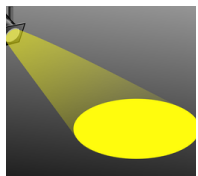
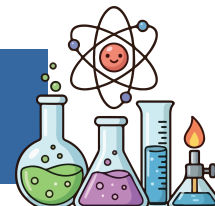




BALSHAW LANE NEWSLETTER



Spotlight this week on Science.



Reception have been exploring seasonal change and looking for signs of autumn.
Year 1 have been grouping and classifying animals in different ways. We also looked at which animals would make a good pet and showed our results in a bar chart.
Year 2 have been looking at which properties makes different materials suitable for different objects.
Year 3 have been exploring different kinds of rocks and comparing their properties.
Year 4 have been exploring states of matter and the different melting points.
Year 5 have been planning and carrying out a comparative test to answer the question "Which material is the best thermal insulator?" We have also looked at properties of materials.
Year 6 have been investigating "How does the heart function?" They have produced some fantastic information posters after conducting their research.



Thursday 1st October was **National Poetry Day**. This year's theme was Wonder. Within school we celebrated by exploring and sharing the work of a poet and a different element of wonder within each year group, before creating our own poems inspired by this.
Reception looked at the work of Michael Rosen with the theme 'wonder of the senses', Year 1 looked at Joseph Coelho and the 'wonder of nature', Year 2 looked at Simon Mole and 'wonder in the everyday', Year 3 looked at Kate Wakeling and 'wonder of the deep earth', Year 4 looked at Dom Conlon and the 'wonder of space and science', Year 5 looked at Karl Nova and the 'wonder of human feeling' and Year 6 looked at Caleb Femi and the 'wonder of the future and change'. We enjoyed an assembly to introduce this and watched a few funny poetry performances. We also got to spend time with our reading buddies and share our 'poem in the pocket' at break and lunchtimes.
Many thanks go to Mrs Horne for organising such a great day for the children celebrating poetry.



Headteacher Awards

Congratulations to all the children who received a Headteacher Award in last week's assembly.

Names for this week and last week will be on next week's newsletter.



Team Points

The winners this week were:

DRAGONS



Attendance and Punctuality

Whole School Attendance for this academic year is: 96.6%.

Well done to RA, RT, 2W, 2M, 3J, 4D and 5G for all being on time this week. AMAZING! Much improved punctuality this week. Thank you!

	R A	R T	1H P	1A	2 W	2 M	3 H	3J	4 B	4 D	5 G	5 W	6 H	6 B
Attendance for last week	83 %	83 %	97 %	93 %	98 %	95 %	95 %	100 %	98 %	98 %	99 %	94 %	96 %	98 %
Punctuality - how many lates?	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2

Messages

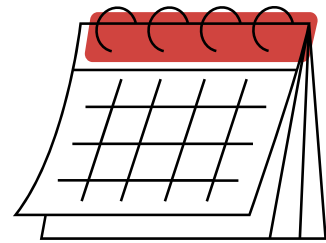
We would love some of our parents and carers to be a **Secret Reader** again. The children loved this last year. If you would like to volunteer to read to your child's class please contact their teacher via Dojo.

Starbooks Cards

We hope all our children are able to read at home at least 3 times each week. To promote this aim, the children have the opportunity to collect Starbooks stamps and be entered into a draw to visit Ebb and Flo after half term to choose a book.

Thank you for helping us to keep our children and families safe on the roads outside school. We appreciate everyone parking and driving safely on the roads outside school. It has seemed much safer this week.

Dates for this term



October

Monday 5th	Parents Evening for children with SEND 3:30-5:00pm
Tuesday 6th	Book Viewing for Parents and Carers 8:45-9:05am (WAC parents @ 7:45am-8:15am)
Wed 7th	Book Viewing for Parents and Carers 3:20-3:35am (WAC parents @ 4:30-6:00pm)
Thursday 8 TH	Reception party 3:20-4:30pm Year 1&2 disco 5:45-6:45 Year 3-6 disco 7-8:15
Thurs 15th	Parents' Evening 2pm-6pm Learning Quiz
Friday 16th	Playgroup in the hall for children (0-4 years) and families at 9:30am Break up for half term holiday at 3:20pm

Book Viewing

We are pleased to welcome parents and carers to celebrate your child's work on either Tuesday 6th from 8:45-9:05am or Wednesday 7th October from 3:20-3:35pm. Parents/carers will come into your child's class with them in the morning and in the afternoon session the class teacher will dismiss the children first and then you may return once the children have been handed over safely to their parents. This is so we can ensure all children are safe.

We have listened to some parents who are unable to come at the times stated above as their children go to our WAC or at Yarrow.

If your child goes to WAC and you would like to view the books either before or after school on the times stated above please let Mrs Marsden know by at least the day before. This is so we can ensure the books are ready for you.

If your child goes to Yarrow and you will need to come between 5:45pm and 6:00pm please let Mrs Hodgson know.

Phonics Meeting

Thank you for attending the phonics meeting on Wednesday evening. We hope you found it informative. The presentation has been sent out to all parents and is available on the school website. If you ever have any questions about phonics, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher as we are always happy to help.



BALSHAW LANE
OCTOBER
HOLIDAY CLUB

Creative days, outdoor games, and joyful October memories.

 Arts & Crafts

 Outdoor Play

 Music & Dance

 Creative Learning

Club dates Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd

JOIN TODAY!

Bookings open on Scopay or contact the school office

Class Dojo

Our aim for class dojo is so we can keep in contact with you but please be aware that some of the teachers are receiving an overwhelming amount of messages each morning. Please can we just ask you to bear this in mind when sending in lots of messages. All teachers are available for a face to face chat at the end of the day via the playground.

Many thanks for your support.

Access School Health in a drop in session
Support for children, young people, parents and carers

HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT

- ✓ Emotional health and wellbeing
- ✓ Healthy lifestyles
- ✓ Sleep concerns/ Toileting issues
- ✓ Behaviour support
- ✓ Growth and development
- ✓ School-related health concerns
- ✓ General health and wellbeing questions

DROP-IN SESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

📍 **1 October 2026** | 9:30am-12:00pm
The Zone (next to Skelmersdale Library), WN8 6PZ

📍 **15 October 2026** 09:00-12:00
Coppull Library PR7 5BZ

📍 **08 October 2026** 2:00-4:00pm
Preston West Family Hub, PR2 1TU

📍 **21 October 2026** | 9:30am-11:30am
West Paddock, PR25 1HR

📍 **27 October 2026** | 2:00pm-4:00pm
Ribbleton Family Hub, PR2 6EE

ACCESS TO WIDER SUPPORT

Delivered as part of the One Stop Shop in partnership with the Early Help Partnership, helping families access advice, guidance and local services.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Simply come along to a session that suits you.

★ **MORE LOCATIONS • MORE DATES • BETTER ACCESS TO SUPPORT** ★

Harris Museum, Preston

There's a fantastic range of activities taking place from Monday 26 - Friday 30 October, including:

- **Animals!:** A fun, interactive family performance celebrating wildlife and nature.
- **Fibre Discovery Studio:** Explore fleece, wool and cotton and create your own woven keepsake.
- **Let's Get Printing:** A hands-on printing workshop inspired by The Harris' Horrockses Fashions exhibition.
- **Foucault Pendulum Talks:** Discover the science and history behind the UK's longest Foucault Pendulum.
- **Ink, Print, Repeat:** Experiment with lino and foam-block printing.
- **Frieze Making Station:** Explore maths, patterns and symmetry.
- **Coding My First Robot:** A hands-on coding challenge for children aged 7 - 14.
- **The Anatomy of a Robot:** An interactive exploration of robotics and AI.

There are also regular activities through the week including Baby Bounce and Rhyme, Junior Craft Club, LEGO Club and Storytime.

Many activities are free, with some requiring advance booking. Full details, including times, ages, prices and booking information, can be found here: <https://theharris.org.uk/press-news/october-half-term-activities/>

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hodgson.