and aims to work in a solution focused way, enabling and empowering you to understand your conflict. You will learn to resolve the issues yourselves rather than relying on a practitioner for solutions.

**The sessions will cover:**

- The effects of conflict on children, co-parents and the causes of conflict within a relationship
- The stages of relationship development, how our existing vulnerabilities can make us more susceptible to conflict
- Understanding that we bring different perspectives to our relationships
- Constructive and destructive communication
- Understanding emotions, thoughts, feelings & behaviours
- Better communication, understanding expectations & reality
- Goal setting

**Lancashire County Council**

**GET IN TOUCH WEBSITE:**

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EVENTS



**DISTRICT SOCIAL MEDIA Facebook Page:**

- Burnley Family Hub
- Hyndburn Family Hub
- Pendle Family Hub
- Rossendale Family Hub
- Ribble Valley Family Hub

**WHO IS IT FOR?**

We can support anyone who has a significant caring responsibility for a child, including individuals who are:

- ★ In a relationship
- ★ Foster or adoptive parents
- ★ Same sex parents
- ★ Separated or divorced
- ★ Biological or step-parents

**How we support parents**

You will be with other parents in a small group.

It's not therapy or counselling and you are the expert in your relationships. We recommend this is completed prior to the Triple P Course.

**What next?**

If you would like to find out more about the Positive Relationships course, contact your local Family Hub by scanning the QR code. Alternatively contact the Reducing Parental Conflict Team or Talkzone.

Talkzone Tel: 0800 511111 Text: 07786 511111  
Email: talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk  
CEWRPCleads@lancashire.gov.uk

lancashire.gov.uk/family





## Blackburn Family Hub support



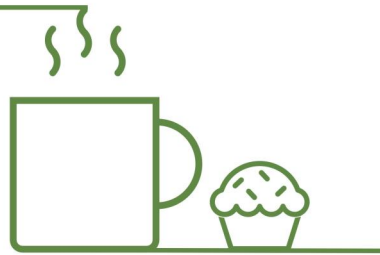
There are lots of incredible events and support groups available to our Blackburn families through your local Family Hub and Children's Centre. You can find out more at their comprehensive website: <https://familyhubswbd.org/looking-after-your-family/parenting-programmes> There are some super courses enrolling now on topics such as Fussy Eating, positive parenting and behaviour management.

## Church and Community Corner



Come and join us for Cafe Church at 4pm on Sunday 9th February at school. This is a social event where we'll be enjoying a brew and some sweet treats! It's a chance to catch up with friends, there'll be activities for the children and a chance to make your own smores!

## Café Church



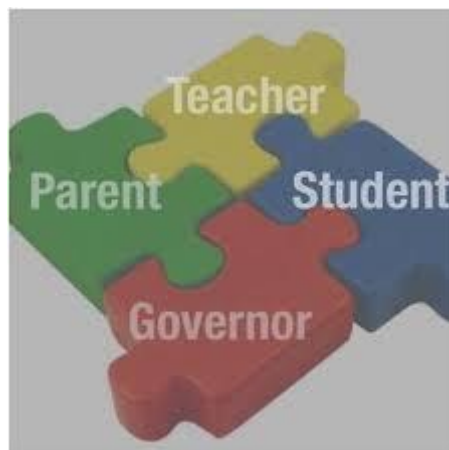
Come and join us for worship with tea, coffee and cake!  
@ Balderstone School

## Little Voices Theatre Camp

A red poster for a theatre camp. At the top right, it says 'For ages 5-16'. The word 'Wicked' is written in large, white, serif font. Below it, 'Easter Theatre Week Camp' is written in a smaller white font. The dates 'Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April 2025' are listed, followed by 'Drop off 8:30am - 9am' and 'Pick up 3:30pm'. The location is 'St Mary's Centre, Clitheroe, BB7 2DG' and the price is '£130 per child (Little Voices pupil discount available)'. At the bottom, it says 'HOW TO BOOK' followed by an email icon and 'bdry@littlevoices.org.uk' and a phone icon with '07717 711715'. On the left side, there are two vertical, striped, cone-like shapes. On the right side, there is a small illustration of a witch's hat.

For ages 5-16  
**Wicked**  
Easter Theatre Week Camp  
Monday 14th - Thursday 17th April 2025  
Drop off 8:30am - 9am  
Pick up 3:30pm  
St Mary's Centre, Clitheroe, BB7 2DG  
£130 per child  
(Little Voices pupil discount available)  
HOW TO BOOK ✉ [bdry@littlevoices.org.uk](mailto:bdry@littlevoices.org.uk) ☎ 07717 711715

## Message about School Governor Awareness day



School governors give their time, energy, and expertise to help schools thrive. National School Governors' Awareness Day (NSGAD) is an opportunity to recognise their impact, celebrate their commitment, and highlight the vital role they play in shaping education. This year National School Governors Awareness Day takes place on **Thursday 13th February**.

More information about NSGAD, and a link to sign up to any of the numerous webinars which are on offer, can be found via the link [national school governors awareness day](#)

There are currently 20,000 vacancies on school boards nationwide and the education charity Governors for Schools help to find and support people are needed to take on the role. If you're interested in making a difference to the educational experiences of children and young people, you can find out more here: [Become a school governor - Governors for Schools](#)

If you would like more information about becoming a Foundation Governor in a church school within the Diocese of Blackburn, please don't hesitate to contact Mark Bradshaw at [mark.bradshaw@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:mark.bradshaw@blackburn.anglican.org)

## **Mark Bradshaw**

Head of Schools

## Dates for the diary



- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Tues 28th Jan</b>   | Maths Boosters starting in Y6 ( Letter to follow)         |
| <b>Wed 5th Feb</b>     | Reception and pre-school parent lunch                     |
| <b>Fri 7th Feb</b>     | Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics                                 |
| <b>Fri 14th</b>        | Y5/6 parent lunch and Café creative<br>Half Term          |
| <b>Mon 24th Feb.</b>   | Term Starts   |
| <b>Tues 25th Feb</b>   | Parents' Evening  |
| <b>Friday 28th Feb</b> | Pre School Stay and Play session                          |
| <b>Tues 11th March</b> | Year 3 and 4 Let's Go Sing Concert in Blackpool           |
| <b>Wed 26th March.</b> | Y5/6 trip to Salford to Imperial War Museum and The Lowry |



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**

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Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

01254 769150

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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