



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary Newsletter 14th February

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

Friday 14th February 2025

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Weekly Words



We had a lovely final week to the half-term - ending with one of Mrs Turner's wonderful Coffee Creative family art sessions and this year it was love heart themed - with cushions, mobiles and heart boxes. In worship we explored what love actually means, especially to our school Christian mission. Our school motto of 'Love God, Love each other and Love learning is rooted in the Bible verse from the book of Ephesians. This verse reads that "Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong." This is where the "rooted and grounded in love" mission comes from for our school. We live this motto EVERY day in our school - whether this is through the interactions between the staff who care deeply for one another or in the way we care for the children and they care for each other. There are no boundaries, border or barriers to this love in our school and our children know that this love isn't the Valentine's Day (Hallmark cards kind of love) but the genuine I'm going to show you that you are important to us, and important to God, kind of love - whether you are 3 years old or 83, Christian, Muslim, Sikh or of no faith, new to school or like Mrs Burton and have been here for decades! I showed the children a Valentine's Day poem for everyone in our school and it said:

"Roses are red,

Violets are blue,

Our school is special

Because we have you!"

That is why the feel of our school is different and special- because the roots of our love grow deeply and are rooted in God's love for us.

*This week I have met with some designers to draw up the plans for our brand new adventure trail! Plans will be released in the next couple of weeks. We are hoping to replace **all** of the equipment and the surfacing. This is a VERY exciting project. Currently, we are part of the blue token community grant scheme in Tesco - please do support our bid to secure some funding to build this new playground (See Thomas' photo later in the newsletter.)*

Thank you to everyone who has already booked their Consultation evening appointments using Parentmail. We are trialling this new booking system as part of our sustainability drive to go paperless. If you haven't yet booked your appointment, then please do so as soon as you can. Staff are looking forward to catching up with you in the first week back. Please remember that every appointment is 10 minutes long. If you need any further time/information after you have had your slot, then staff will catch up with you at another

time so we can try to run to time for everyone's benefit! We will also be asking for your feedback/parent survey responses at this evening.

A huge thank you to the Balderstone family for such a wonderful half-term and for all the love of God, each other and of learning shown. Have a restful and peaceful half-term and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 24th, as we enter the second half of the spring term (hopefully with some lighter and warmer mornings!)

Mrs Gow



1 - Miss Lee's beautiful Valentine's Day cakes!



Universal breakfast club confirmed!



Great news! Our application to become an early adopter for free, universal breakfast club has been confirmed by the DfE - so we are going to become one of the first local schools to have free breakfast club available to ALL our children, every morning. The club will start after the Easter holidays (so not long to go!) and will run from 8.10am every day. We have had a wonderful response to the consultation on this but now need parents to commit to the days you have opted for. It is really important that we use this offer - as without a sustained take-up the provision may prove to be unsustainable. Breakfast will be served from 8.10am till 8.30am every morning. If your child arrives after 8.30am they will only have cold/snack breakfast options. In the next couple of weeks we will be planning the menus with the children and asking for favourite healthy breakfast choices - so we can make sure the foods are balanced and popular. Coach Joe and the Progressive team are planning some great active morning fun and our very own Mrs Aimee Barton is joining the team to help the club run smoothly with staff who are familiar to our children.

New Sports Clubs after half-term



To add to our wonderful free morning and lunchtime extra-curricular offer, Coach Joe and the Progressive team are offering two additional **after-school clubs as part of our wraparound care.**

Our Tuesday **dance club** with Miss Estelle is proving to be very popular. School are paying for this club next half term for all the pupils who have been attending this last half-term. To add to their wraparound offer they are also starting:

Wednesday - **Dodgeball club** till 4.30pm (all children welcome - can be collected from 4.15pm)

Thursday - **Nerf Wars** till 4.30pm (all children welcome - can be collected from 4.15pm)

Sign up on our Progressive Wraparound page. <https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/17->

[Progressive Kids Breakfast Afterschool club at Balderstone St Leonards](#)

THIS WILL BE UPDATED WITH THE CLUBS ON AFTER HALF-TERM!

Preparing for our faith festivals!



Again this year we are blessed with two of the major religious festivals that our families mark sharing the same months. Many of our families will be starting their holy month of Ramadan at the end of February and our school will be marking the start of Lent at the beginning of March. These are times of the year when we, as people of faith, prepare ourselves in body, mind and spirit to deepen our relationship and spend time with God.

With this in mind, many of our children have asked about fasting. You know that as a school we put faith first! However, we also have to balance wellbeing, concentration levels and practicalities in a primary school. Therefore, we ask that only our Year 5 and 6 children take part in fasting (unless this is discussed on an individual basis with Mrs Gow or if the children choose to join Mrs Gow on her fasting fellowship days) and that the children choose wherever possible not to do full fasts on PE days (Wednesday and Friday next half-term for Year 5/6). Obviously, those young people who have an obligation to fast will be supported.

To avoid food waste we order our school meals in advance (two weeks) therefore we will ask parents to advise us of fasting days via a Microsoft forms (sent out in the new half-term) to allow us to ensure that food is not over ordered or wasted. A separate room will be available and our interfaith prayer space will be open during Lent/Ramadan for use by all children and staff.

We will also be announcing our exciting interfaith celebrations in mid April - where we will be hosting a yummy Easter/Eid Jacob's join after school party. There are no parent lunches planned over Ramadan as we support our Muslim brothers and sisters in their fasting.

You will also note that we have a very strange day choice for a staff training day planned into the school calendar this year - on **Tuesday 1st April 2025**. This was put in place with our Muslim staff in mind, as we knew that Eid would be *around* this date and we wanted to afford our Muslim staff members/parents some additional time to spend/travel to see their families and celebrate together. Our Christian staff found it very difficult the year we finished for Christmas on 23rd December, as we had very little time to prepare for family celebrations. It was only then that we realised that it is like this EVERY year for our Muslim staff.

FOBS events calendar



Our wonderful F.O.B.S team have just published their calendar of events for the coming months. There is SO much to look forward to. Please do follow them on socials

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Friends-of-Balderstone-School-61565495400505/>

and get involved. The team have now finalised all event dates for the rest of the term and are excited to share them with you so you can save the dates in your diary. There's plenty to look forward to, and each event will bring us closer to our goal of starting work on the playground in the Spring. More details for each event will be shared as they draw nearer.

Chocolate Bingo 21st March

Mother's Day Gifts 28th March

Spring Trail 5th April – 20th April

Sponsored Colour Run 15th May

Father's Day Gifts 13th June

Summer Fun Night 21st June

Defib, Epipen and Inhalers for emergencies



We wanted to highlight the fact that we have a newly upgraded defibrillator at the side of the school! Please familiarise yourself with the location of the emergency box (at the side of the fire escape on the junior corridor) as you walk around the side of the school.

We are also going to hold spare epipens and reliever inhalers in school. We are now looking for a helpful pharmacist to help us order this new stock. If you think you know of a pharmacy who could help, then please let Mrs Gow know. We have all the relevant paperwork for school to purchase these items.

World Book Day- home-made costume prize!

WORLD
BOOK
DAY[®]

6 MARCH 2025

School council are going to offer a special Waterstones voucher to the best child made outfit for World Book Day. 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://mrmens.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!

Red Nose Day 2025



Our School Council are leading on our charity calendar this year. On Friday 21st March 2025 we will hold a non-uniform day, cake sale (all donations VERY gratefully received) and a teddy bear raffle in aid of Comic Relief. Every child can also bring to school their favourite joke (written down) for our comic lunch!

Stars of the half-term



A huge congratulations to the following stars who have blossomed and shone our school mission all half-term

Pre school. Hunter - energy and joy bringer

Reception Sara - love of learning

Squirrels Rumaysa - outstanding quality of work

Year 3 Fatimah - wonderful listening

Year 4 Zahraa - accepting challenges with a smile

Year 5 Safaa - wonderful sense of humour

Year 6 Ammaarah - for gaining confidence!

TESCO- Community grants- Collect your blue tokens!

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

Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary and Pre-school

Trin Trail Togetherness
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.

Blackburn
Vote in-store until 31 March 2025

The BIG Sing SOUL administered by Imagine The Day

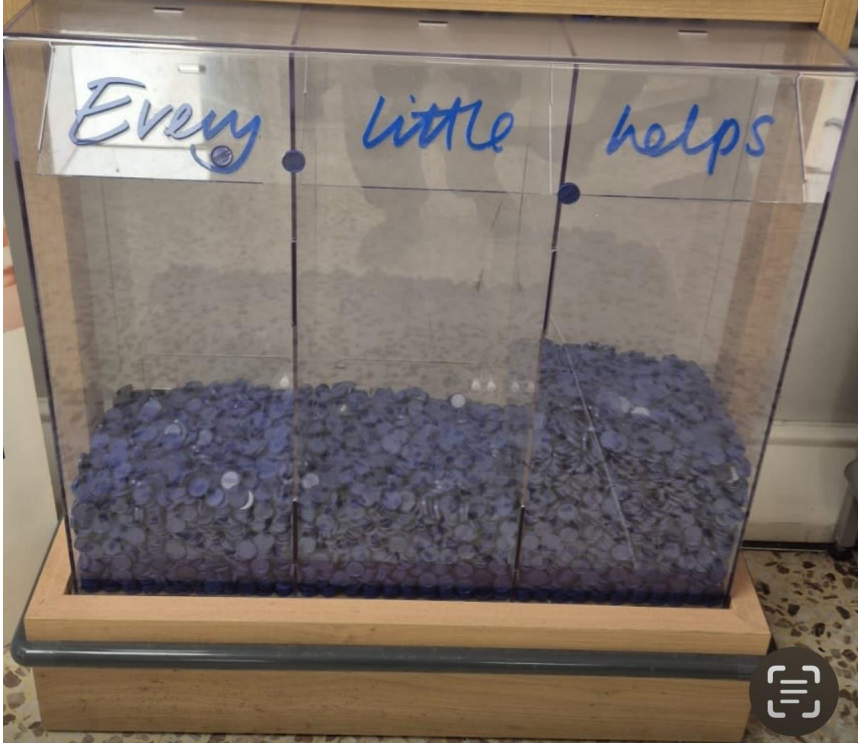
FREE Music for Children
Support mental health, wellbeing, increase self-confidence, reduce social isolation for children by delivering FREE positive music resources at Oakden Primary School.

Blackburn
Vote in-store until 31 March 2025

Cruse Bereavement Support Lancashire

Bereavement Support for Children
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.

Blackburn
Vote in-store until 31 March 2025



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Reply





Please do support our school's Stronger Starts collection at our local Blackburn Tesco stores over the coming weeks. Here is our very own Thomas doing his bit!

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!)



Forest School



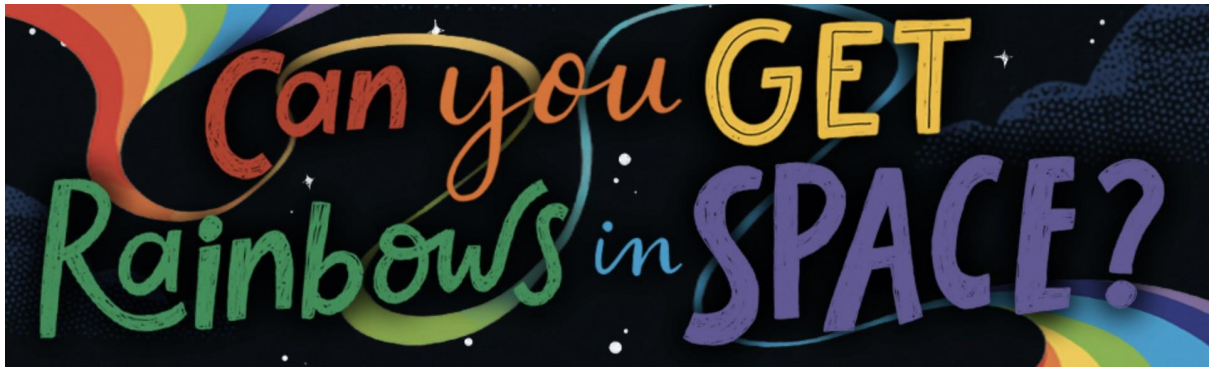
It was the last Forest School for Year 3 this week for this year. Their favourite activity is den building and they are so good at it! Every time they become more independent and their resilience grows even when the breeze blows the tarps across the field! They built some amazing dens and enjoyed hot chocolate and popcorn inside them with their friends. We went exploring in the brook and had a boat race, always very competitive! We even had flyby from a helicopter! We hope they saw us waving! Next term, it's Year 4's turn to take part in Forest School, look out for information on Parentmail.







Science News



Foxes have been taking part in The Royal Society's Young People's Book Award. The Royal Society send us 6 science based books to read and review and we vote to determine our favourite. Our results, along with the results of many schools in the country, then get collated and the winner is announced. We love reading and discussing the books and the tension is high when we start voting! This year our winner was ... "Can you Get Rainbows in Space?" by Dr Sheila Kanani. Look out for the books in the library. We hope you all enjoy them too!





This week it has been Internet Safety day. As part of our curriculum we are teaching about online safety all the time. This week we want to share our learning about Scams. This year's theme is - "Too good to be true? Keeping yourself and others safe from scams online." This Safer Internet Week we want you to start a conversation about how to spot, respond to and report scams of all types online. Fox class have started to explore why some of the pop-ups, emails and messages online sound too good to be true. We want our children to be tech savvy, able to use all the benefits that tech brings to our lives whilst also having the common sense to sort through the scams, clickbait and phishing.

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS
A message comes saying "Have you seen this video of yours?" or you might be sent an advertisement-looking message about a celebrity that has been shared on social media. This kind of "hook" is produced by scammers to draw you into clicking on an unsafe link. An email message could be downloaded to your device. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "fear of missing out".

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS
Some scammers appear as adverts, offering to provide "buy something - such as the latest smartphone" or "get a special offer on a product" that is produced by scammers to draw you into clicking on an unsafe link. An email message could be downloaded to your device. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "fear of missing out".

YOU'RE A WINNER!
This kind of scam involves fake prizes, "top prizes" or "big wins" to tempt you to click on a link. It's often used to get you to click on a link that will lead to a website where you will be asked to provide personal information. Or it could be a gift that will be sent to you. All these techniques are used to get you to click on a link that will lead to a website where you will be asked to provide personal information. Or it could be a gift that will be sent to you.

HAPPENS NOW!
This kind of scam involves fake prizes, "top prizes" or "big wins" to tempt you to click on a link. It's often used to get you to click on a link that will lead to a website where you will be asked to provide personal information. Or it could be a gift that will be sent to you.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS
Scammers often pretend to be someone they know to get your attention. They might attempt to convince you that they are a friend of yours or someone you know. They might use a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone) to get your attention. Scammers can use a variety of tactics to get your attention, including using a friend's name, using a friend's name, using a friend's name, using a friend's name.

panic mode
To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. The more likely you are to be in a panic, the more likely you are to click on a link that will lead to a website where you will be asked to provide personal information. Or it could be a gift that will be sent to you.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS
Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers. They can use a variety of tactics to get your attention, including using a friend's name, using a friend's name, using a friend's name, using a friend's name.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED
Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber security. Read what's written on reputable sites and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives. Read what's written on reputable sites and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives.

TALK TOGETHER
Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they spot work. Encourage them to tell you about anything they've seen that worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may cause young people to stop reporting. Remember adults are accountable just to others, their name.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM
Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts - whether that's to keep ourselves safe, to get what we want, or to help someone else. Encourage children to pause and think about what they're seeing and to check with you before they do anything. Encourage children to pause and think about what they're seeing and to check with you before they do anything.

BE PROACTIVE
Children increasingly use digital devices for education, shopping, staying and play. Don't look for a problem to solve before you discuss the risk of scams, fake information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate what you want to see. Encourage children to tell you about anything they've seen that worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may cause young people to stop reporting. Remember adults are accountable just to others, their name.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Holly Power-Jones is the founder of Online Media, one UK and a leading expert in digital safety, mental health and young people and their experiences of the online world. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide expert advice on the online world. Visit [onlinemediacollege.co.uk](https://www.onlinemediacollege.co.uk) for more.

WakeUpWednesday
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Dates for the diary



- Mon 24th Feb.** Term Starts
- Tues 25th Feb** Parents' Evening
- Friday 28th Feb** Pre School Stay and Play session
- Tues 11th March** Year 3 and 4 Let's Go Sing Concert in Blackpool
- Wed 26th March.** 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)

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