



# Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary - 5th May 2025

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

*Friday 2nd May 2025*

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## In This Issue



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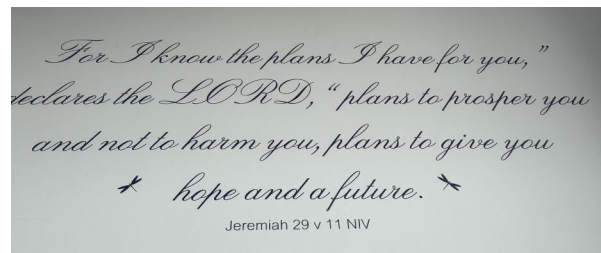
## Weekly Words



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*Well, I don't really know where to start this week as there is SO much to give thanks for, celebrate and be hopeful about. Recently, I went to the Diocese headteachers' conference where the theme was Reservoirs of Hope. At times (especially when we listen to the news) we can lose hope as we become drained by the stories of loss, sadness and corruption. However, the start of this new term in school has really topped up my own reservoir of hope about the future of our school. There has been so much happening to bring those small moments of joy and there is LOTS to look forward to in the coming months at Balderstone. Above the desk in my office I have painted the bible verse from Jeremiah 29 verse 11, which breathes hope for our future.*

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Over the next few months we are hopeful because:

- our new Trim Trail/adventure playground and Toddle track is being installed (see details further on in the newsletter)
- the planning application is currently lodged with Ribble Valley for the project to replace all the windows, doors and cladding around school - fully modernising, insulating and updating the back and side elevations of our school building - including new bifold doors to our EYFS and double doors from every junior classroom to the balcony area.
- our school based nursery 2 year old provision and complete refurbishment of our EYFS unit is now in design stages and will be ready to be built over the summer

## Dates for the Diary Summer term

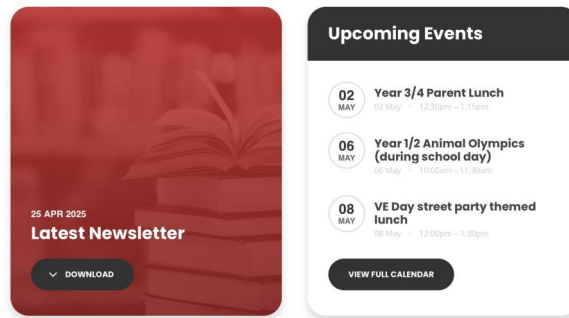


There is always LOTS going on in the Summer term at Balderstone. To help you navigate the range of events happening we have fully updated the front page of our school website.

<https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk/>

If you scroll down on the home page you will find our Upcoming events tab and you can click on the full calendar link and find all the important dates and events that are happening in school. One of the feedback comments from the parental questionnaire was about managing the number of Parentmails that are sent out. The dates for the diary section will be kept as up-to-date as manageable so you, as parents and carers, can see the upcoming events to plan for your family.

## Latest Updates



25 APR 2025  
**Latest Newsletter**  
▼ DOWNLOAD

**Upcoming Events**

- 02 MAY Year 3/4 Parent Lunch
- 06 MAY Year 1/2 Animal Olympics (during school day)
- 08 MAY VE Day street party themed lunch

VIEW FULL CALENDAR

May we present our new adventure and toddler track...



As you know, our incredible FOBS team (Friends of Balderstone School) have been fundraising for the past few years to help us replace our worn out and very well loved adventure trail. We are pleased to announce that we are going to go ahead and replace this area THIS YEAR! We have had an incredible design which fulfils all we want and so much more....

- a brand new 124 m squared adventure trail with fixed equipment to challenge all of our pupils gross motor skills and teamwork
- a set of free standing, moveable equipment for our youngest children to create and build their own balance trails
- a jogging, cycling, scooter track for our children to enjoy in all weathers! The track included road markings to teach road safety, a roundabout and zebra crossing.
- a new landscaped wildflower garden to create a wildlife haven to zone our field

The design incorporates a track for our young cyclists to use too. We have included this track as this is the most sustainable way of recycling (no pun intended) the existing wet pour surface of the current trail. We are then going to be relocating the new adventure trail next door on the grassed area near to the mud kitchen.

We now need your help. We are nearly there in terms of fundraising for the project but need a **final push to raise the last £10,000 for the groundworks.** Work is due to start in the

second week of the Summer holidays and so now it is imperative that we get our local businesses, community, family and friends behind FOBS as they plan in their summer events. Every penny that FOBS has raised (at all the events over the few past years) has been saved for this incredible project. If you feel you could help sponsor a piece of equipment or you know of any local businesses who might be able to donate funds to help us complete the groundworks then do come and see Mrs Gow or Mrs Oddie in the office or find Janet Leaver or Meg Evans from the FOBS team.

The outdoor spaces for our school and community are going to be absolutely awesome - so let's do all we can to make this a reality. The first of the events to get involved in is the FOBS COLOUR RUN - see information below.



Flourishers this week!



Bunnies - Lincoln

Rabbits - Leo

Squirrels - Eesa B

Foxes - Safaa

Owls - Abdullah and Eshaal

## Sports Round-up

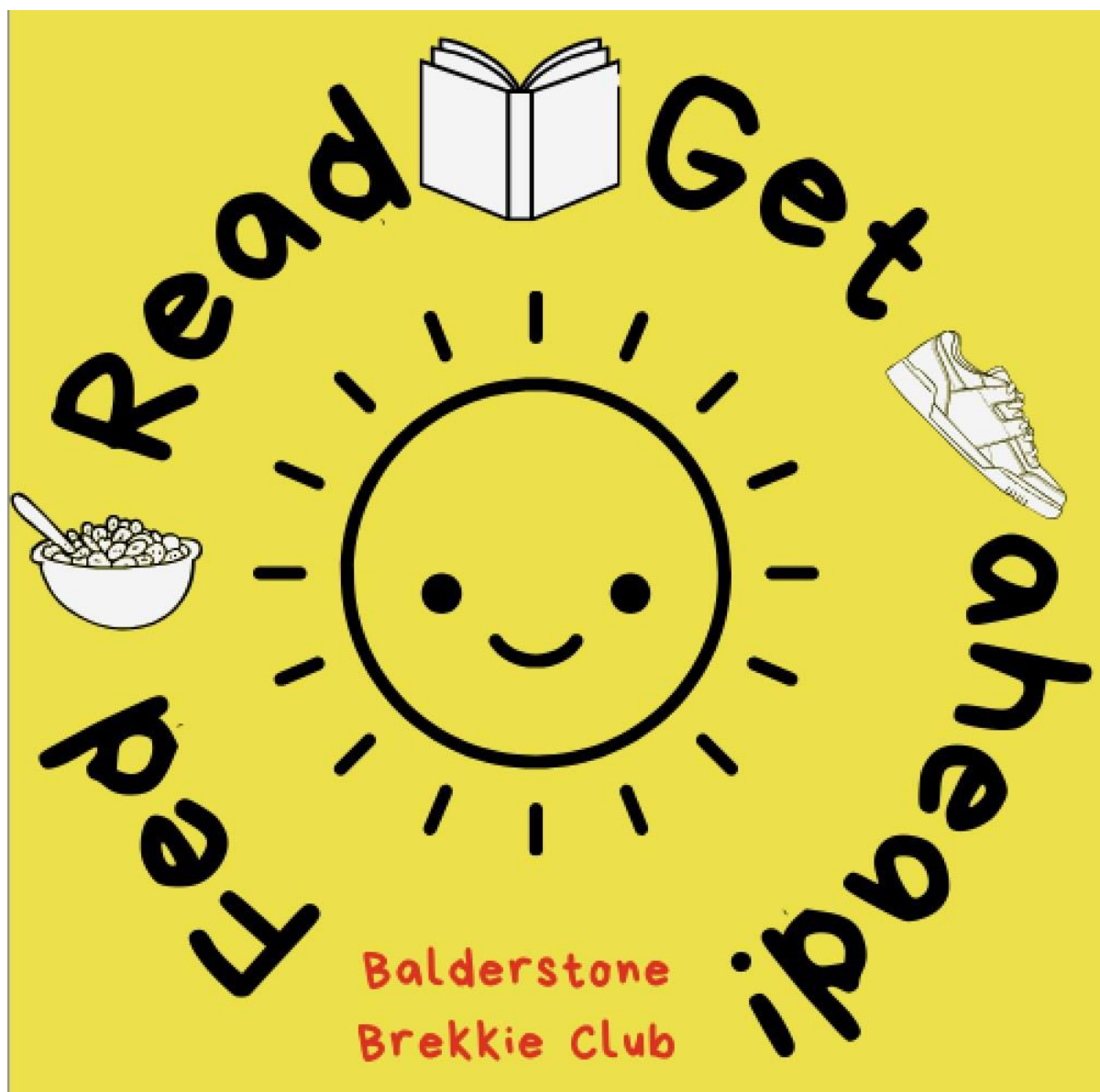


There has been lots going on in the sporting life of Balderstone recently - with Year 5 and a few selected Year 4 pupils attending the cricket competition at Clitheroe Cricket club and then some of our Year 3/4 girls attending the football festival at Accrington (see the full report further on in the newsletter)

We LOVE taking the children to experience these events and we could not do this without the unfailing support of our staff (giving of their own time to support these extracurricular) events and also the help of the parents to transport the pupils. We also expect superb behaviour that lives up to our sporting and christian values at each of these events - to show that children from Balderstone know how to compete with humility, grace and goodwill. Children will only be selected to attend these events if we feel that they can be trusted to represent school in a positive manner, to ensure that they (and the volunteers who are taking them) have the most amazing team-time together.

This week we are looking forward to Year 1 and 2 enjoying the Animal Olympics on Tuesday at Oakhill. The Year 1 and 2 children can come to school on **TUESDAY 6th May wearing their kit and trainers, with their water bottle and coat in school too please.**

## Balderstone Brekkie Club menu for the week



Breakfast club is a great success and the children are LOVING the social time to chat, eat and play with their friends. If you have any board games that you no longer want, then please would you donate them to school to use at this club, as we are loving playing new games together. Below is next week's brekkie menu - with beans on toast and porridge with honey/raisins for our hot choices. Cereals, greek yoghurt, granola and mixed berries for our cold choices!



# Breakfast Menu 6<sup>th</sup> May

## Tuesday



Boiled eggs & soldiers!



## Wednesday & Thursday



Choice of Cereals (with milk) -  
Shreddies, Cornflakes,  
Weetabix or Rice Krispies

OR

Cherry yoghurt or greek yoghurt dried  
fruit, breakfast bars

OR



## Friday (hot brekkie)

Beans on toast

Choice of Cereals (with milk) -  
Shreddies, Cornflakes,  
Weetabix or Rice Krispies

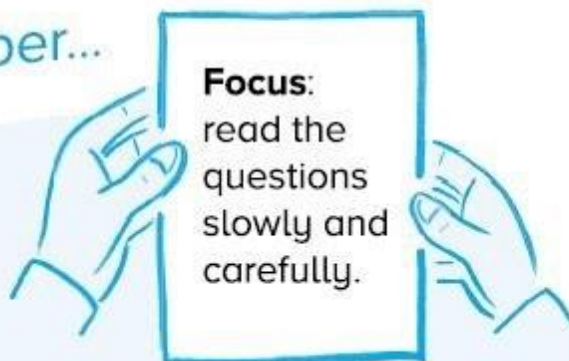


Fruit available daily!



# You can do it!

Remember...

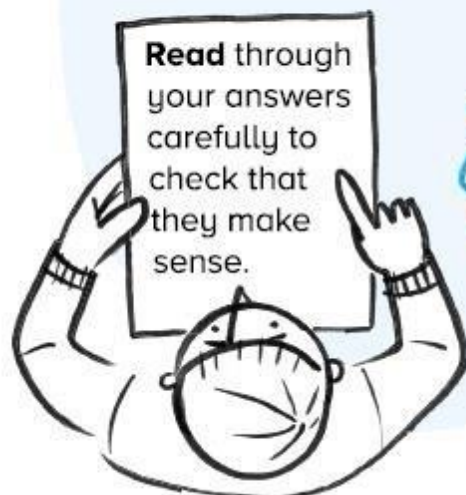


It's perfectly  
normal to feel  
**nervous.**  
Take a few  
deep breaths.



Don't worry about  
what others are doing,  
**concentrate** on your work.

If you're unsure of a question,  
move on, and **come back**  
to it later.



**Go for it!**

The week beginning Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May is SATS assessment week in school. As always, these formal assessments are conducted in such a way in school to make this week as chilled and 'normal' as possible, to let our children shine without feeling at all stressed. The children are all welcome to Fed, Read, Get ahead breakfast club every day to get a healthy start to the day. We have made it clear that the SATS exams are only ONE part of their overall assessment. They are a narrow snapshot of **that moment in time** in their learning and they do not assess what lovely personalities they are, how good at sports they are, what kind and loving friends they are, their love of nature or art or their ability to work in a team or all the other things that makes them fearfully and wonderfully made! We want the children to approach this week with quiet confidence, knowing that they have put in the hard work and now can just 'show 'em what you know!' There are to be no tears or fears about these days and the week ends with our FOBS colour run to let them end the week with a colourful flourish and a trip to the Science festival at UCLAN on the Friday. Early nights and chilled mornings please and the week will be done before we know it!

The timetable for the week is below:



**KS2 SATs 2025 Dates**

**Monday 12th May 2025**  
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Spelling - 20 mins  
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar: Punctuation and Grammar - 45 mins

**Tuesday 13th May 2025**  
Reading - 60 mins

**Wednesday 14th May 2025**  
Maths Paper 1: Arithmetic - 30 mins  
Maths Paper 2: Reasoning - 40 mins

**Thursday 15th May 2025**  
Maths Paper 3: Reasoning - 40 mins

THIRD SPACE  
LEARNING

FOBS news



COLOUR RUN - to celebrate the end of SATS week and as part of our joyous summer term activities Balderstone St Leonard's are proudly holding our very first colour run! The children will be provided with their own t-shirt and sunglasses for the event. All children who are signed up can stay in school at the end of the day, have a little snack and then get changed. All children will need to bring into school a pair of old joggers/leggings and an OLD pair of shoes/trainers/pumps to run in. Then we will be off down to the school field to get active and messy! At only £5 per child this event is sure to be an absolute blast. Some of the children and Mrs Gow attended a colour run at the School Games last year and we had the BEST time ever! If you have any time to spare to help volunteer in the colour run, then please click the link below OR see Mrs Oddie in the office. Children can be collected by 4.45pm - please bring plastic bags to save your seats.

### [Colour Run](#)



Payment: Correct cash to be sent in envelope with child's name clearly printed or  
BACS payment to Friends of Balderstone School  
Sort Code: 30-99-50 Account Number: 51005162  
PLEASE USE YOUR CHILD'S FULL NAME AS THE REFERENCE

**PLEASE REGISTER USING THE LINK BELOW**

**CLOSING DATE MAY 7th**

**<https://forms.office.com/r/g7xt6ZRSdH>**

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



## MAY Half-term holiday club



Our incredible Progressive Kids team are offering 3 days worth of holiday club provision from 28th - 30th May during half-term from either 7am - 6pm or from 9.30am - 4.30pm. They are offering these places for only £15 A DAY or £13 a day for the shorter hours! The children will be doing load of fun, crafty and sporty activities so please do use this amazing offer. Book on at [https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/36-Balderstone St Leonard s Primary School May Half Term Holiday Camp?emyatb=4w7y\\_gdi834](https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/36-Balderstone-St-Leonard-s-Primary-School-May-Half-Term-Holiday-Camp?emyatb=4w7y_gdi834)

or click the QR code on the poster below.

**Progressive Active Camps**  
Be happy, healthy and active!

**Progressive Kids**  
Trust us with your little ones

**MAY HALF TERM**

Looking for fun and affordable childcare this May Half Term?

**BRAND NEW venue - 50% OFF offer!**

20+ exciting activities including

All delivered by our fully trained, DBS-checked staff with safeguarding and first aid qualifications.

**28TH-30TH MAY**

Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday  
7:30am - 6:00pm

Balderstone st Leonards Primary

VE Day celebrations in school this THURSDAY



On **Thursday 8th May**, we shall be holding our school's VE Day celebrations, where we remember the 80th anniversary of the formal acceptance of peace. On this day Miss Lee, Mrs Burton and School council will be hosting our very own street party celebration and the children are welcome to come into school wearing their own clothes in **RED, WHITE and BLUE**. As a school we shall be remembering and giving thanks for all those who made sacrifices and fought to bring us peace and we will be hosting a special prayer event to continue in our mission to pray for peace in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar and South Sudan.

Away play day for EYFS

# COME and PLAY

Pre-school and EYFS Join Mrs Turner and Mrs Gow for our latest Away play day session at Fantasia on 18th May. This is a great opportunity to get to know the parents and carers in your child's year group and have a brew and a natter - whilst we have fun burning off some energy. Year 6 buddies are also welcome to come along with their parents too!

**Parent Stay and Play Centre Play.  
(Pre-school, Reception and Year 1)**



**Join us at Funtazia in Blackburn for a  
brew and chat whilst Mrs Gow and I  
burn off a few calories playing 🤪  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 10:00-12:30pm**

**FUNTAZIA Blackburn  
Kent Street,  
Blackburn, BB1 1DE**

**£6 per child (payable on the day)  
siblings can attend 😊**

**Please fill the form below.**  
**<https://forms.office.com/e/c50Dzp74u2>**



This week, Year 5 started their sessions outside in Forest School. We started with some stick challenges then worked on trusting each other with our blindfold games. the rest of the session we spent in our amazing Forest School area, exploring the brook, chatting about the plants that grow there (the flowers are beautiful down there at the moment!) and the wildlife that inhabits it. We're looking forward to more of this beautiful weather!











## Football Focus - Year 3 & 4 Girls



What a fantastic sunny fun afternoon we had at the Girls Football Festival! Our wonderful Year 3 and 4 girls took part in different activities to practise their football skills and then played some mini games with other schools. This was the first time many had played football and it was wonderful to see their team spirit and determination as they worked together. Well done girls! Keep practising!











## Safeguarding Section



Lancashire's Health Protection team have asked that we share the following information leaflet with our families.

## Heads up from Health Protection - April



***This month's edition includes:-***

- ***Starting school protected***
- ***Springtime COVID-19 Protection***
- ***Ticks***
- ***Travel Vaccinations***

## Is your child starting primary school in Sept 2025?



If your child is starting school this September, parents & guardians are urged to ensure their children have the best start to their school journey by being up to date with their pre-school vaccinations to safeguard their health, and their schoolmates from contracting dangerous but preventable illnesses. Before starting school, children should have received the 4-in-1 pre-school booster vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, and polio, as well as the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR).

Timely vaccination is important for optimal protection as it boosts children's antibodies helping them fight off serious diseases and stay protected. Most children receive these vaccines around the age of three years and four months, but some children about to start school have not yet been vaccinated. This increases the risk of children contracting these diseases and experiencing severe symptoms.

As measles cases are rising in the North-West, NHS England recommend that as children start school, they should have had two doses of the MMR vaccine to ensure they are fully protected, as the complications of measles can be severe and life changing, they will also be protected against mumps and rubella (german measles), which can also be serious illnesses.

It's never too late to get your children vaccinated, parents should check their child's Red Book (personal child health record) or speak to their GP surgery to confirm their vaccination status and book in any missed vaccines.

Please scan the QR code below for further information on the MMR vaccine.



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***Don't forget that washing hands and using tissues when coughing and sneezing are an additional and effective way to help reduce the spread of germs***

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## Springtime COVID-19 Protection

Now we are in Spring, protection from earlier COVID-19 vaccinations will be starting to wane. COVID-19 can still be dangerous and even life threatening for older people and those with weakened immune systems. Thankfully the NHS is offering a free vaccination to protect you, if you are

- aged 75 and over
- resident in a care homes for older adults
- aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system (please check your eligibility by clicking [here](#) )

the [National booking system](#) is open to book appointments online. Its important that everyone who is eligible takes up the offer of this spring booster before the vaccination programme closes on 17th June 2025

## Ticks and Lyme disease

Ticks are small, spider-like creatures, usually between 1mm to 1cm long with 6 or 8 legs and are found in many outdoor environments but are particularly common in woodland or grassy areas.

Whilst ticks are most active in Spring and Summer, particularly March, April and June they can be found all year. Ticks can carry and spread a bacterial infection, called Lyme disease to humans, this is usually identified by a circular or oval red rash which usually develops within a few weeks or can take a few months.

Other symptoms include

- High temperature, feeling hot and shivery;
- Headache;

- Muscle and joint pain and tiredness.

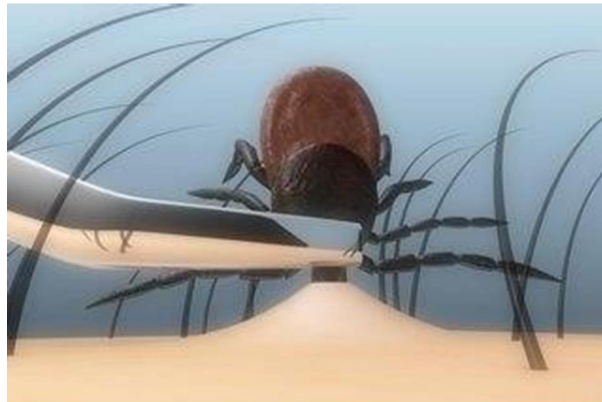


### What YOU can do to keep safe and help prevent infection

- Cover your skin while walking outdoors and tuck your trousers into your socks.
- Use insect repellent on your clothes and skin – products containing DEET are best. (DEET is the most common active ingredient in insect repellents).
- Stay on clear paths whenever possible and avoid brushing against vegetation.
- Wear light-coloured clothing so ticks are easier to see and brush off.

Not all ticks carry Lyme disease but after spending time outside, it's very important to check yourself and others, including clothing and pets, for ticks and to **safely** remove them as soon as possible if you find one on your skin.

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers or a tick-removal tool. You can buy these from some pharmacies, vets, and pet shops.
2. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible
3. Slowly pull upwards, taking care not to squeeze or crush the tick. Dispose of it when you have removed it.
4. Clean the bite with antiseptic or soap and water.



## Travel Vaccinations

### **Don't let illness spoil your adventure!**

Planning your dream getaway? Ensure your trip is smooth and worry-free by getting your travel vaccinations. While you're exploring new destinations, remember that some countries might not have the same vaccination coverage as the UK. Protect yourself and enjoy every moment of your holiday without the fear of getting sick.

You can find out which vaccinations are necessary or recommended for the areas you'll be visiting please click the link below

- [Travel Health Pro](#)

Some countries require proof of vaccination (for example, for polio or yellow fever vaccination), which must be documented on an International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) before you enter or when you leave a country.

### When should I start thinking about the vaccines I need?

If possible, see the GP or a private travel clinic **at least 6 to 8 weeks before you're due to travel.**

Some vaccines need to be given well in advance to allow your body to develop immunity.

And some vaccines involve a number of doses spread over several weeks or months.

You may be more at risk of some diseases, for example, if you're:

- travelling in rural areas
- backpacking
- staying in hostels or camping
- on a long trip rather than a package holiday

If you have a pre-existing health problem, this may make you more at risk of infection or complications from a travel-related illness.

### **Which travel vaccines are free?**

The following travel vaccines are available free on the NHS from your GP surgery:

- polio (given as a combined diphtheria/tetanus/polio jab)
- typhoid
- hepatitis A
- cholera

These vaccines are free because they protect against diseases thought to represent the greatest risk to public health if they were brought into the country.

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***Get advice and warnings about travel abroad, including entry requirements, safety and security, health risks and legal differences***

[Foreign travel advice - GOV.UK](#)

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## Meet the team



*1 - image designed by AI copilot*

**The Health Protection Team are getting out and about, speaking to local residents to raise awareness on the national screening and vaccination programmes available.**

**In May, we'll be at...**

Lowther Gardens, Lytham on Wednesday 28th May, from 10 - 3pm

Leyland Library on Monday 12th May, from 10 - 2pm

*Come along and say hello!*

**In next months edition:-**

- Giant Hogweed
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening (AAA)
- Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine ( PPV)

## Sources and further information

[‘Be tick aware’ toolkit](#)

[Tick awareness A5 leaflet download link](#)

[What is Lyme disease and why do we need to be tick-aware? – UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

[Travel vaccination advice - NHS](#)

This information has been produced by the Health Protection team at Lancashire County Council

If you require a printable version of this Health Protection bulletin please email the team at [healthprotection@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:healthprotection@lancashire.gov.uk)

(Information correct at March 2025)

## Church and Community Corner



Pizzas, tomato seeds and greenhouses! Forest Church is an exciting, different way to get together and worship. We planted seeds, had a walk around the church and then made pizzas in school. We were pleased to welcome the Ribble Valley Mayor who joined us. Florence was the lucky winner of our raffle to raise money for The Greenhouse Project in Witton Park. Come along and join us next time! It's a great way to meet up with friends and enjoy our wonderful church and schools grounds!







St. Leonard's  
Church  
Balderstone



# Walking Day

Saturday 10th May 2025

With Balderstone Brass Band



Meet at Mellor Brook Community Centre at 2:15pm

Leaving at 2:30pm





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>