



Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary - 5th September 2025

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

Friday 5th September 2025

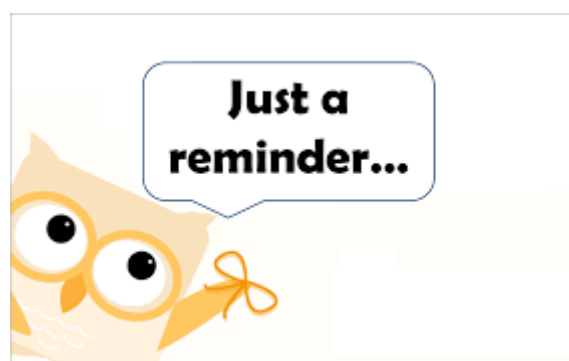
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Dates and reminders



Every week, I'll try to start with the key dates and any reminders for the week - so if you are really busy you have a quick summary of important things from this week's newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8th September - Brambles and Pre-schoolers start (hooray) 8.40am. Brambles please use the door on the balcony where Mrs Hussain and Mrs Barton will meet you.

Meet the Teacher meetings

- **Tuesday 9th September for Year 1/2**
- **Wednesday 10th September for Reception, Year 3/4 (Anderton Centre information given here too), Year 5/6**
- **Thursday 11th September meet Mrs Cast for Year 3/4 parents**
- **Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th Year 5 Bikeability**
- **Tuesday 16th Year 6 out at Party in the Park (bus from Osbaldeston)**

REMINDERS/TO DOs

ALL parents/carers please complete:

- Microsoft form for photo permissions (link sent on Parentmail) by Friday please
- Microsoft form for breakfast club (even if you don't plan on using the provision)
<https://forms.office.com/e/ytKpRkMmGj>
- Let Mrs Oddie know your dinner preferences (dinner or packed lunches) and sign up for the Lunch Specials if you are going to be on Packed lunches
- Please make sure we have updated contact details for all of your emergency contacts - let Mrs Oddie know of address/mobile phone changes
- Fill in the Flu immunisation YES/NO form (see Safeguarding section)

Year 5 parents/carers

- ensure that all Bikeability forms are completed and that you have your bikes/helmets in school for Monday 15th September (you can drop them off on the Friday if it helps and we'll lock them in school)

Year 6 parents/carers

- ensure that you look out for and complete the Microsoft Form for the Party in the Park sports event on the 16th September

Year 5 & 6 parents

- Make sure that the MIND - Bounce Forward consent forms are completed and back in school before Wednesday please.

All parents of children with **allergies/medications**

- Please make an appointment to see Mrs Gow to fill in the Allergy Action plan (it's really quick and should only take a few minutes) we can also do this on the phone if it helps. Ensure all class teachers have medications that are in date.

Weekly Words - Welcome back!



After what has been a VERY busy summer holiday, it was a joy to welcome so many of our families and children back to Balderstone. A special welcome to our brand new families in Reception and to our new starters in the juniors: Yahya M, Awais and Yahya H. It has been a wonderful first week of term and all of the children have made a positive, calm and connected start to the new school year, with purposeful learning going on in every room. A very warm Balderstone welcome to our newest team members: Miss Amy Kennedy continues

her journey with us as she takes on her teaching role in Squirrel class; Mrs Aimee Barton has started her new role as a Brambles team member working in our new 2 year old provision.

Apologies, but this first newsletter is a long one - we've got lots of news to share.

We weathered our first excitement of the year with the fallen tree blocking the main access to school on Thursday! It was testament to our wider community, to our school family and to you all in the way in which we all pulled together to find solutions and get into school safely.

A HUGE thank you must go to Mr Chris Bargh (a long-standing friend to our school and former governor) and Robert (his son, a former pupil) who answered the SOS and came down to Commons Lane, chainsaws in hand, and removed the tree. Also a huge thanks to our lovely cleaner Abbie and Mr and Mrs Riddell for their early alert system to Mrs Gow, and to all the staff who pulled together to make sure everyone was safe - truly a Balderstone team effort. As always, can I remind you to ensure that you are driving as slowly as possible down the lane and that all children are effectively seat belted to keep everyone safe.

I am sure that you will have noticed that there have been (and still are) considerable changes being made to the fabric of the school: a brand new EYFS and nursery unit and furniture, new windows and doors around the whole of school, newly refurbished Fox classroom, freshly decorated Owl classroom, new composite cladding wrapping the whole of school and a new adventure trail and toddle tyre track is currently being completed!

*The focus this year in school is nurturing our ethic of excellence, focusing on developing active listening (so we can really take in **all** of our learning), effective communication and manners (so we can express ourselves and our learning eloquently) and also ensuring that we continue in our love of play-based learning, investigation, outdoor learning and mastery in our lessons. As a school we are striving to counteract so much of the modern culture of instant gratification, screen time overload and constant bombardment of information without actually listening and taking in important information. We know that you will help us to embed these key messages to our children.*

In worship this week we have started to explore the A-Z of wellbeing and have looked at the importance of:

***A**cceptance, **B**reath, **C**ompassion (central to our school mission) and also taking time to **D**well with God and just be.... this term we focus on the importance of looking after ourselves, each other and God's creation as we focus on our school mission of Loving God, each other and learning.*

Every Friday we hold our whole school community Celebration Worship, where we give thanks and celebrate the many successes of the week. This worship normally takes place on a

Friday from 2.40pm and EVERYONE - parents/grandparents/carers and friends of the school are welcome to join us in the school hall. Our wonderful Chair of Governors Mrs Janet Leaver also hosts refreshments in the hall from about 2.25pm, so you can come and chat and meet each other before worship. Please could we ask that after worship (if you have been attending and with us in the hall) that you go around to the normal outside doors to collect your children - as it is very hard for the members of staff on duty to staff both the internal and external doors. ALL children need to be collected from their external door please. Every Friday we choose a child from every year group who has lived our school mission statement of Loving God, Loving each other and Loving learning. You will get a parentmail to let you know when your child has been chosen as the week's Flourisher! Also, this year we are going to be hosting a series of Flourishing Friday Showcase workshops where you shall be invited to see your child's expert learning in a curriculum area (dates of these special Fridays are to follow.) You will get a Parentmail in the week before the worship if your child's work/learning is going to be featured in a Showcase.

To those who are new to the school, our school mission is founded on a bible verse from Ephesians which talks about being 'rooted and grounded in love' and this is what we try to live by in our school. With this in mind, if there is any time you need support, guidance or you need to talk through a concern, issue or have a question, then please come to us directly and we will do all we can to help. You can email head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk or phone the school office to make an appointment or catch me when I am on my meet and greet sessions.

We are really looking forward to welcoming back our Bunnies (pre-schoolers) and our new Bramble (hedgehogs) two-year-olds this week.

Here's to the 2025-2026 academic year!

Mrs Gow

Thank you tree heroes!











Key dates and Meet the Teacher sessions



We shall update our website with our upcoming dates to remember. Our annual Meet the Teacher Team takes place next week and you get a chance to come and see your child's

classroom and have an informal chat with your child's teacher/s and ask any questions you might have. You can also have a nose at the brand new classrooms and resources!

MEET THE TEACHER

Pre-school and Reception - Mrs Turner. Wednesday 10th September 3.10 - 4pm

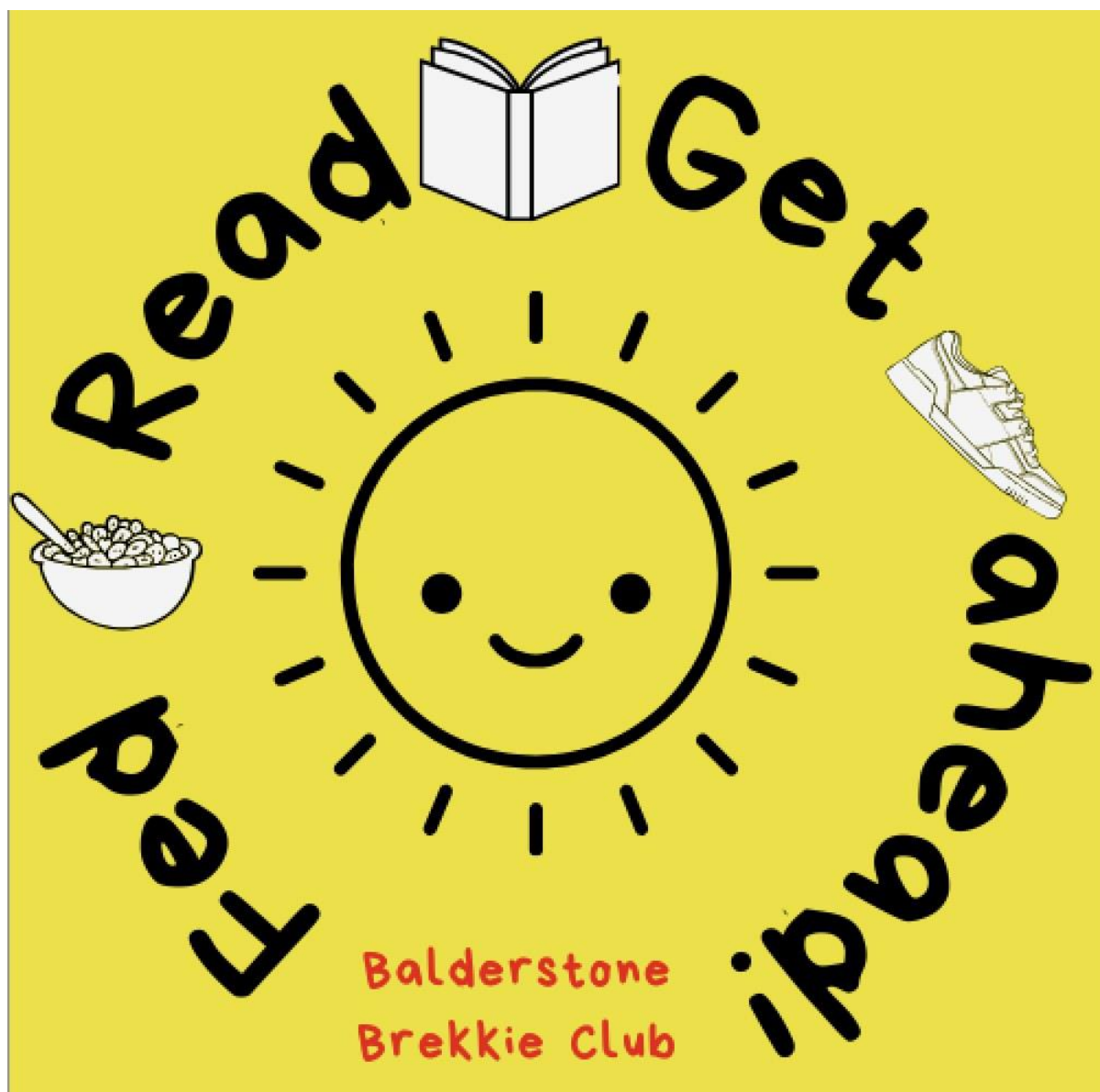
Year 1 and 2 - Miss Kennedy and Mrs Burton Tuesday 9th September 3.10 - 4pm

Year 3 and 4 (THERE WILL BE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ANDERTON CENTRE RESIDENTIAL AT THE SESSION AFTER SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY) - Mrs Riddell Wednesday 10th September 3.10 - 4pm and Mrs Cast Thursday 11th September 3.10 - 4pm

Year 5 and 6 - Mrs Draycott Wednesday 10th September 3.10 - 4pm

Mrs Cast will also be doing one of her Meet the SENCO drop in meetings in the coming weeks.

Balderstone Brekkie Club - read, fed and get ahead!



We volunteered to be one of the government's new flagship Early adopters for Universal Breakfast club and we LOVE it. We run a free breakfast club for 8am every day for our children and for children from Reception to Year 6 it is absolutely free. **For our pre-schoolers and Brambles children it is part of your Bunny/Bramble bundle add on.**

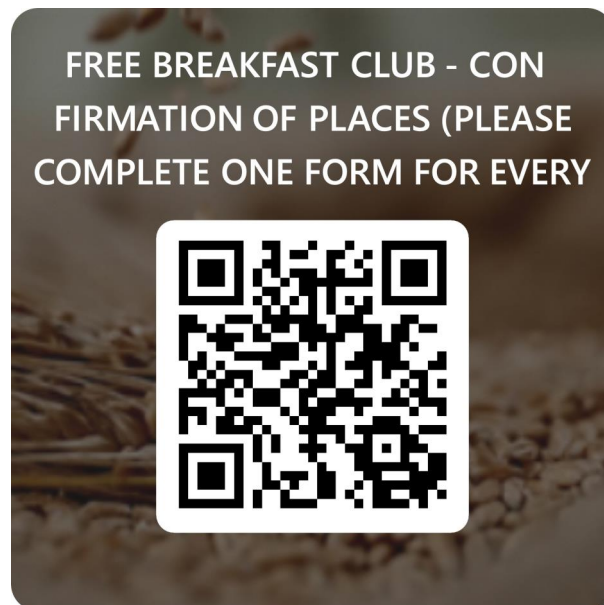
It was lovely to restart our FREE, UNIVERSAL breakfast club this week and to spend time eating chatting and playing games with so many of our children. Free breakfast club starts from 8am every morning. We do ask that you fill in our Microsoft Form for this term outlining which days you aim to use the club. You can have a flexible approach to the club and if you sign up for every day but one week don't come on a Tuesday one week for example, then this isn't a problem. Remember you can drop-off ANY time from 8- 8.30am and the children will be fed. At 8.30am we take the children outside (weather permitting) and do some fun Wake up, Shake up activities to get our bodies moving and grooving. We

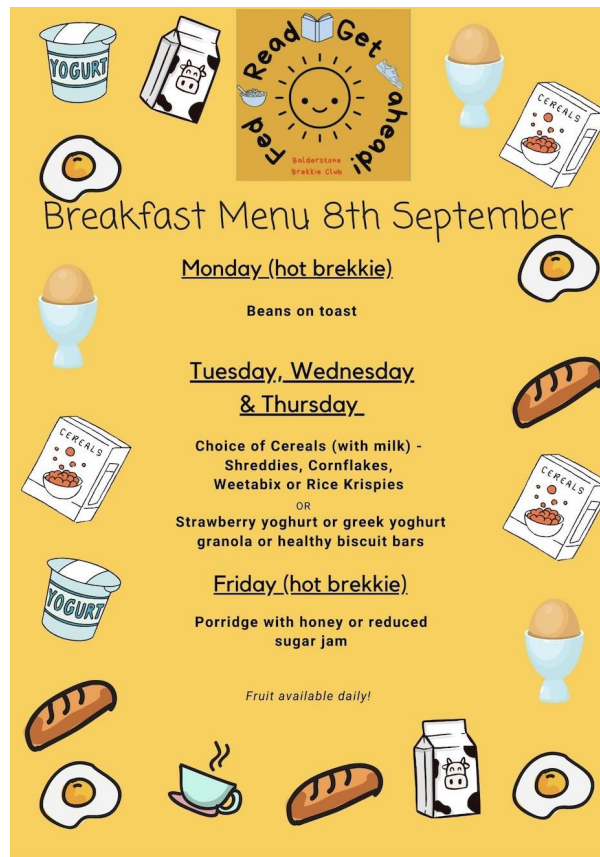
need as many of our families and children to use this provision to make it viable for the future. We also need some of our parents/grandparents who are willing to come on the rota to help (either wash up OR teach the children board games, knitting, have a chat, listen to readers etc). We shall DBS (safeguarding check) all our morning volunteers. Come along and join the fun.

Please could ALL families complete the form for breakfast club by next Friday 12th September (regardless of whether or not you are going to use the provision) so we can get an accurate number of those wanting provision and so we can buy the right amounts of food for the days. Please complete the form for each of your children so we can forward the information on to the DfE registers. Here is the link to the form.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ytKpRkMmGj>

This week's menu is also below:





Sports events - key dates



As you know, we take our sports life VERY seriously at Balderstone! Not only do we have an incredible lunchtime and after-school sports offer, but we attend most of the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Sports partnership events and competitions. Every child in the school will be offered the opportunity to attend/represent the school at events this year. Reception children have their own lunchtime clubs and also take part in our themed/house team events and the virtual Santa Dash!

These events only happen because of the commitment of our teaching/ support staff to give freely of their time to attend/supervise AND also we rely on our parents to help with transport. If your child is invited to attend an event then PLEASE do try to help with transport wherever possible. Parents have to arrange/organise their own child's transport to/from events please and you must inform school who is responsible for taking your child

to/collecting from an event. If it is a school hours event then school will arrange transport with parental volunteers and staff insured drivers and all drivers have to hold a DBS and have evidence of their insurance/MOT. All consent forms are sent out on Parentmail prior to an event. Please complete the Microsoft Forms consent form as soon as possible to help school organise/coordinate teams and transport.

Tuesday 16th September - All **Year 6** children invited to Party in the Park (school games event) at Queen's Park, Burnley. 8.50am at Osbaldeston school (parents - we need help getting the children up there please). Mrs Draycott and Coach Joe accompanying children. **GOLF** themed day. Transport provided from Osbaldeston, St Mary's school. All Year 6 children need full PE kit, waterproof coats and packed lunch (school will provide a lunch for those on school dinners). Collection at approx 3.45pm from Osbaldeston. Consent forms to follow on Parentmail.

Monday 29th Sept 3.00pm - 5.30pm Ribble Valley Football Kids Cup **Year 5 & 6** Edisford Sports (team information to follow on Parentmail)

Tuesday 30th Sept 4:00pm – 6:00pm Ribble Valley Girls' Football **Years 4, 5 & 6** Ribblesdale High School (team information to follow on Parentmail)

Thursday 9th Oct 4:00pm - 5:30pm Hyndburn Cross Country **juniors** Witton Park (awaiting confirmation that we can attend the Hyndburn event rather than trekking up to Clitheroe)

Tuesday 21st October 4:00pm – 6:00pm Bee Stinger netball competition (juniors) Ribblesdale High School (team information to follow on Parentmail)

Monday 10th November 4:00pm – 5.30pm Football league match (junior mixed team) Edisford Sports Complex

Monday 8th December 4:00pm – 5.30pm Football league match (junior mixed team) Edisford Sports Complex

Wednesday 12th Nov 12.30pm—2.30pm (in school time) Ribble Valley Sportshall Athletics **3 & 4** Oakhill (team information to follow on Parentmail)

Monday 17th Nov 3:00pm –5.30pm Ribble Valley Football Competition **Year 3 & 4** Edisford Sports Complex (team information to follow on Parentmail)

Thursday 11th Dec 4:00pm – 5:30pm Kurling Event **Year 1 & 2** at St Augustines High (team information to follow on Parentmail)

Lunchtime sports clubs



This half-term we continue our two sports clubs every lunchtime with our very own sports coaches. We also have our new adventure trail and Toddle tyre track to make our playtimes even more active. Our full programme of sports clubs and extra-curricular activities for the autumn term will be released next week with extra details of our Progressive Sports clubs.

**Autumn Term 2025
SPORTS AND WELLBEING CLUBS CLUBS AT BALDERSTONE**

Time slot	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 - 8:45	Wake up shake up	Marial Arts	Wake up shake up	Wake up shake up	Wake up shake up
12 - 12:30pm	Y 3 & 4 Sportshall athletics Year 5 adventure trail	Y 4 & 5 Girls' football Year 3 adventure trail	Y 3 & 4 Invasion games	Y 4, 5 & 6 Football - mixed	Y5/6 Netball
12:30 - 1pm	Y 1 & 2 Football Year 6 and Rec buddies adventure trail	Sports leader playground games Year 6 adventure trail	Reception - Get moving club Year 1 & 2 adventure trail	Y 3 football	Y 4 adventure trail
Football day (Morning play)	Year 1 & 2	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 refereed match with Coach Joe	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 refereed match with Coach Joe	Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 refereed match with Coach Joe	Playground toys day (no football Friday)
Aller School Parent Pay Club			Dodgeball	Football	

Progressive Kids



Coach Joe and Aimee will be updating us weekly on the Progressive Kids offer. Remember that we have wraparound care from 7.30am in the morning till either 4.30pm (short session)

or till 6pm for the extended session. You can book onto this provision if you are in **Pre-school to Year 6** using the link

<https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/54-Progressive Kids Breakfast Afterschool club at Balderstone St Leonards>

You can book a place regularly or just book on when needed. You can book an after-school place up to 11am on the day - after this point you would need to contact school to ensure the club know your child is attending.

Brambles children need to let Mrs Gow head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk and/or Aimee Barton know which days they need for wraparound in advance please and the time slots - so we can make sure that Aimee (Mrs Barton our EYFS specialist) is in club to look after your little one. The wraparound hours for Brambles can be included in your 30 hours of childcare for working parents.

The children have an incredible time at club and the provision has been outstanding. See next week's newsletter for more information.

School dinners (probably the best school dinners in the world!)



We are blessed by our wonderful Miss Lee who makes the most incredible school dinners (probably the best in the world!) She is incredibly kind and knows each of our children's personal preferences, likes and dislikes and does her very best to cater for each child's tastes within the Lancashire menu options. We currently only have a small number of our junior children on packed lunches, as the food is so good!

Every day there are at least 3 dinner choices and there are always vegetarian/halal friendly choices on the menu. Miss Lee makes our dinners fresh every day and it is testament to her skill that most of the staff in school also have a school dinner! Remember all children from Reception to Year 2 get universal free school meals - so you do not need to pay for your child to get a healthy, warm, balanced lunch!

As a small school supporting our school dinners and taking up the offer is really important, as this secures Miss Lee's employment hours. A drop in school dinners would have a

detrimental impact on her role here at Balderstone (and we do not want to lose her!) We have had a number of parents request that their child has school dinners only on a Friday because the children love Miss Lee's handmade pizzas and also her special fish and chips. Unfortunately, this year we cannot facilitate this, as the menus for the week very often change days depending upon deliveries and we cannot with certainty ensure that pizza/chips etc will be on a Friday every week. However, we want to offer you the very best flexibility.

We pre-order all of our dinners depending upon your dinner choices and this is done on a three week cycle. This is to ensure that **every** child gets what they ordered for lunch and also to ensure that we do not waste food or over/under order. Therefore, we need two/three week's notice if you are going to change from dinners to packed lunches from home (as the food orders will already have gone to Lancashire). We can always do emergency school dinners for those children who have forgotten lunchboxes or if we know on the day,

We kindly ask that you make the decision as to whether or not your child is on **school dinners OR packed lunches and not a combination of the two**. However, we know that there are a few children on packed lunches who really do love an occasional hot dinner (when it is pizza and fish and chips especially) so the wonderful Miss Lee, Mrs Burton and I have come up with a plan... **Friday favourites**.

Alongside our incredible themed lunches and parent lunch offer we are also going to offer 10 Friday favourite lunches - where the children will be guaranteed their favourite pizza/fish and chips. This means that across the school year the children who are on packed lunches from home can opt in to have 10 Friday Favourites, 2 parent lunches and 8 themed lunches - **equalling a total of 20 (4 weeks) worth of dinners**.

Friday favourites dates (once a calendar month): 19th September, 17th October, 28th November, 19th December, 30th January, 20th March, 24th April, 15th May, 26th June, 10th July

Themed lunches and dates: (themes to be decided by school council). 8th October, 5th November, 17th December (Christmas dinner), 18th December (party food), 5th March, 17th April (interfaith food celebration), 12th June (World Cup footy lunch), 3rd July

Parent/carer lunches (child can bring a special adult to join them for lunch) Please note that no parent lunches have been scheduled for Lent or Ramadan time. Invitations to parent lunches with order forms for adults will be sent out prior to your child's parent lunch.

Parent lunches start at 12.30pm

Year 6 parent lunches - Wednesday 24th September 2025, 17th July 2026 (Leaver's day)

Year 5 parent lunches - Wednesday 12th November 2025 and 6th May 2026

Year 4 parent lunches - Wednesday 19th November 2025 and 22nd April 2026

Year 3 parent lunches - Wednesday 3rd December 2025 and 27th March 2026

Year 1/2 parent lunches - Wednesday 10th December 2025 and 4th February 2026

Reception- Wednesday 22nd October and 20th May

Pre-school - Wednesday 22nd October 2025 and new starters (children in the Reception cohort of starters 2026) 30th June

Brambles - 13th January 2026

If your child is on packed lunches from home and you would like your child to take part in the package of Lunch Specials (10 Friday favourites, 2 parent lunches and 8 themed lunches) then let Mrs Oddie know and she will put 4 weeks worth of lunches onto your Parentmail account and your child will be included for **all** events. If your child opts for school dinners then all of the Lunch Specials are included in their offer automatically and you don't need to do anything.

The current menus change at October half-term and we know that lots of the children who bring packed lunches like to move to hot dinners in the winter months. Please let Mrs Oddie know if you are going to change with two/three week's notice, so we can order your food in and make sure we have updated menu choices completed for your child.

Thank you for helping us provide the best school dinners offer and for your understanding. Come and see Mrs Gow if you have any questions.

Places in school/Brambles - spread the word



We are very blessed that school is popular, busy and flourishing. We do have a couple of spaces across the coming year in Brambles and Key Stage 1.

Brambles nursery

- 1 space available from October 7th for Fridays (one day a week),
- 1 space for Monday, Thursday (and potentially Friday) from April 2026,
- 2 full-time places from June 2026.

Pre-school - limited full-time spaces available immediate start (for 3 year olds)

Reception class - full

Year 1 - full

Year 2 - spaces available immediate start

Juniors - full

[Photograph permissions 2025-2026](#)



It is really important that you respond to the Parentmail asking for you to update your child's photo permissions for this academic year. The parentmail has a link to our annual Microsoft Form asking for your preferences about your child's photograph permissions for the coming year. Please look on Parentmail and complete the form before next Friday so our school permissions can be updated and you can start to see updates on our website and associated socials.

Please remember, if you **do** give photo permissions then you will receive photos of your child on residential holidays eg Anderton Centre etc whilst we are there. The form is updated annually so please make sure the permissions are updated to your preference for the year ahead.

Birthdays - celebrating your child's special day



This academic year we are introducing new ways to mark your child's birthday. Your child is allowed to come into school in their own clothes/non-uniform or even their comfiest PJS on the day/nearest day of their birthday (or the nearest school term day to their birthday). They will also get a special treat at lunchtime from Miss Lee!

Allergen awareness



We are a nut aware school please as we do have some staff and children with intolerances and allergies. Please avoid sending nut products in your child's lunchboxes/snacks. We have one member of staff who reacts to airborne particles of nuts, so we must be mindful of this.

If your child has any allergies that we have been informed about, we will be asking you to complete an allergy action plan this week, which we share with all the staff in school. The staff have had allergy/anaphylaxis update information this week in our safeguarding training and we have purchased an emergency epi-pen for school. Any children (or adults) with prescribed epi-pens/auto-injectors must have **2 in-date epi-pens** to leave in school/for us to take out with them on trips/Forest school etc.

We love it when our children share.... BUT it is also REALLY important that children do NOT share food in school. eg, share/swap items from their lunchboxes etc as they may not be aware of the ingredients. If you are bringing in food/cakes/birthday treats etc, we always love it, but please do make sure that we are informed of ingredients and allergens that may be present. eg, dairy, gluten, nuts etc.

Please update any allergen information with the front office as soon as possible if your child's medical needs have altered or you have more information.

Thank you for helping us keep our school family safe.



Our Forest school sessions will start again on Monday 22nd September and this half-term it is the turn of Year 1 and 2. Please make sure that the children have their warm/spare clothes in school. Mrs Riddell will send more details next week.

Our Brambles class will also be having their Forest School sessions from 10-11am on a Tuesday starting on the 23rd September. All children will need wellies and a waterproof coat/spare clothes.

Safeguarding section



Keeping our children and families safe is central to our culture at Balderstone. For your information we have three designated safeguarding leaders - Mrs Gow head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk, Mrs Draycott n.draycott@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk and Mrs

Heyworth is our satellite DSL. You are welcome to contact any one of us for support, signposting to early help or to chat about any concerns.

This week we have important information about this season's Flu vaccinations and also about the danger of toys with small magnets and button magnets.

Flu vaccinations




ALL children from Brambles to Year 6 are eligible for this year's Flu immunisations. Please see the enclosed poster with the dates and the QR codes for more information.





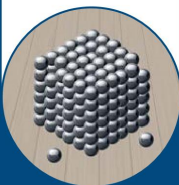
Office for Product
Safety & Standards



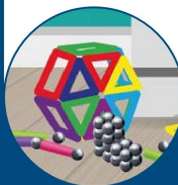
Strong, small magnets can hurt or kill your child

Beware of small magnets in:

adult
desk toys



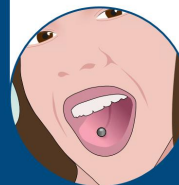
magnetic
construction
sets



drink
charms for
glasses



fake
piercings



Store them out of your child's reach

CR2032
3V LITHIUM BATTERY

Five top tips to keep children safe from button batteries

Button batteries can badly hurt or kill a small child if they swallow one. They look like a coin.

Follow our tips to keep your child safe:

- 1 LOOK** around your home for button batteries. Think toys, lights, remote controls and more.
- 2 CHECK** for products with loose backs and button batteries that have dropped out.
- 3 STORE** button batteries in a safe place, up high and out of your child's reach.
- 4 DISPOSE** of used button batteries as soon as you can. They are still unsafe.
- 5 ACT** if you think your child may have swallowed a button battery, go straight to A&E or call an ambulance.



Church and Community Corner



SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday 12th October Harvest festival 11am

Sunday 23rd November Forest Church 4pm

We are really looking forward to Harvest Festival at church on Sunday 12th October. Harvest is a time for us all, from every faith, to come together to thank God for His creation and food. At a time when so many are going hungry and when Food Banks are in such high demand, school will be collecting dried/tinned goods for Blackburn Food Bank and also collecting for the Bishop's Harvest appeal and Red Cross for Palestine. Find out what is happening at our church at:

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

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 leave 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>