



## Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary - 19th September 2025

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

*Friday 19th September 2025*

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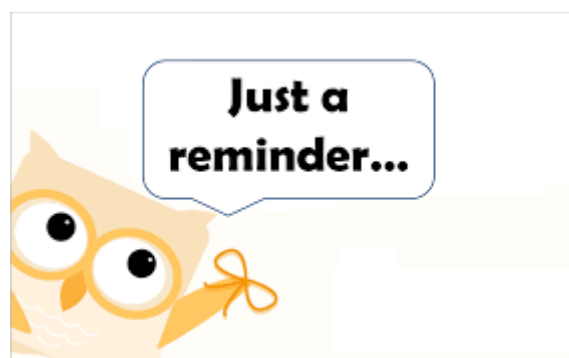
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## Dates and reminders



This week we have tried to pencil in important dates for WHOLE SCHOOL events. These are the events that you will want to attend and may need time off work (so need the dates nice and early). We will try our very best NOT to make changes to these dates wherever possible. Please make sure that your child's other clubs/mosques/groups know that these are our important school dates.

NATIVITY play. **Tuesday 16th December 2025**. (all children from pre-school to Year 6 involved. Children stay after school for the 4pm production). 1.30pm and then 4pm

SATS week for Year 6 (no holidays during this period permitted) **11th - 15th May 2026**

End of Year Production **Tuesday 14th July 2026** (all children from pre-school to Year 6 involved). 1.30pm and 6pm

Leaver's Service and Year 6 Leaver's parent lunch. **Friday 17th July** at 11am - 1.30pm

## REMINDERS/TO DOs



Year 1 & 2 children from Squirrel class need their Forest school kit on Monday

## Weekly Words



It's been a bit of wet and windy week at Balderstone. Poor Year 5 had the wettest ever Bikeability two days, yet still managed to complete the course with flying colours. A huge congratulations to them all, and especially to those who managed to ride a bike competently for the very first time!

We have had lots of visitors in school this week: Canon Pam, the Ribble Rivers Trust, Reverend Nathaniel, James from Bounce Forward, the Bikeability team and also the Fire Brigade to talk to Squirrel and Owl class about safety! As always, there is lots going on in our small school family.

Our outdoor learning has started in earnest with a visit from the Ribble Rivers Trust on Thursday and the installation of our new all-weather canopy in our EYFS unit. Forest school starts next week for Squirrel class and our brand new Toddler Forest school with Brambles begins on Tuesday! It's time to get our wellies out and start immersing ourselves in autumn!

Could I please make a continued request for careful parking, slow driving and courtesy to protect the disabled parking bays for those who need them most. Our PCSOs are around

this week to help us to reinforce these road safety messages. I think the car park will quieten down once our lovely contractors have left the site. We also have our two pupil road safety ambassadors who will be posting polite reminders on cars in the coming weeks (more details below). When you are walking from your car, please use the marked safe walkway across the car park and then cross the road outside Mrs Gow's office (as this is the place with the clearest visibility). Please try to avoid parking outside next door's house.

We enjoyed our first Friday Family Favourites dinner this week and all the children got to sit with their full family groups. It is always very special seeing our buddy system and family groups in action. Thank you as well for your fantastic uptake of school dinners. We are incredibly blessed by our Miss Lee and Naseema in our kitchen as they make the best home-made food!

This week, in worship we thought about Belonging and what it feels like and means to belong. We want all of our children and families to feel like they belong at Balderstone. This week in his worship, Reverend Nathaniel made us think about who our neighbour actually is and what this means for our world. I had a long discussion with Owl class on Friday during our RE lesson about the use of the St George's flag and how this can be used both to unite neighbours under the banner of patriotism, pride at being English and supporting our national football team, but how it can also be used to provoke different feelings. Over the coming weeks we shall continue our exploration of big questions such as what does it mean to be British and linking this to our ongoing teaching of the important British values of democracy, rule of law, tolerance, respect and individual liberty. At school we focus on our mission, as Jesus taught us, to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Have a lovely (if a bit of a soggy weekend)

See you on Monday.

Mrs Gow

[Official Adventure trail opening - this Monday 3pm](#)



All our families are welcome to join us on Monday at 3pm down on the dotted/lower playground for the official opening of our new adventure trail and Toddle Tyre track. We can't wait to let the children start using this incredible equipment and enhance our playtimes, health and fitness. As always a HUGE thank you to our FOBS team (past and present) and to all our sponsors, parents and donors who helped make this vision a reality.





## Rabbit Report (EYFS news)



We are absolutely delighted with our brand-new sheltered outdoor classroom! It's already becoming a favourite space where children can learn, play, and explore in all weathers.

This wonderful addition allows us to:

- 🌱 Take learning beyond the walls of the classroom.
- ☔ Stay dry and comfortable, whatever the weather.
- 🧠 Use the space for stories, music, art, and messy play.
- 🌿 Connect with nature while enjoying a safe and sheltered environment.
- 💛 Encourage teamwork, creativity, and curiosity.

We can't wait to see all the exciting adventures and learning opportunities that will happen here!













## EYFS - Forest Friday

On our way to Forest School we discovered that apples grow on trees! We now need to decide what we are going to make on Monday - apple crumble or Mrs Riddell's Apple muffins? We enjoyed exploring the brook - 'm' is for mud. Plus a fun splash session at the end 😊









## Bikeability Success



A report by Ameerah (Y5)

Bike ability was a complete joy. Our instructors were really nice and were there every step of the way. On the first day, the weather was not on our side! Even though the weather was horrendous, all of us as a class still got through it. Due to the poor weather, we stayed in the library and learnt a lot as well as doing activities and having fun. At least everyone in our class learnt something, for example I learnt a lot of road signs and what the M CHECK is. In the morning, we took our bikes out thinking we could go on them in the afternoon and guess what - you probably already know the answer- it started chucking it down! Sadly, we never got to ride our bikes on Monday. On the second day, the weather was on our side! YAY! That meant that we could cycle the full day. In the morning we started off with some exercises on the playground which meant the instructors could see what level we all on. We did laps around the playground while playing games. It was really fun! As time passed on, we had a break. Soon after we did one more lap, then it was time to go on the ROAD! We were all so eager and excited, but we had to learn a lot before doing it properly like pass me and follow me position also ADAM (not the name Adam).

Did you know that it is illegal to ride on the footpath (10 and above)? To do all of this we did it in groups 4, people in one and then the rest of the class. After we learnt properly how to ride on the road, we rode on local roads. Everything was just amazing. The teachers made it a whole, lot better. Even though on the first day the weather was horrible we still had an amazing time and now everyone in year 5 knows how to ride a bike safely.

Well done Year 5!

## Secondary school open evenings



Ribblesdale Open evening Thursday 25th September 2025 from 4.30pm. You can book tickets using this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ribblesdale-school-secondary-open-evening-2025-tickets-1430187863399>

St Augustine's RC High. Thursday 2nd October, 5.30pm - 7.30pm, with an address from Headteacher in the hall at 5.30pm and again at 6.15pm.

St Wilfrid's CE Academy. Wednesday 24th September from 4pm - 8pm

TIBHS 25th September 2025 at 3.45pm-6.45pm.

TIGHS Thursday 2nd October 2025 4:30pm till 7pm

Pleckgate High School Saturday 20th September 9-12pm

Oakhill Wednesday 1st Oct 5-8pm & Saturday 4th Oct 9-1pm (see website for how to book on)

Westholme Thursday 2 October 2025 (register interest on website)

Witton Park 23 October 2025, from 4pm to 6pm

CRGS exam weekend **Saturday 27th September 2025.**

**Please check each individual secondary school's website for their Open Evening/events.**



**SCHOOL  
ADMISSIONS  
SECONDARY**

# APPLY NOW!

at [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](https://lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

### School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2025.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

**CLOSING DATE**  
**31 October 2025**

[lancashire.gov.uk](https://lancashire.gov.uk) >>>>

**School transport** 

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at [lancashire.gov.uk](https://lancashire.gov.uk) or scan the QR code.



**Lancashire**  
County Council 

## Open week at Balderstone



We are preparing for our own Open week at Balderstone and this is where we need your help. We need you to spread the word about our rather splendid small school and ensure that LOTS of people come to find out more about our school family. Please make sure our current pre-school families, that you remember to apply (even if you have siblings at our school already or are in our pre-school). We have a new admissions criteria this year that helps our siblings and our pre-schoolers gain places. See our website for more information.

The deadline for Reception applications for 2026 is **15th January 2026**.



**BALDERSTONE**  
**ST LEONARD'S CE**  
 NURSERY, PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY

**JOIN OUR SMALL SCHOOL FAMILY!**

**WE WELCOME 2 - 11 YEAR OLDS**

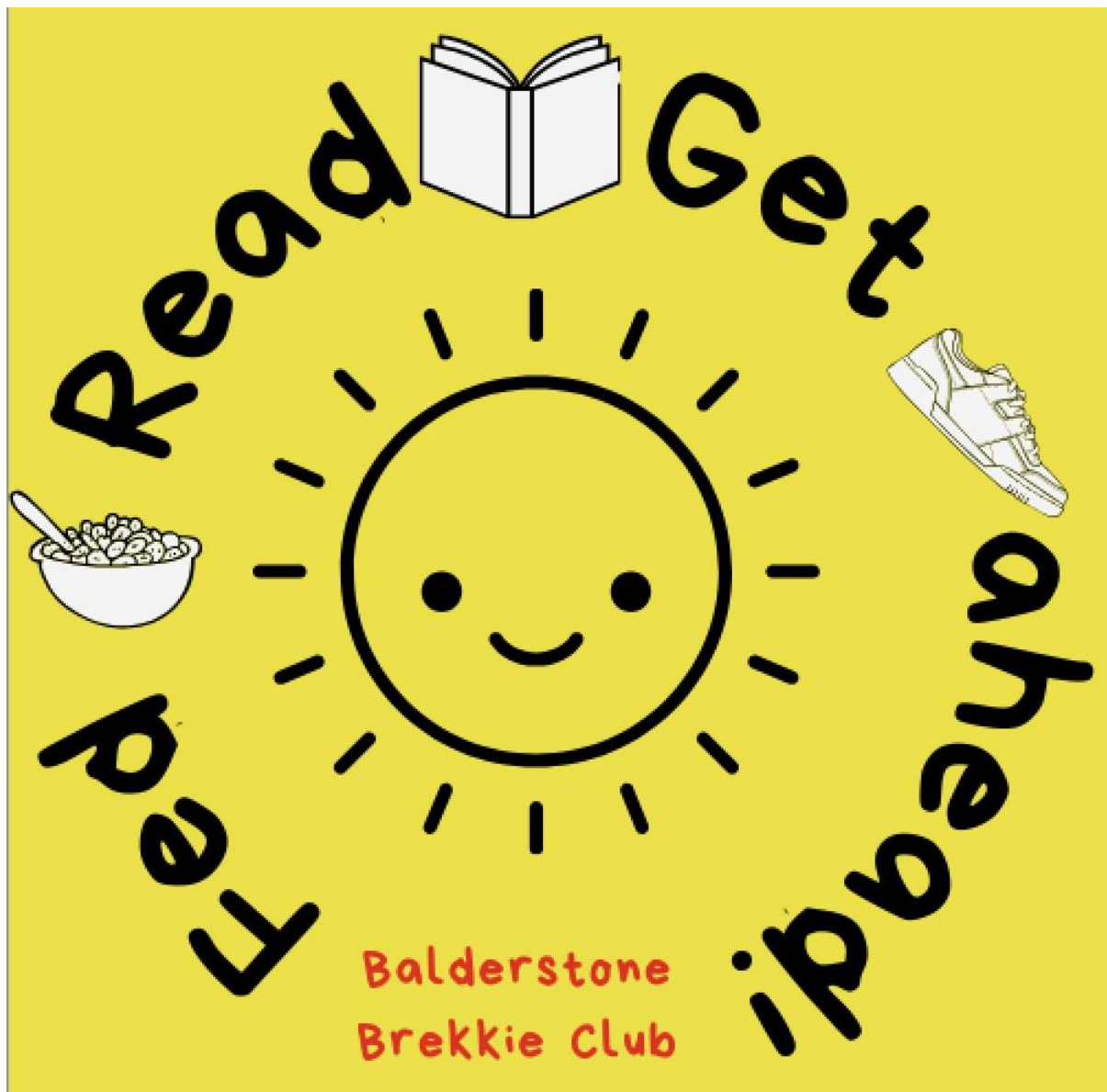
A small school with **outstanding** opportunities!  
 Come and see our school family in action.

**Open day is EVERY day!**

 <https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk>  01254 769 150



Balderstone Brekkie Club - read, fed and get ahead!



Thank you to everyone who has signed up for this term's FREE, UNIVERSAL breakfast club. We are having a focus on problem solving and traditional board games as part of club this term. We are busy teaching our children the joy of games such as dominoes, draughts and

chess! If you have any good, complete children's jigsaw puzzles that you could donate to club then we would be very grateful as we have gone jigsaw crazy!

Please remember that the doors to breakfast club are open from 8am - 8.30am. After this point then please walk and wait with your child on their playground for their class teacher to open the doors at 8.40am, as breakfast club children are outside doing their Wake up and Shake up energisers!

## Meet our Road Safety ambassadors



Muhammad Motorwala (Year 5) and Zak Sadique (Year 6) are our two appointed pupil road safety ambassadors this year. They feel very passionately about road safety since their own experience of a road traffic accident. Thankfully, both both (and all involved) were safe, but that was only due to the fact that they were wearing their seatbelts and were being driven carefully.

The boys are going to be helping us as a school raise the profile of road safety, seatbelt use, courteous parking and speed awareness over the year. Their first mission is going to be our autumn project on, 'Be Safe and Be Seen.' More details from the boys about their first parent assembly.

## Progressive Kids updates



Wraparound

Hi all! Coach Joe here,

Here at Progressive Kids, we're really looking forward to another year of wraparound fun and learning! We have a lot going on in terms of clubs, half term events and wraparound activities. With so much going on, it would be brilliant to see everyone getting involved, learning new skills and having fun!

## Clubs

Starting next week (22/09/2025), we are introducing wraparound after school clubs as well as sports afterschool clubs. Clubs will be running until 4:15 PM until snack time which will be provided. Pickup will be anytime between 4:15-4:30. **Use the QR code below and book onto the short session (3.10-4.30pm) you would like your child to attend.** Did you know that we have also reduced the price of all our wraparound clubs at Balderstone this year? Breakfast club is only £2 from 7.30am and then after-school care is £5.50 till 4.30pm or £9 till 6pm.

This half-term's clubs are:

**Monday - Board games/card games. All years. 3.10 - 4.30pm £5.50 per session including snack**

We will introduce and play various different games from Go Fish, Uno and 7s to Snakes and Ladders, Articulate and (Coach Joe's favourite) Chess. These and many more can be enjoyed so children of every year group can find a love of board/card games.

**Tuesday - Let's get messy! All years. 3.10 - 4.30pm £5.50 per session including snack**

Imagine every kind of messy play ever invented! Sand troughs, playdough, paints, glues, slimes. All of these are fair game for the children to enjoy in this session. Let's get messy!

**Wednesday - Football. Years 3-6. 3.10 - 4.30pm. £5.50 per session including snack**

Enjoy football? So does Coach Joe! Our junior football sessions are a great way to develop football skills, enjoy the sport with school mates and burn off some energy after the school day. We will cover many parts of the game such as technical/tactical skills, positional play and an enjoyable amount of games and matches.

**Thursday - Dodgeball. Years 3-6. 3.10 - 4.30pm £5.50 per session including snack**

What a game! Dodgeball is always great fun and a fantastic laugh and it is also a sport full of different skills and techniques to learn. In our junior dodgeball session we will be learning and developing these skills as well as learning and playing the official game of dodgeball and different varieties of the game like Joker Dodgeball and Jedi Dodgeball. (You might also get to throw a ball at Coach Joe).

**Friday - Retro video games. All years. £5.50 per session including snack**

Time for that Friday night chill out? For ours, we're going back in time. Coach Joe will be bringing his retro consoles from the 1990s and 2000s. We have available Nintendo's Gameboy, DS and Wii as well as the original Xbox and the Xbox 360! There will be many well known names from times gone by such as Sonic, Spyro, Crash Bandicoot, Wii Sports, Just Dance, Pokemon and many more. All games are PEGI age rated, offline and only games of appropriate age groups will be played.

### **Wraparound**

As well as our clubs, we also have our usual wraparound childcare available with our four zones that all contain a variety of games and activities where children can enjoy playing and learning. Our wraparound zones include:

#### *Active Zone*

Where children can enjoy activities that have them getting up and getting active. This could be tag games, ball games, skipping games and more.

#### *Creative Zone*

Where children can explore their creative side with colouring sheets, paints and other arts and crafts. All things bright and colourful are welcome.

#### *Discovery Zone*

This is our child-lead area that contains games, building blocks and toys for the children to play with and to run their own supervised games. Here they can find their own way to play.

#### *Wellness Zone*

Need a breather? We all do at some point and this is where to come. This zone is a comfy area where children can chill out in their own space, read a book and decompress in a more relaxing environment.

### **This half-term events**

Right now we are working behind the scenes to plan for some events every half term. Coming up towards the end of the half term will be our annual Autumn party! More event details such as dates, times and activities will be available in the next week or two so please stay tuned.

Thanks all and have a lovely weekend!

Coach Joe





Forest School & Our new Toddler group



Year 1 and 2, I hope you're ready to start our Forest school sessions this Monday, 22nd September. Please make sure that the children have their warm/spare clothes in school. A letter was sent home last week with more details and a copy is on display on the window of the Year 1 and 2 classroom. If anyone needs wellies or an all in one splash suit, please let myself or Mrs Burton know.

I'm also really looking forward to exploring outdoors with Brambles class and our BATS toddler group as we start our first Forest School sessions from 10-11am this Tuesday, 23rd September. All children will need wellies and a waterproof coat/spare clothes.

## Baby and Toddler Squad (B.A.T.S)



You know that we are passionate about early years at Balderstone and that we love supporting our families. Well, with this in mind, we have been updating our Baby and Toddler group offer for the year. This year there are going to be 6 themed B.A.T.S activities as part of our toddler sessions for our youngest children to get involved in. Firstly, Mrs Riddell is going to run a block of autumnal themed Forest school sessions starting next Tuesday 23rd September. These sessions will be suitable for all children who are walking and will run from 10 - 11 am. There will still be play, brews and socialising time in the hall before and afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join us from the local area (see the leaflet below).

We are really exciting about the new launch of B.A.T.S with some really exciting sessions planned - Batty Balance (balance bike fun), Batty bakes (cooking and tasting), Batty Ball

(footy and early sports), Batty Brushes (arts and crafts), Batty Boogie (dance classes) to name just a few of the new adventures we shall be sharing on a Tuesday morning. Our Brambles children will automatically be enrolled into the fun with Mrs Hussain and Mrs Barton helping them join in.

**Balderstone B.A.T.S.**  
*eee*  
**Toddler Forest School Group**

**Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am**

Come and join us at our all new Toddler Forest School session (led by our own Forest school teacher) in our magical Forest school and stream!

Refreshments from 9.30am and outside from 10-11am. Songs and games till 11.30am.

**Dates**

- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

**You will need:**  
*eee*  
Warm waterproof clothes, a hat, gloves and wellies, a sense of awe and adventure and an adult to help with the fun! Only £3 a session

**Contact details**  
*eee*  
Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary, Pre-school and Brambles Nursery  
Commons Lane, Balderstone, Blackburn. BB2 7LL  
01254 769150  
Come along and join the forest fun!

## Food for Life



Gardening club have been harvesting the produce from the school garden. We've picked many, many runner beans, 3 small sweet peppers that are ripening on our window sill and the last tomato of the season! We still keep finding potatoes buried in the soil! Look out for some of these on the salad bar.





## Inclusion Zone



In this new section of our newsletter, Mrs Cast our SENCO will include helpful information

Please remember that you may contact me to discuss any SEND concerns you may have

[j.cast@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:j.cast@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

Here is a weblink to a brilliant site full of ideas for improving fine motor skills.

<https://veryspecialtales.com/fine-motor-skills-activities-for-kids/>

Fine motor skills are the ability to coordinate small muscles in the hands, fingers, and wrists to perform precise, dextrous movements like writing, buttoning clothes, and using utensils. These essential skills develop from infancy, starting with grasping and progressing to more complex tasks like using a pincer grasp (thumb and forefinger). Developing fine motor skills is crucial for independence in daily activities such as eating, dressing, and learning, and can be supported through various play and practice activities.

There are some really fun activity suggestions on the site such as washing windows and playing cards!

Please see below the information about ELCAS



Lancashire &  
South Cumbria  
NHS Foundation Trust

## East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

Concerned about your Mental Health?  
Are you under 18 or concerned about  
someone under 18?

Advice sessions are available on-line via  
'Attend Anywhere'  
Delivered by ELCAS  
[tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT](https://tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT)



Enter the word "ELCAS" as the first name and "drop in" as the second  
name followed by your date of birth.  
You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 25	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 25	3pm – 5pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 25	5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 25	1pm – 3pm

### Safeguarding section



We know first-hand that being a parent is **the** most challenging (and rewarding) job in the world. Unfortunately, children don't come with a handbook and every model is different and

unique. With this in mind, we shall be posting out any support groups/courses that we are informed about to help you to help your little one to flourish through every stage of their development and also to try to help your own wellbeing and mental health as you navigate the joys and stresses of parenting. As always, our Early Help offer is always here and you can come to talk to Mrs Gow in confidence if you feel that your family needs a bit of extra support/signposting to places/people who could help.



Are you struggling with a defiant child?



### Facing Defiance

A six part online course for parents that you can complete in your own time. A step by step guide through a specific strategy aimed to support parents of children aged between 5 to 12 who are displaying very challenging behaviour, including children with ADHD, ODD and PDA.

go to [facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Book online £48

on the **Online Parenting Courses** page

<b>October Timetable</b>	
All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long	
<b>£24 each or FREE with School Membership</b>	
Book online at <a href="http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk">facefamilyadvice.co.uk</a>	
Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)	
Understanding The Teenage Brain	6 Oct 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	6 Oct 7pm
Supporting A Child With ADHD	13 Oct 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	13 Oct 7pm
Autism Improving Communication	14 Oct 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Oct 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	20 Oct 10am
Facing Defiance	20 Oct 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	21 Oct 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Oct 7pm
<b>FREE - Raising Self-Esteem</b>	<b>23 Oct 7-8pm</b>
Anxiety Explained	27 Oct 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	27 Oct 7pm
What Is ACT?	28 Oct 10am
Introduction To OCD	28 Oct 7pm

## 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](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk) or [bursar@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

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