



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary -
Welcome to the Summer term



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

Monday 21st April 2025

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Weekly Words



Welcome back to school and to the Summer term! I hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing break and is ready for the fun of this busy final term. To our families who celebrated Easter, I hope you enjoyed lots of chocolate eggs and that the joy of Jesus' resurrection, and the hope this brings, fills your hearts and homes this year ahead.

We welcome Mrs Lisa Oddie to the Balderstone staff team as our new school office manager. As always, show her our radical Balderstone hospitality and please be patient with us both, as Mrs Oddie and I, try to navigate the systems and paperwork together (without the oracle Mrs Johnstone). The school office and phone lines will be staffed by Mrs Oddie from first thing in the morning till 12.30pm. Please do use the absence line on the phone (option 1) and leave a message if your child is absent from school/or you need to get a message to us - as this means that we won't be chasing you up and ringing you at home! Please see the section below about the logistics of the new part-time office.

It is a busy term (especially for our Year 6 pupils) who will be getting ready for their upcoming assessments (week beginning May 12th) and also the excitement of their auditions and production. It is also going to be exciting time as we plan our MASSIVE refurbishment and building work projects - the new adventure trail, the new windows/doors/cladding around the school and the new EYFS school based nursery classroom design. Our new initiative - Balderstone Brekkie club starts on Tuesday too - meaning ALL children can access free breakfast club from 8am. Please see the arrangements for club below. We also continue to say a big thank you to Ms Meg Evans who will be continuing to do some teaching in Year 3/4 in the Summer term.

*Hooray! We were thrilled to get our list of Reception offers for September 2025, and very much look forward to welcoming **another full class** of children to our school family in September. More details will follow in the coming weeks of special transition events and meetings for our newest school family members.*

*This term we are going to aim for the best term of attendance **ever** - so look out for our weekly updates on the star attendance year groups on Friday's newsletter. I would also ask that we really curb term-time holiday requests unless under exceptional circumstances. No leave requests can be authorised by school (unless the circumstances are exceptional). We had a real surge of requests at the end of last term and the impact of these is on our children's learning and continuity of their progress. I know cheaper deals/flights are so tempting, but we have already factored in our INSET days dove-tailing them onto half-term (eg Friday 23rd May and then the two at the very end of the year on 21st and 22nd July) to allow for slightly cheaper flight bookings. Please note that we do finish at **1.30pm on Friday 18th July 2025** after our Year 6 leavers' service/lunch.*

*As always, could I please ask that we are mindful of our driving speeds, safety around the 'dip' in the road and turning into the car park to avoid any further near misses. The speed limit (new signage is going up) on the car park **and** turning into it is 5 mph to keep other drivers and especially our precious children safe! I strongly maintain that it is not just our school traffic that causes an issue on Commons Lane as there are a number of locals who drive very quickly and delivery/agricultural/commuters who use the road as a cut-through, who pose many hazards on the lane. However, we need to keep doing our part in keeping the road (especially at busy times) safe for drivers and pedestrians.*

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all tomorrow. As always, if you have any questions or need to get in touch, then email me on head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

Every blessing for this exciting term ahead,

Getting in touch - our new office hours



From 1 pm onwards - Mrs Gow will be *trying* to staff the office, answer the phone etc. However, there are going to be **lots** of times that I will be busy/in a meeting or covering teachers and cannot answer the phone immediately **OR** the office may not be staffed. If the phone is not staffed we will make sure that the answerphone is on (or use the absence line which is always on) and this will be checked regularly throughout the afternoon. **Please use the absence line (option 1) to leave a message - even if it's not an absence as this automatically gives you the option to leave a voice message).**

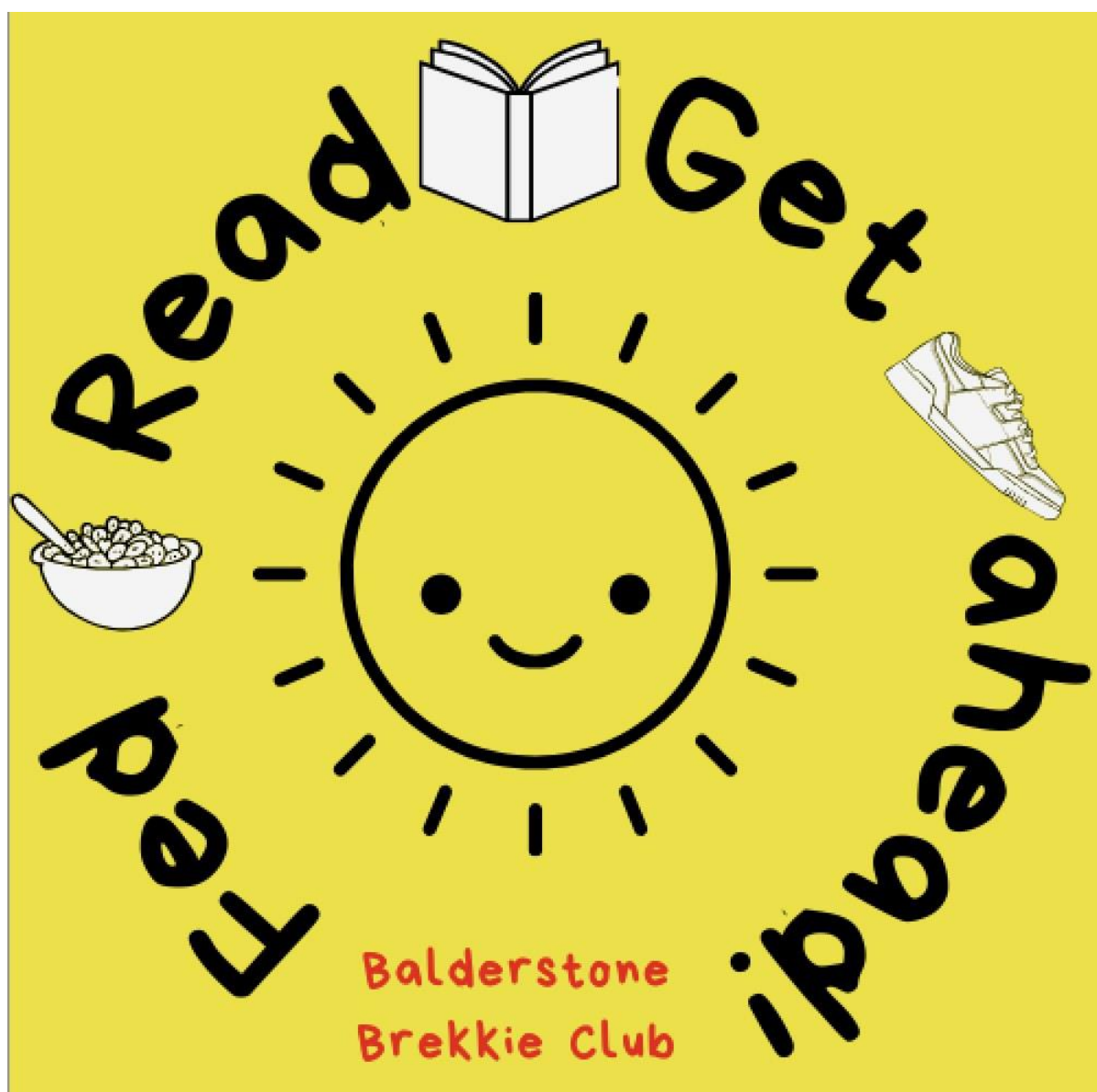
If you need to collect your child early in the afternoon session and this is planned - then please make sure the office/class teachers know this in the morning. You can email the office still at bursar@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk or come in and see Mrs Oddie in the office in the morning. Please bear in mind that Mrs Oddie will NOT be in the office after school - so if you need any forms/information/messages, then mornings are the best time to catch her.

If there is an **emergency** and you need to get hold of someone urgently and the answerphone in school is on, then please use the mobile number **07922 058729**.

There is a doorbell in front office (on the right of the window) and this can be pressed if the office is not staffed and someone will come and help as soon as possible. If necessary, please knock on the Year 1/2 classroom windows at the front of the school to get a staff member's attention.

Thank you for helping us out with these new arrangements. I know it is not ideal not having a full-time person in the office, but more schools are moving to this model now as budgets are so tight.

Balderstone Brekkie Club launch arrangements



Free breakfast club for ALL our children starts this **TUESDAY**. Our Fed, Read and Get Ahead club doors open from 8am every day. Many of you have already confirmed which days of the week you would like your child/children to attend. At the moment we are not using a booking system to keep it easier for you as parents - but please do ensure that your child does **regularly** turn up on the days that you have already indicated - as we will be catering for these numbers. Please do support this initiative - as we are only going to be able to keep this provision viable IF it is used by the vast majority of our children. A huge thank you to the parents/grandparents who have offered to help by doing a morning a week/month to help. Please get in touch with Mrs Gow to let her know which days/dates are most convenient for you so we can set up a rota.

Here are the arrangements:

- If you want your child to get breakfast - please drop them off between **8am and 8.15am** in the morning at the STAFF ROOM entrance (side door between the Year 1/2 classroom and the hall). There is a **doorbell** on this door to get attention if the door is closed. **The door will only open at 8am**. Please wait with your child until a staff member opens this door. Please bear in mind that our youngest children do take a while to eat - so please make sure that you arrive in plenty of time. Children who are attending the paid for club from 7.30am will automatically be registered for the Balderstone Brekkie on the days they are booked in.
- All children will need their water bottle with them **EVERY** day. We are using our cups for milk portions!
- Children will be registered in the hall as they arrive and then they will take off their coats/bags to their cloakrooms (apart from EYFS children who will leave their belongings on the bench in the hall).
- Children will NOT be allowed into the classrooms/cloakrooms other than to drop off coats/bags.
- If your child arrives at 8.30am or after, they will not be able to have breakfast food choices as the food hatch will close **promptly** at 8.30am and your child will be given a piece of fruit.
- Mondays and Fridays are our cooked/hot breakfast days - with a range of yummy choices including - scrambled eggs, boiled eggs, porridge, rice pudding, spaghetti hoops, beans and hash browns. Menus will be produced fortnightly.
- On a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday your child can choose between cereals **or** yoghurt and fruit will be available daily.
- Please be aware that we have to follow the school food standards guidelines - so no added sugars, sugary cereals or pastries or juices/cordials are allowed. We have brought natural sweetness through honey, dried fruits etc! We're sweet enough anyway!
- When the children have eaten, chatted and tidied up - we will be taking part in book buddies and wake up and shake up aerobics, dance and exercise fun till we are ready to go to class at 8.40am.
- Children who are NOT attending breakfast club will still enter school in the same way - through their usual door/gate at 8.40am. The playground gate to the juniors will be locked until 8.40am as we may be playing out/doing a daily mile or doing our aerobics on the playground till then if the weather is kind.
- All our EYFS children will be given a brekkie buddy too (one of our Owl class - Year 5/6 children) to help them at breakfast club.

- Watch out for our Brekkie Specials coming up - including our **Blokes brekkie (for Father's Day) Friday 13th June!**



Simpler recycling - new 'rubbish' regulations!



From this week we are having implement the government's new Simpler Recycling laws. This is a good thing for stewardship and looking after God's creation. However, it does create some issues that need thinking about for our small school.

1. We are now being charged for all of our rubbish collections, with excess weight charges! We have to have a separate food waste bin and collect/separate out all our food scraps eg toast crusts etc can NO longer go into our normal classroom general waste bins! Miss Lee and the kitchen team are also having to separate out all their kitchen scraps.
2. As a church school, committed to stewardship, we have decided to have a massive drive on composting - so all compostable foods/peels/skins and shells have to separated out from the food waste.

3. All dry recycling has to be separated - eg paper, cardboard, aluminium cans, plastics (that are recyclable)
4. Our general waste bins can only hold rubbish that is non-recyclable - such as some of our hand towels (we have too many to compost), tissues.
5. Staff are NOT to put their tea bags/food in the general waste
6. We are making the move to organic/non-bleached tea bags that are compostable

What does this mean of us as a school:

- we are going to have to **look before we chuck** (eg, check which bin and which kind of waste it is)
- all children on packed lunches are going to be asked to take home all their waste in their own lunch bags - this will allow you to see what/how much has been eaten and help reduce our waste too
- we have bought new bins, a new contract for our waste collection and also new composters
- Mrs Riddell will be launching our new Stewardship squad to help lead the initiative
- all visitors/parents/church/clubs coming into school will need to be aware of the new bins/food separation rules and the regulations

Uniform - best foot forward!



As we move into the summer term can we please ensure that we are all consistent with our approach to uniform. We want our children to look smart and proud in our Balderstone uniform. We have decided to keep our uniform policy quite informal. eg we haven't gone down the shirt, ties and blazers route for our children to allow them comfort, ease and outdoor/messy play - but this still needs to be worn smartly. Please make use of our

wonderfully well stocked 'new to you' uniform stall - there are loads of summer term uniform choices available. This is always open after Celebration worship on a Friday or speak to Mrs Oddie or Mrs Leaver at any time.

Thank you so much to the overwhelming majority of our parents who send their children in so smartly.

FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN PRE-SCHOOL/RECEPTION

- Trainers (with a decent tread) are only to be worn *to* school IF your child is wearing their Balderstone new style PE kit on their PE day. At **all other times** trainers must be in PE bags/cloakrooms ready for use for clubs/PE lessons.
- Children who need to wear trainers for a medical reason must speak to Mrs Gow or class teachers to inform them of the reasons why their child is in trainers. This will be reviewed weekly.
- All children need to have their trainers in school every day.

FOR ALL CHILDREN:

- Children should have a waterproof coat/jacket with them please for outdoor learning and playtimes.
- Jewellery and smart watches should NOT be worn to school - only a simple/analogue or digital watch and a pair of plain, small stud earrings can be worn (**NOT ON PE/club DAYS**). No necklaces, bracelets or bangles should be worn,
- Make-up/nail varnish should **not** be worn at school.
- Children can choose to wear checked red and white summer dresses (even in EYFS) OR grey skirts, skorts, shorts. in warmer weather.
- Summer hair cuts should be a grade 2 or above without lines/patterns please (unless for religious reasons after pilgrimage). Hair accessories should be in school colours (black, red, white, grey) and should not be small in size so they don't catch on people or objects eg, no massive clips or bows

Year 6

- Year 6 can wear their leavers' hoodies after Easter instead of their red jumpers/cardigans - year 6 standards dependent!

Thank you for helping us to maintain our high standards of appearance, expectations and behaviour in our school family.

TESCO - it's FOBS turn

16:31

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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.

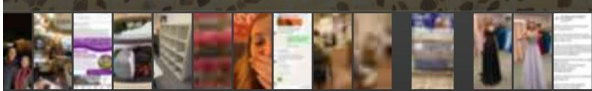
<p>Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary and Pre-school</p> <p><i>Trin Trail Togetherness</i></p> <p>Building a new sustainable adventure playground for school, toddler group and community use, giving our diverse families a place to meet, play and have fun together.</p> <p>Balderstone</p> <p>Vote in-store 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



Share, Reply, Star, Delete icons

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.

You can vote for Balderstone at the following stores:

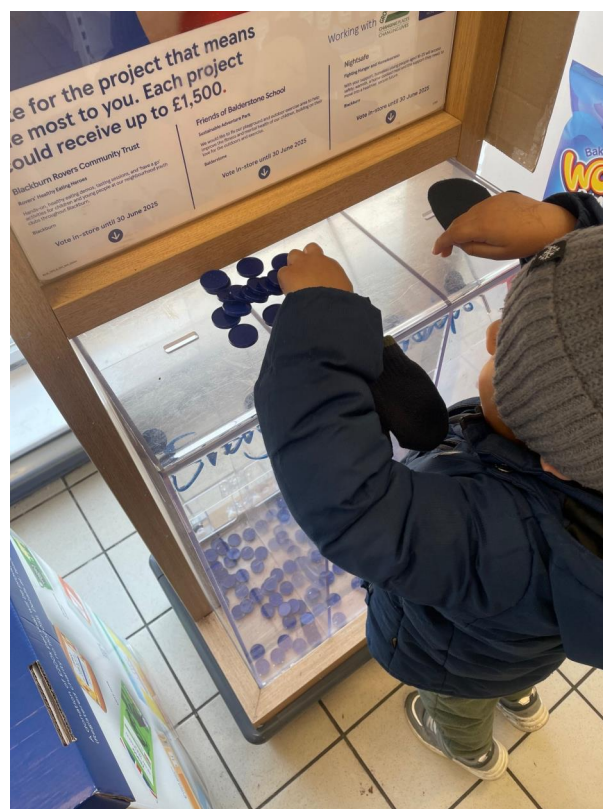
Blackburn Superstore BB1

Darwen Express Express BB3

Blackburn Bank Top Express Express BB2 1TN

Roe Lee Blackburn Express BB1 9AX

Livesey Blackburn Express BB2 5AY



Food for Life



As a school, we have signed up to the Food for Life school award programme. We are excited to start working together, children, parents, staff and governors towards our Food for Life Bronze award.

We will be looking to improve what we eat, where we eat it and where it comes from. We'll be continuing to learn how to grow and cook our own food and we want to make sure that we share what we learn (and what we cook!) with the community around us.

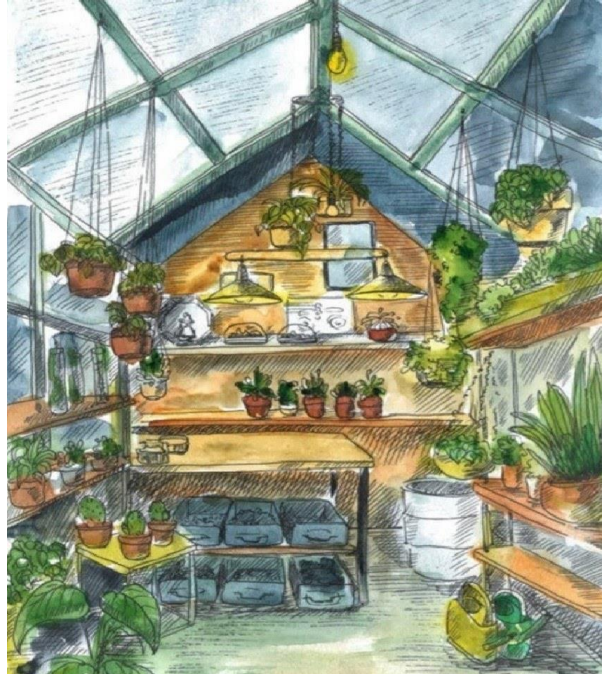
There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved. So if you want to help us grow, cook or eat food please get in touch!

Church and Community Corner



Come along to our Forest Church on Sunday 27th April at 4pm! Everyone is welcome!

We start in church and then quickly move outside to explore the world around us. We then head into school for refreshments and craft. It's a relaxed afternoon for all ages in a friendly environment. If you haven't been along before, come and see what it's all about!



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

head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk

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