

Newsletter End of Autumn term 1 2026

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

Wednesday 21st October 2026

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Dates and reminders



Monday 2nd November - Back in school; Flu vaccinations

Thursday 5th November - Themed lunch

Friday 6th November - photographs

Saturday 7th November - FOBS Bonfire night

Monday 9th November - Swimming starts for Year 3 and 4

Friday 13th November - Year 5 Parent lunch

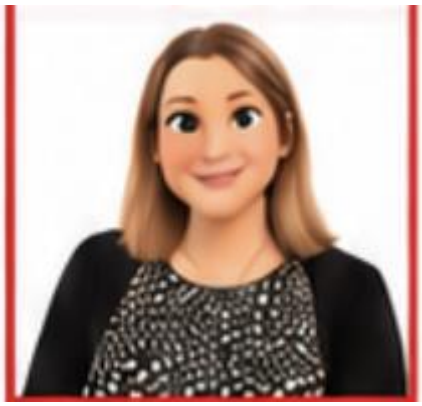
Tuesday 17th November - Parent drop in session with school nurse from 2:30pm

Thursday 26th November - Squirrels Victorian Christmas trip

Wednesday 2nd December - Coffee Creative

Wednesday 9th December - Nativity 1:30pm and 4:00pm

Mrs Draycott's Overview of the half term



How do I summarise a half term that has been crammed so full with exciting learning opportunities, enrichment activities and wonderful moments? Grab a drink as this is a bumper newsletter!

I have said it so many times that for a small school we offer so much, thanks to the dedication of a wonderful staff team who go above and beyond to give the children so many experiences. A huge thank you to Mrs Burton and School Council for the Dinosaur day. This was funded thanks to profits made from toast and I can not begin to describe the joy it brought to so many children. PGL was a fantastic opportunity for our older children to push boundaries, conquer fears and work together. Year 5 have enjoyed their Bikeability sessions, gaining essential skills to keep them safe on the roads. Our youngest children in EYFS had great fun with the bear last week in Balderstone brook and enjoyed their teddy bear's picnic. Year 2 have been demonstrating their culinary skills each week with Mrs Lorgat and have made a variety of tasty treats. Year 1 will have their turn after half term. Foxes class enjoyed their trip to the textile museum and Owls class have had the opportunity today to meet the author A.F Steadman.

It was a joy to welcome lots of you for Parents Evening on Tuesday. Thank you to those of who who completed the Parental questionnaire. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback. If you haven't completed it yet, please see the link sent on Parentmail. It is important that we hear your views and gain feedback so we can respond appropriately to make our school an even better place for the whole family. It has also been lovely to receive so much positive feedback about our school from others too. We welcome other teachers regularly into school to observe our maths teaching. The feedback we get about the way we teach maths and how articulate our children are in explaining their reasoning is extremely positive and encouraging. We have also received praise for our children's behaviour when they have visited events with other schools and we could not be prouder of them.

Our worship this half term, which was planned by Salt and Light, has focused on our core Christian Values of FAITH, WISDOM, COMPASSION and COMMUNITY. These are underpinned by our vision of all children flourishing due to the immeasurable love of Christ and therefore we Love God, Love Others and Love Learning. There have been so many opportunities where these values have been lived out through working as a community and showing compassion to support the foodbank, the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and Yellow Minds, making wise choices in pupil leadership roles and showing love for each other in the way children interact with other member of the school family.

Thank you, as always for the support you give us.

Have a lovely half term break.

Mrs Draycott








Today we had a special visitor at
school. A T-Rex called
When I saw him I
My favourite
everything






Right







Forest School

Love Wildlife • Love Nature • Love The Outdoors

Balderstone's Wildlife Wilderness

Year 1 have a had a fantastic half term at Forest School! We've painted with mud, built dens, found worms, been creative with sticks and conkers, explored the brook, been pond dipping and this week we finished their sessions roasting marshmallows and cooking popcorn on a fire. It's been wonderful to see the Year 1s explore, ask questions, find out more about nature and enjoy being outside! Thank you, Year 1, you've been stars!

Year 2, it's your turn next! Watch out for a Parentmail with all the information you need.

































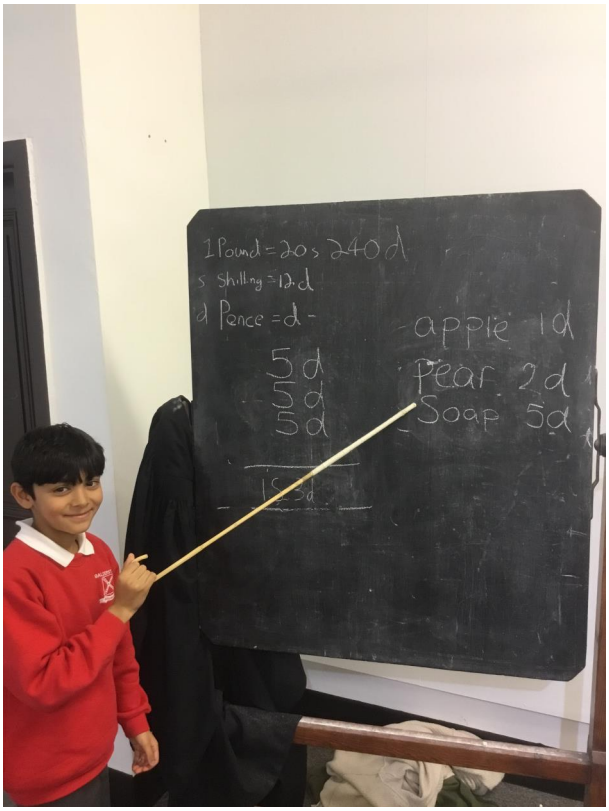


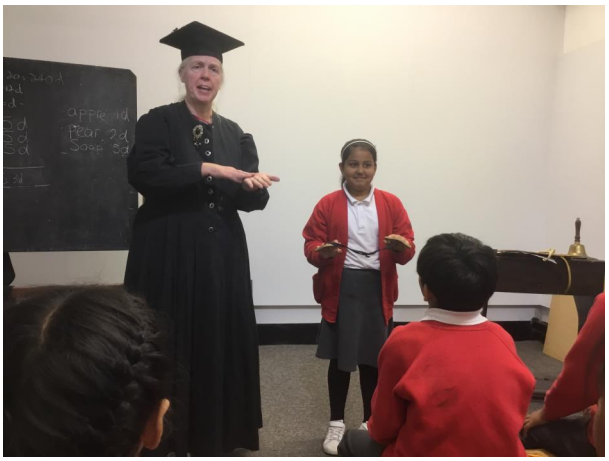
Foxes' visit to Queen Street Mill

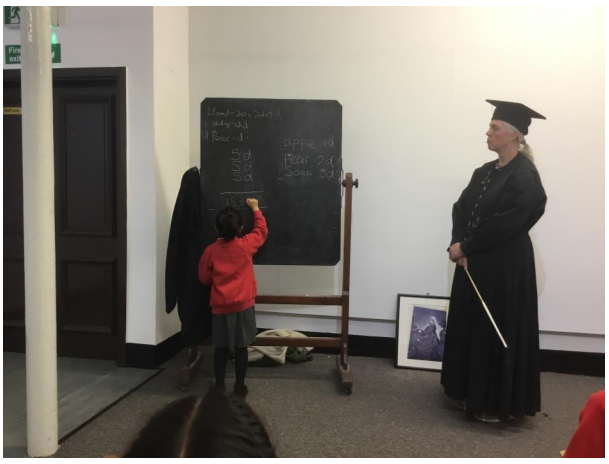
We have had a wonderful time today at Queen Street Mill as part of our history unit on the Industrial Revolution. We've attended a Victorian school, seen how the mill worked using a steam engine, learnt how they wove cotton and found out what day to day life was like at home. It's a fantastic place to visit and has steam days when everything is up and running! Definitely worth a day out!

Thank you to everyone that came with us on the trip.




1 Pound = 20s 240d
s Shilling = 12d
d Pence = d -
apple 1d
Pear 2d
Soap 5d
5d
5d
5d











Church and Community Corner



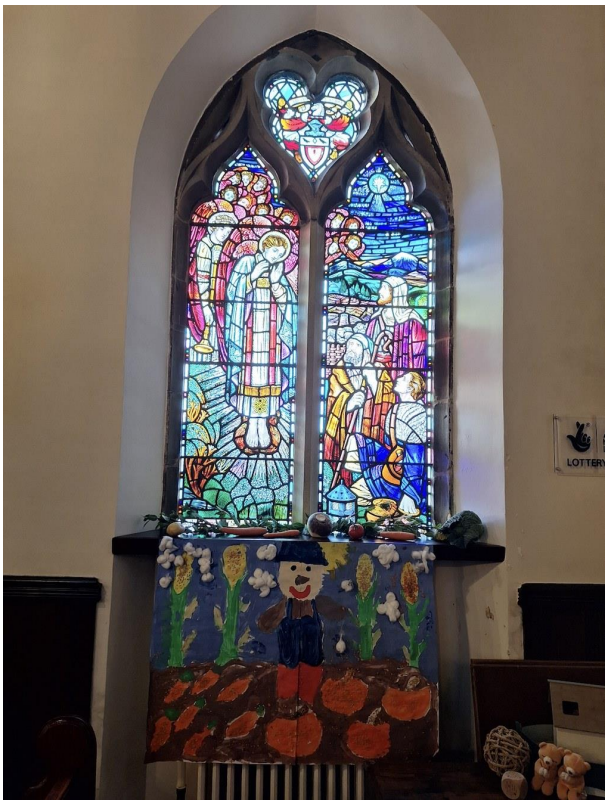
Thank you to everyone who brought harvest gifts to school and church. Our collection went to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

It was wonderful to see many of our children joining in with the Open the Book team and using the puppets to tell the story of the feeding of the 5,000 at our church Harvest Festival. Everyone in church also loved seeing your wonderful painting, Year 1 and 2!

Our next Forest Church is on 22nd November, more details to follow!



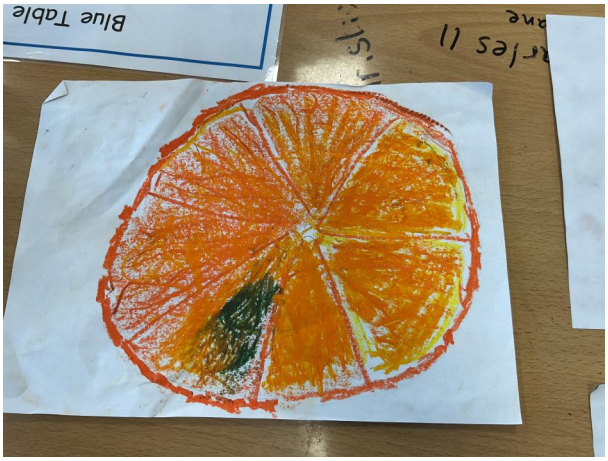




Amazing Artwork in Squirrels class

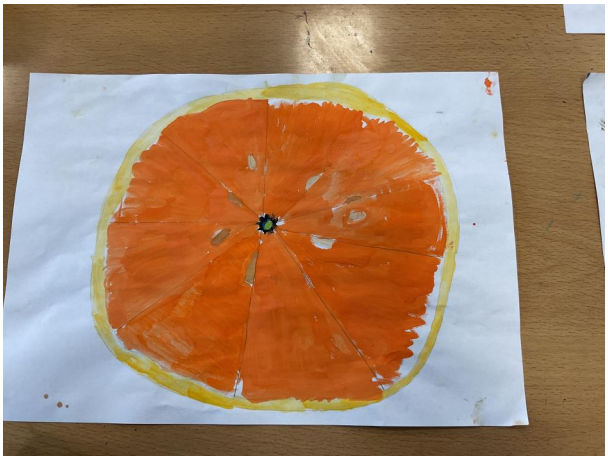
Year 1 and 2 have been practising their colour mixing skills and have put them to good use to create fruity pictures inspired by a variety of artists.




Blue Table







1 - F.O.B.S Annual Bonfire night



Little Voices

Little Voices has been a huge success and we are fortunate that Haylie will be continuing coming into school every Thursday from 3:10 until 4:00. If your children hasn't attended but would like to, the details are as follows:

We would offer families a monthly package, with payments collected automatically through our payment system, GoCardless. This means parents wouldn’t need to worry about making individual payments, as we can manage everything directly. We would also issue invoices each term.

The price per lesson would depend on the child’s age group:

- **Mini Voices (ages 4–7)** – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: £11 per lesson
- **Little Voices (ages 7–11)** – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: £14 per lesson

LAMDA examination fees would be charged separately and would vary depending on the examination taken, typically ranging from £36 to £50 per child.

Little Voices Uniform

Families would also have the option to purchase Little Voices uniform, which we highly recommend! We love how it helps the children feel part of one big Little Voices community.

Our uniform prices are:

- T-shirts: £12
- Hoodies: £15

Club Arrangements and Partnership Agreement

We would keep the club running from **3:10 pm to 4:00 pm on Thursdays**. Depending on the final number of children attending, we would have either one or two Little Voices tutors leading the LAMDA sessions.

If you would like to contact Haylie directly, her number is 07717 711715 and her email is: BDRV@littlevoices.org.uk

October Half Term Activities

NO BOOKING Needed

October Half Term Activities (0-8 years)

Come along to your Children's Centre or Family Hub to experience an array of Universal Groups and Supportive Services.

Please call **01254 585000** or scan the code below for more details.

Monday 26th October	Tuesday 27th October	Wednesday 28th October	Thursday 29th October	Friday 30th October
09:30am - 11:30am **Growing Together with Home Start** *Darwen Family Hub*	09:30am - 12:30pm **Drop-in Rock Pool Experience (with Aqua Explora)** *Little Harwood Family Hub*	09:30am - 10:30am **Autumn Fun** *Shadsworth Family Hub*	09:30am - 10:30am **Autumn Fun** *Hancock Street Children's Centre*	09:30am - 10:30am **Lets Play @ The Hub** *The Hub @ Shadsworth, Rothesay Road*
1:00pm - 2:00pm **Nourish and Nurture** (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) *Wensley Fold Children's Centre*	10:00am - 11:00am **Autumn Fun** *Darwen Family Hub*	1:00pm - 2:00pm **Nourish and Nurture** (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) *Shadsworth Family Hub*	09:30am - 12:30pm **Drop-in Rock Pool Experience (with Aqua Explora)** *Shadsworth Family Hub*	10:00am - 11:00am **Pumpkin Play** *Livesey Family Hub*
1:00pm - 2:00pm **Pumpkin Play** *Highercroft Children's Centre*	10:00am - 11:00am & 1:00pm - 2:00pm **Sounds Fun - Music** *Hancock Street Children's Centre*	1:00pm - 3:00pm **Growing Together with Home Start** *Livesey Family Hub*	12:30pm - 1:30pm **Nourish and Nurture** (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) *Little Harwood Family Hub*	10:00am - 11:00am **Nourish and Nurture** (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) *Darwen Family Hub*
Ask us about Toileting Support at any of our groups… 	1:00pm - 2:00pm **Nourish and Nurture** (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) *Livesey Family Hub*	1:00pm - 4:00pm **Re:fresh Active Autumn** *Corporation Park* re:fresh Blackburn with Darwen	1:00pm - 2:00pm **Autumn Fun** *Livesey Family Hub*	1:00pm - 2:00pm **Autumn Fun** *Little Harwood Family Hub*
	1:00pm - 4:00pm **Re:fresh Active Autumn** *Queen's Park*		1:30pm - 2:30pm **Peep-Stay and Play** *Darwen Library*	1:00pm - 2:00pm **Autumn Fun** *Highercroft Children's Centre*

All Activities FREE

Family Hub

Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth

BEST START IN LIFE

Scan me

Wraparound Provision and clubs

We are now offering wraparound provision ourselves, run by Mrs Barton. If you would like to book your child on for after school club, you can do so via Parentmail. There are two slots you can choose from:

3:10 - 4:30 - £5.50

3:10 - 5:30 - £9.00

The free breakfast club starts at 8:00 but if you need to drop off earlier than that, we run a pay breakfast club from 7:30 costing £2. You would need to book your child on to this via Parentmail.

Polite Reminders

Please can I remind you all that school starts at 8:40am. We begin each day with a reading workshop and if your child is persistently late, they miss a significant amount of learning time over the week. Also, we are having an increasing number of parents who are taking children out of school in term time without completing a holiday request form in advance. Currently we do not fine for taking children out but we are being encouraged to and will have no choice if our attendance figures drop. It is that time of the year when children are picking up bugs. If your child is ill, please phone the absence line so we know not to expect your child in school.

Children should come to school dressed in their school uniform unless it is a PE day (for juniors) or their birthday. We are noticing an increasing number of children who are wearing trainers instead of school shoes with their uniform but this is not part of our uniform policy. Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform.

After the half term holiday, the PCSO is returning to school to help us with the issue of speeding cars along the lanes to school. As you are aware, we have had some complaints from residents but I genuinely believe some of the cars that are seen speeding are not connected with school. Our main priority is keeping your children safe so thank you for your safe and careful driving to and from school.

Get in touch

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

Commons Lane

Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

01254 769150

Please note: our office and telephones are only staffed in the morning sessions. Please eave a message on the absence line if you need us at other times. Thank you.

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk or bursar@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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