



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary
Newsletter 4th April



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

Friday 4th April 2025

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Weekly Words



It has been a busy week of very mixed emotions - joy, excitement and also a bit of bitter-sweet sadness as we said au revoir to our very own Mrs Johnstone. It was a joy this week to hear all our children's stories about their Eid celebrations.

Exciting times lie ahead for our small school. At Christmas time we resubmitted a bid with the diocese for major renovation works throughout our school - replacing all of the wooden cladding around our school, upgrading the insulation around the building and replacing all of our windows and external doors and replacing our EYFS doors with bi-fold doors to improve outdoor access. Our bid has been successful and this incredible work will take place over the summer holidays - completely revamping our junior classrooms and modernising the back and sides of the school!

We also put in a school based nursery capital bid to the Department for Education to expand our pre-school offer and to extend our offer to a few 2 year old children. This bid included a complete refit of our EYFS classroom, fitting bifold internal doors into the classroom to link the Bunny Hole to the classroom AND to create a brand new room joining the EYFS room for our two-year-olds. We shall be creating a new bathroom/shower/washing machine/sink and changing space for our children and toddler group and also a new disabled access toilet (meaning the staff toilet will no longer be held together with tape!). The bid also includes creating a safe play space on our balcony area and a verandah area so our children can play outside in EYFS in all weathers! We are THRILLED to announce that our bid was successful and we are being awarded the full bid from the DfE. This means that we will be creating a whole new EYFS L-shaped unit. The bid will also include new resources and furniture to make these spaces the best learning environments possible. We feel incredibly blessed to be one of the few Lancashire schools to have a successful bid. We are excited and joyful at the opportunities that these investments will make to the future of our school - serving God, our mission, our families and community. We hope you are as excited by these new developments as we are! More details to follow.... watch this space. Balderstone is continuing to flourish!

In worship this week we have been exploring the events of Holy Week as we journeyed to the cross with Jesus. This morning our Year 6 children helped us to understand how the Easter story fits into God's big plan to bring people back into a close relationship with Him. Year 3 and 4 made the most incredible cross designs in their RE lessons this week, showing the joy and sorrow of Jesus' journey to the cross. Our EYFS class had a super trip to Mrs Dowson's Farm this week to learn all about the joy of new life and they got to meet, feed and get up close to a range of animal babies!

Our dedicated staff are signing off for a well-earned rest over the holidays. If you need to get in touch with us then please email head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk. Otherwise, we will see you all on Tuesday 22nd April - and remember that our FREE breakfast club starts on this day too. Join us from 8am on the day (we are coming in through the staff room entrance).

We pray that you have a lovely holiday with your families and enjoy some rest, sunshine (hopefully) and time together. To our families celebrating Holy Week, may you be blessed by the forgiveness of the cross and the joy of the empty tomb!

Every blessing,

Your very grateful headteacher

Mrs Gow

Goodbye Mrs Johnstone!



Today we said a fond farewell to our very own Mrs Johnstone. Angela has dedicated 19 years of service to Balderstone, starting work in our office and later becoming our business manager. Her hard work has been instrumental in forming our own toddler group, in helping establish our pre-school, in helping organise many of the building projects around school and helping us navigate the trickiest of financial times using her thorough, conscientious and dogged approach to financial planning. We are incredibly grateful to her for her dedicated service to our school family - but also - for her friendship and kindness to us all. We pray that her retirement offers her time to rest, enjoy her garden and time with her family and friends. Gardening club presented her with a special hedgehog house planter that had been filled and planted with flowers to remind her of her time here. I, personally, would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Johnstone for her support on the school's senior leadership team and in guiding our school. A huge thank you to the children, parents, governors and staff who made Mrs Johnstone's farewell such a lovely event.







Balderstone holiday club (places available for Easter)



Our Progressive Kids partners are running holiday club at Balderstone next week. They have a number of fab events and sports planned for our children. See their message below:

Coach Joe and the rest of the Progressive Sports team that run breakfast and after school club, will be busy over Easter putting on some amazing activities at our HolidayCamps

❤️🙌 We are pleased to be running again at Balderstone St Leonard's Primary School and

have lots of amazing activities planned. ⚽️🏸️🏊️🎯🏹️🏆 Please find like

attached: <https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire>

We are supporting the HAF scheme. We still have spaces available but these will go quickly. Please find HAF link below: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/school-holiday-activities/> Any questions please reach out to J.evans@progressive-sports.co.uk

Wild Ukes- lifting our spirits



Our Owl class enjoyed an outdoor ukulele, hot chocolate sing song this week to boost their wellbeing and also to refresh them in the beauty of our incredible forest school area. The children had a campfire strum and sing-a-long together boosting all our spirits. 'You are my sunshine" in the sunshine!







Easter Egg Winners!



We had a fabulous time on Wednesday at our annual egg decorating creative session. The children worked incredible hard on their creations. It is always lovely to see their imaginations in action and to see the children working collaboratively and helping one another with their designs. A special thank you to those children who invited those who had forgotten to bring in their egg stuff to join them in their creations - true Balderstone love in action!

Well done to:

Wren and Dougie

Fatima and Eesa

Olive and Phoebe

Zayyan and Thomas B

Ameerah and Amelia & Yahya

Zayn and Aliza/Safaa/Juwairiyah

William and Ammaarah/Liyaana

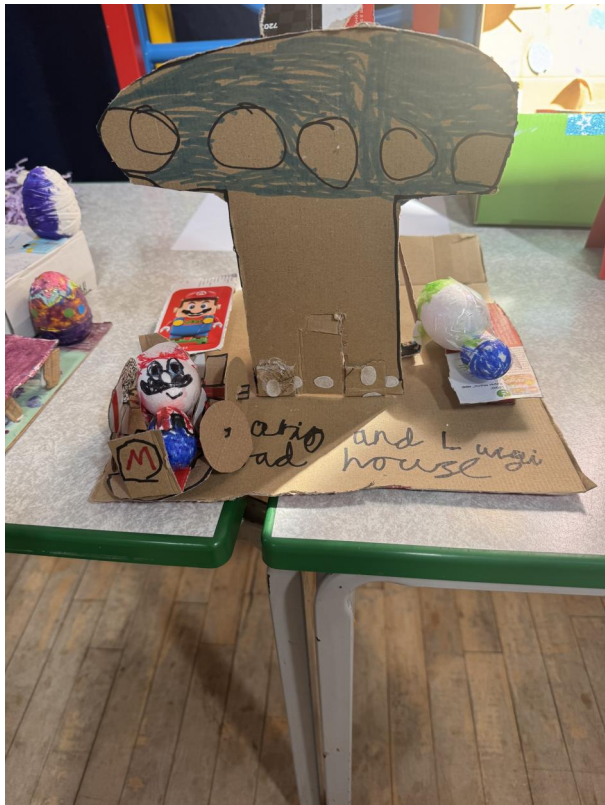
Take a look at these fab creations.















Stars for the half-term



A huge congratulations to the following stars of the half-term for their superb efforts ALL half-term. You have flourished this half-term and we are really proud of your efforts.

Rabbits.	Rayyan
Squirrels	Asiya & Eesa
Year 3	Primrose
Year 4	Ameerah
Year 5	Zayn
Year 6	William and Aaisha

Crackin' Egg decorating



On Wednesday morning, there was some serious creative work going on in every classroom in school! As always, the children loved taking part in the Egg Competition. Many keep their ideas and designs secret until the day and competition is always fierce!











Netball

We're so proud of the progress this team has made this year. They finished 3rd in our league! Well done team!



Year 3 Gymnastics



Well done to our Year 3 gymnastics team! After weeks of practice at our lunchtime gymnastics club with Estelle, they took part in the gymnastics competition on Thursday. They've worked hard on their routines, refining them and remembering them off by heart. It's one of our only competitions where the children have to do a solo performance in front of judges. We were so proud of them all! Well done!











TESCO- it's FOBS turn

16:31

41



07725186861
22/01/2025, 17:38



Starts Helping children thrive

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

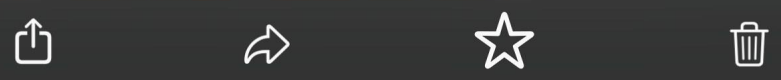
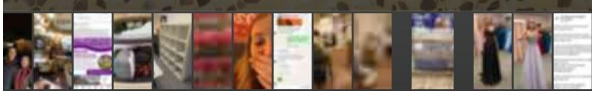
<p>Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary and Pre-school</p> <p><i>Trin Trail Togetherness</i></p> <p>Building a new sustainable adventure playground for school, toddler group and community use, giving our diverse families a place to meet, play and have fun together.</p> <p>Balderstone</p> <p>Vote in-store until 31 March 2025</p>	<p>The BIG Sing SOUL administered by Imagine The Day</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 Oakden Primary School.</p> <p>Blackburn</p> <p>Vote in-store until 31 March 2025</p>	<p>Working with </p> <p>Cruse Bereavement Support Lancashire</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

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Reply



Our amazing FOBS team have been accepted onto the blue token scheme for Tesco - so we can continue to collect tokens! We are going to use the funds from the token to go towards our new adventure trail. Thank you to Muhammad who started off our collection at the Blackburn store!

You can vote for Balderstone at the following stores:

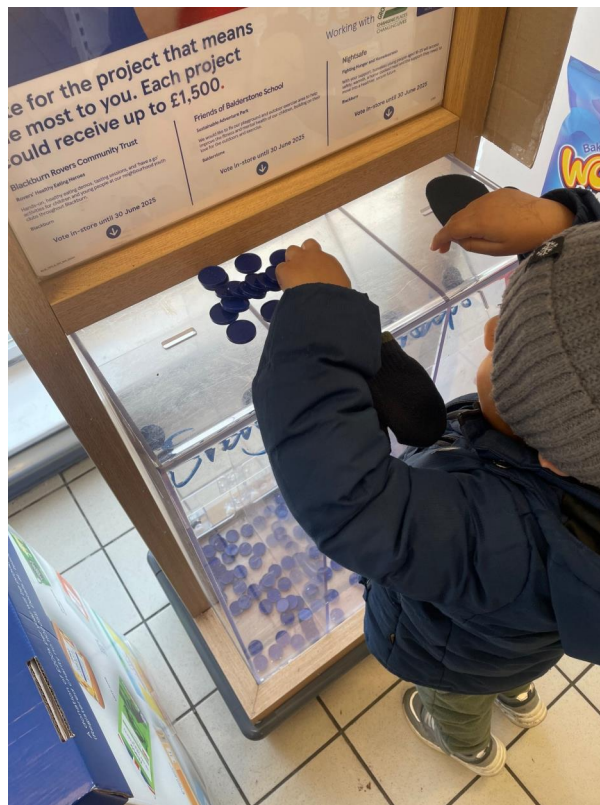
Blackburn Superstore BB1

Darwen Express Express BB3

Blackburn Bank Top Express Express BB2 1TN

Roe Lee Blackburn Express BB1 9AX

Livesey Blackburn Express BB2 5AY



Reading Heroes!

Foxes are loving their class book this term "Beetle Boy" by M. G. Leonard. As we've become fascinated by beetles, we decided in Forest School to go on a beetle hunt. We posted our photos on social media and tagged in M. G. Leonard. To our amazement, she replied!

← **M. G. Leonard** Following
 8,168 posts
 4 15 58 3.1K

M. G. Leonard reposted

Balderstone School @BalderstoneSch1 · 8h
 Great excitement in Forest School with Year 4 this week, we found beetles!
 We're loving reading Beetle Boy by @MGLnrd



M. G. Leonard reposted your post
 Great excitement in Forest School with Year 4 this week, we found beetles!
 We're loving reading Beetle Boy by @MGLnrdpic.x.com/ATiD8yoNwU

M. G. Leonard @MGLnrd · 3h
 Replying to @BalderstoneSch1
 Wahoo! Spring has sprung. Hello to all the beetle buddies 🌱🌱🌱

M. G. Leonard liked your post
 Great excitement in Forest School with Year 4 this week, we found beetles!
 We're loving reading Beetle Boy by @MGLnrdpic.x.com/ATiD8yoNwU

Gardening and Nature Club



Gardening Club loved showing Mrs Cummins around our greenhouse this week and then we got to work planting snowdrops on the field ready for next year. We're always planning ahead! Thank you for coming to see us Mrs Cummins!

Church and Community Corner



There are lots of FREE holiday events available over the Easter break. Take a look at what's on offer to keep our kids creative, busy and off screens this Easter. Take a look at the wonderful events and service going on at our church over the coming weeks:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11534/service-and-events/events-all/>



SEND Friendly

FAMILY HUBS NETWORK

EASTER

Bingo & Quiz

Ages 0 - 11
Booking Required, FREE ENTRY
10:00am - 11:30am

9th APRIL 2025

Longridge Family Hub, Berry Lane
PR3 3JP
01200 420460

Lancashire County Council

SEND Friendly



Keep in touch with the school family using the details below (or call into the school anytime to see us)

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Blackburn

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01254 769150

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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