



# BALDERSTONE ST LEONARD'S CE

NURSERY, PRE-SCHOOL & PRIMARY

**JOIN OUR SMALL SCHOOL FAMILY!**

**WE WELCOME 2 - 11 YEAR OLDS**

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**Open day is EVERY day!**



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## Newsletter 3rd October 2025

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

*Friday 3rd October 2025*

### In This Issue

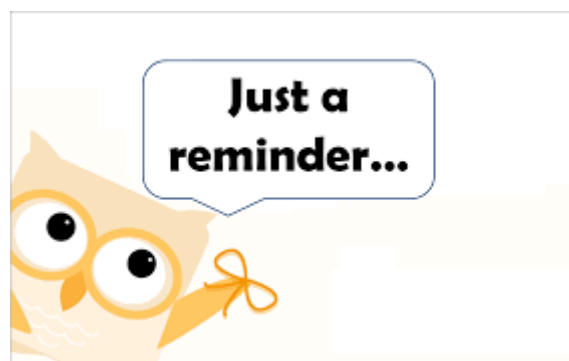


In this week's edition of the newsletter

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## Dates and reminders



Every week, we shall 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.

**Wednesday 8th October** Out of this World Themed lunch (all children who have signed up to school dinners or the themed lunches)

**Thursday 9th October** - Cross Country race at Witton Park (team to follow on Parentmail on Monday). There is a competitive race and also a fun run. **Invited children from Year 4,5 and 6.**

**Friday 10th October** - Harvest festival - please bring **dried, packet and tinned donations for Blackburn food bank** and **£1 donation** towards the Pedal along.

## Weekly Words



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*As part of our school's passion for outdoor learning we commit to taking the children on two residential outdoor and adventurous holidays whilst they are with us. This week saw the first of these adventures with our Fox class trip to the Anderton Centre. It is incredibly hard work for the staff planning and supervising these trips away, but the impact on the children is HUGE - independence, resilience, determination, overcoming fears, trying new things, teamwork, confidence building, health and wellbeing, friendship building and most importantly JOY and FUN. A huge thank you to the staff team of Mrs Riddell, Mrs Cast, Mrs Burton, Mrs Lorgat and Coach Joe for giving of their own time to make memories with the children. There wasn't a screen in sight and the children had the most fun on the water and watching them enjoy playing out in nature, being imaginative (building mansions and palaces for hedgehogs, squirrels and bunnies) made my heart sing. The first evening saw us enjoying a campfire and toasting marshmallows and then of course the obligatory Mrs Gow hot chocolate (made with the secret technique!)*

*I attended the Headteachers' Diocesan Conference on Friday and one of the key themes was about joy and how in a world that seems so filled with sorrow we can be channels of joy - sharing the good news of Jesus with the children and igniting hope. Balderstone is a hopeful, joy filled school and I am reminded of this everyday as I walk around the building and spend time outdoors with the children. This week I have seen our older children really looking after our newest Reception and Pre-schoolers on the adventure trail, seen EYFS having the MOST fun ever splashing in the brook, seen Owl class producing the most beautiful mosaic art work, played some fun maths games with Squirrel class and seen some quite intense chess games being played at breakfast club!*

*As we approach Harvest festival we give thanks for the joy of God's creation and provision and we do all we can to support those who are struggling with the impact of poverty, hunger, conflict and greed. This year we shall be holding our school's Harvest festival on Friday 10th October at 2.30pm in church. Please bring in a donation of tinned, dried and packet goods or toiletries/baby wipes etc which we shall donate to Blackburn Food Bank. We are also going to be doing our own pedal along in school to help raise funds for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal where we aim to keep a bike cycling ALL day on Friday from 8am - 4pm with the help of the whole school family (please bring in a voluntary donation of £1 to help with the appeal and to keep us cycling!)*

*Let's hope the wind softens somewhat for next week in school!*

*Mrs Gow*

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<http://twitter.com/statuses/1974188462757851280>

## Anderton adventures



We had an absolutely fantastic time at The Anderton Centre. We enjoyed canoeing, bushcraft, tree climbing and archery. We started with a walk through the woods, played a game of Ninja Squirrels and then had our picnic lunch and a play on the park. The children were brilliant throughout the 2 days and listened carefully to instructions. They showed real resilience, independence and courage. We're so proud of them all! Thank you to everyone that came along, those who packed suitcases, washed wet clothing afterwards and those who had a little less sleep than usual on Tuesday night! The children (and the adults!) loved it and we've made memories that will always make us smile! Thank you!

Mrs Riddell





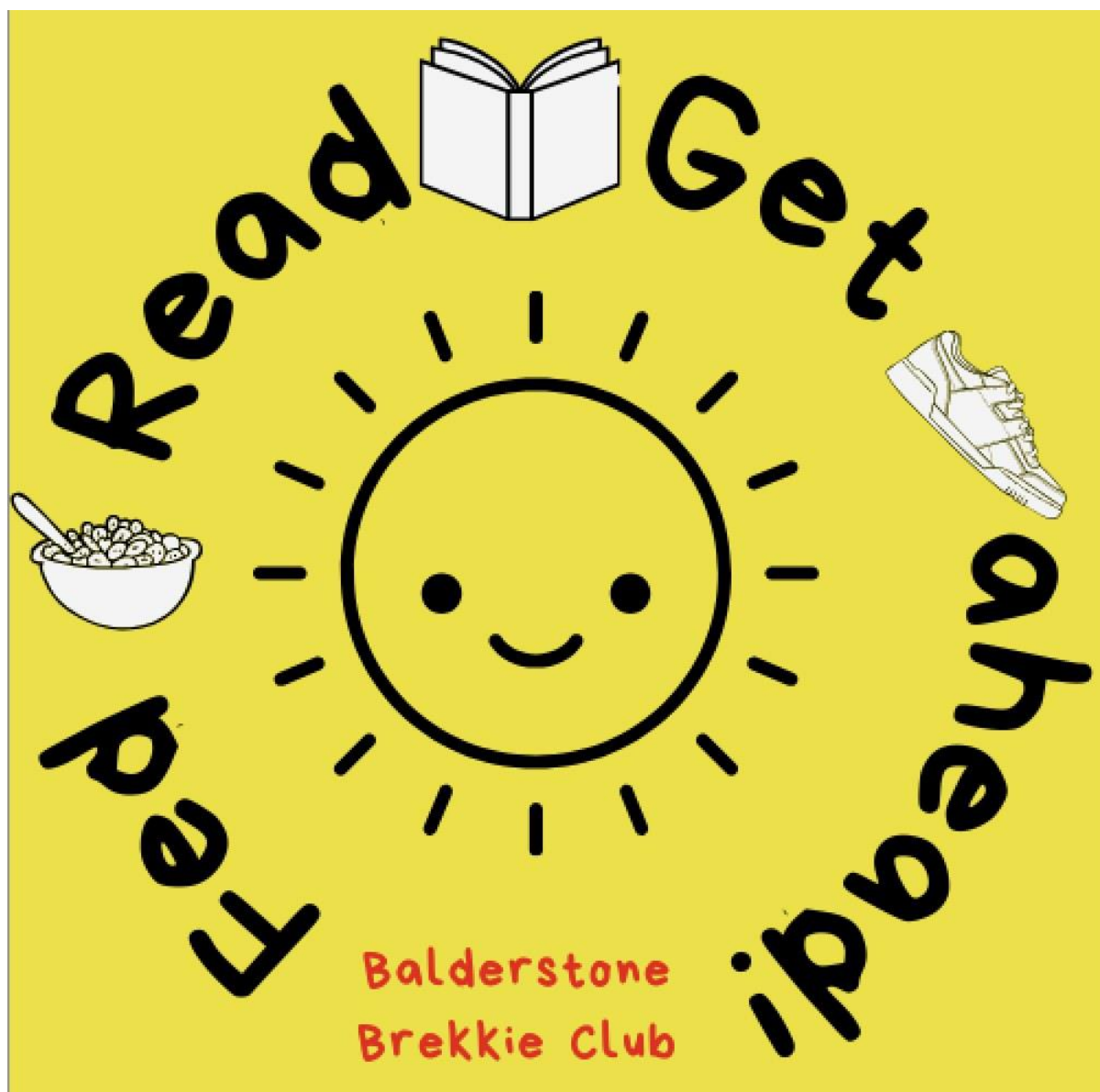








## Breakfast club - Important safety information



A huge thank you to everyone who helps our UNIVERSAL, FREE breakfast club run so BRILLIANTLY and for keeping the numbers so high! We want this provision to continue, so we must keep our up-take positive. In order to help club run smoothly and *safely* please remember:

1. You can only drop off at breakfast club from **8 am till 8.30am**. If the door is locked, then please accompany your child around to their classroom doors/playground. After 8.30am you must wait with your child at the gate/red gate/classroom doors until staff open them at 8.40am. At 8.30am we are often NOT in the hall as we are outside doing our wake up and shake up session, so there is no-one there in the hall to supervise your child.

2. Children should be accompanied to the side staff-room entrance door for drop off and supervised **into** the hall. Parents (wherever possible unless your children is a Bramble, pre-schooler - please do NOT come into the hall).
3. We feed the children and prepare the food in line with current safeguarding procedures eg, cutting hard fruits in safe ways. Please do not send your child in with food from home.
4. Children (even junior children) cannot be left on the playground/to come into school unsupervised. Parents/guardians must walk their child through the black gate and **wait with** their child on the junior playground until the doors are opened please to ensure the safety of all the children.

Thank you to everyone who makes breakfast club one of our favourite times of the day.

## Rabbit Report and Bunny Bulletin



Here is the link to this week's Rabbit Report

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAG0wA6NwwM/DQX2VlofGrMHBed3HswS7Q/watch?utm\\_content=DAG0wA6NwwM&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hcd72f0ae31](https://www.canva.com/design/DAG0wA6NwwM/DQX2VlofGrMHBed3HswS7Q/watch?utm_content=DAG0wA6NwwM&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utlId=hcd72f0ae31)

## Sports Round-up - Girls' Football

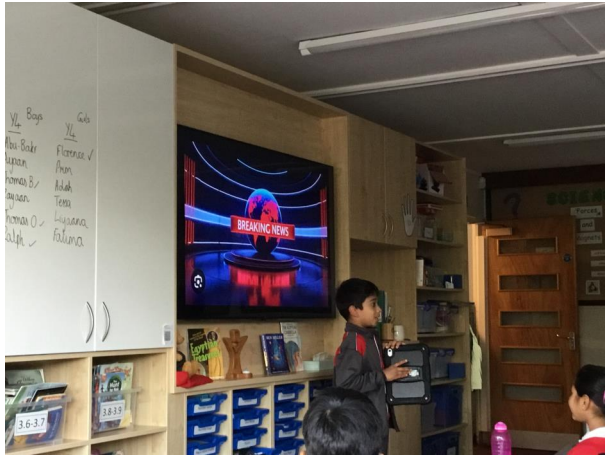
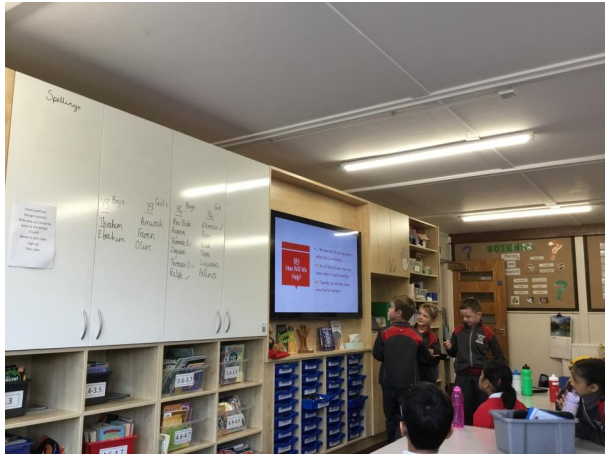


On Tuesday the girls played, what was for many, their debut match in a friendly tournament held at Ribblesdale. It was fantastic to see the team spirit between the girls and their enthusiasm on and off the pitch. The first game we drew, lost the second, won the third and then lost the final match but there was no stopping them! They were desperate to stay and play another friendly match at the end. A big thank you to the parents who stayed and helped to coach from the sidelines. Well done girls! A great first performance!



## Democracy in Action - Pupil leadership







This week, candidates for School Council have delivered their speeches and campaigns in order to convince their classmates to vote for them. It has been amazing to see so many children stepping out of their comfort zones to speak so positively about our school in front of their class. On Thursday afternoon, children took to the polling station to cast their vote and show democracy in action. A huge thank you to Mrs Burton for organising this. The results will be announced on Monday.

## Pupil leadership at Balderstone



**School council** - two children from each year group form our school council, working closely with Mrs Burton and Mrs Gow to lead the direction of school and events.

**Buddies and monitors** - Our Year 6 children take on the most crucial role in student leadership in school as they are all buddies and monitors. They help our youngest children have a go-to friend and also help act as role models and support for our Reception children. They also support us at lunchtimes: serving, assisting children and clearing the hall.

**Salt and Light** - Ethos and values group. These children from Reception to Year 6 help lead worship and the direction of worship across school. They help with the MOPS (Ministry of Puppet Squad) and also help Mrs Draycott evaluate worship. These children help us to live out our Christian mission and faith mission in all we do.

**Class librarians** - every class will have two librarian roles to help recommend books, help the staff during library sessions, help stock and tidy the books and also help run the book fairs/book clubs in school.

**Wellbeing warriors** - two children from Year 5/6 act as our lead wellbeing team to help us focus on our health and wellbeing in body, mind and spirit.

**Sports champions** - two children from Owl class who help organise, promote and uphold our school's sporting values and encourage others to get involved.

**Stewardship squad** - a group of children who take the lead in caring for creation and stewarding our school's resources, through composting, living out our commitment to reducing food waste, redoing single use plastics, growing our own food, living out our climate action plan and helping organise and attend local events (rubbish clear ups, the stewardship conference, Fairtrade etc)

**Tech Team** - help care for, monitor and promote safe and effective use of technology in school, These children act as monitors for electricity, ensuring our iPads and other tech is used appropriately and is organised.

**Junior Road safety Ambassadors** - two pupils from Year 5 and 6 act as a liaison with our Lancashire road safety team to bring awareness to our pupils, staff and parents about key road safety messages. They will also plan key competition and awareness campaigns throughout the year.

**Playground PALS (playground leaders)** - are children (trained) from Year 5 and 6 who help our sports coach and lunchtime welfare team to lead fun and active activities for all our children in school to enjoy. They bring back some of our most loved playground games.

## Progressive Kids



If you need to book your child on to wraparound care from 7.30am till either 4.30pm or 6pm, then please use the qr code below which links to our school's booking page. You can book on up until lunchtime on the same day or ring school before 12.30pm.



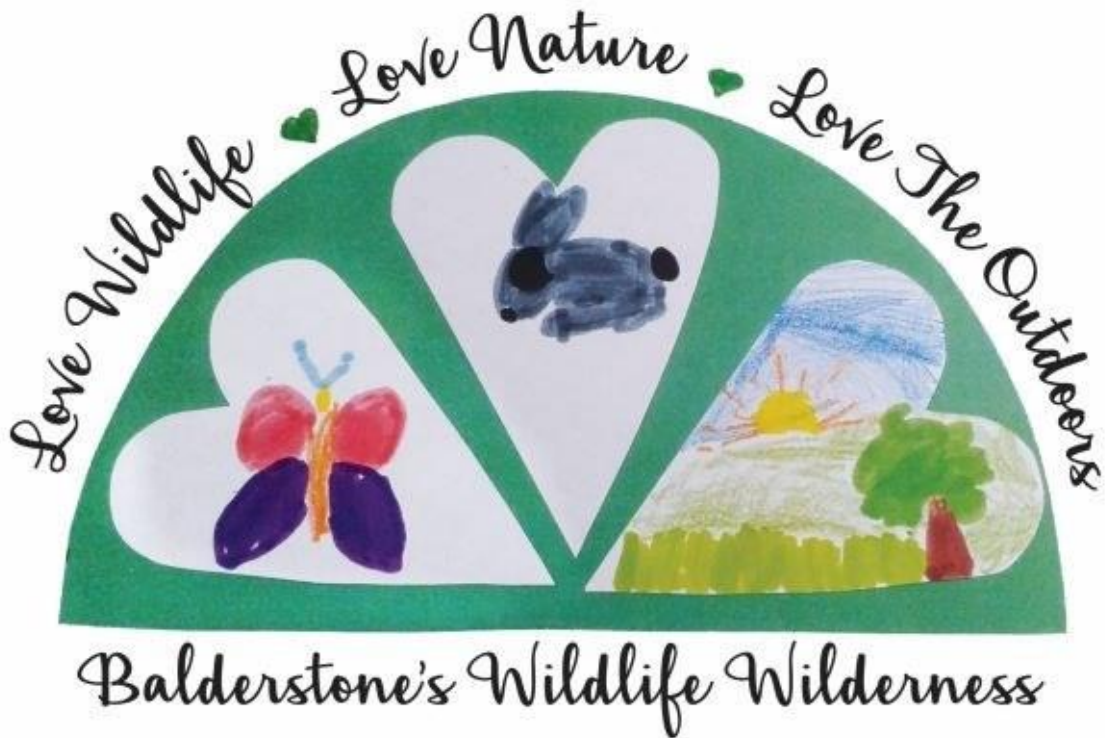
Do you need to access  
our wraparound  
provision?



Scan the QR code to book on:



Forest School



Autumn has arrived! In Forest school this week, we went searching for signs of autumn. We found so many acorns and conkers - it's been a bumper harvest this year! So, with our new found treasures, we headed back to the school field to make conker mud pies and pizzas, conker people, conker necklaces and conker bracelets! We had lots of time to explore the brook too.











**Balderstone B.A.T.S.**  
**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:**

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**

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



There's nothing better on a stormy wet autumn weekend than enjoying a fruit crumble! It's been a great year for fruit trees this year and there are lots of British grown pears and apples in the shops so why not try this recipe? The all important question will be, do you eat it with ice cream or custard? We'd love to see some photos!

## Blackberry and Pear Bumble

Serves 4



### Ingredients (allergens in bold)

- 150g rolled (porridge) oats
- 100g wholemeal **flour**
- 50g soft brown sugar
- 75g **butter** (or baking margarine)
- 100g large juicy blackberries
- 2 ripe pears - peeled, cored and roughly chopped

### Method

1. Heat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Grease the ovenproof dish. Place all the ingredients, except the fruit, in the mixing bowl.
2. With your fingertips, rub the butter into the dry ingredients. Sprinkle approximately half the rubbed-in mixture into the ovenproof dish.
3. Arrange the pear and blackberries slices evenly on top of the oat mixture.
4. Sprinkle the remaining oat mixture evenly over the fruit and press down lightly.
5. Bake for 30 minutes until golden-brown on top and the pears are soft when tested with the tip of a sharp knife.



### Equipment

- mixing bowl
- table knife
- tablespoon
- chopping board
- sharp knife
- peeler
- ovenproof dish

### Recipe notes and tips

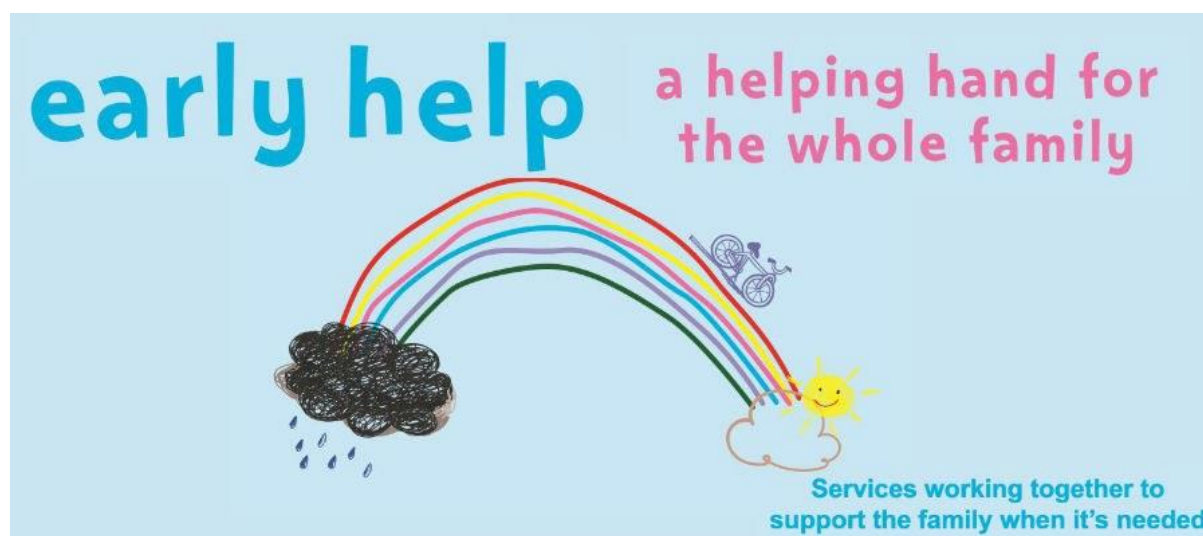
- Use any other seasonal fruit – rhubarb and strawberries would be lovely in summer (you might need to sprinkle the rhubarb with sugar).
- Use vegetable-based block instead of butter to reduce the amount of saturated fats.

[www.foodforlife.org.uk](http://www.foodforlife.org.uk)

## Safeguarding section



Early help - helping you before things get too hard!



We all know that being a parent is the greatest but also the HARDEST job ever and that sometimes you need a bit of help to cope with everything that is happening. We also know that your circumstances change: behaviours change, relationships change, finances change and health and mental health can change. We, as your school family, do **NOT** change and we can be here to help signpost you and your family to early help that could prevent situations, behaviours and relationships from spiralling.

Mrs Gow and Mrs Draycott are our school DSLs (designated safeguarding leads) and we can help signpost you to support groups, advice and interventions to work together for the common good of our lovely children. If needed we can open up an early help plan to help us, together, identify your family's needs and develop a plan of support with you.

Every week I shall try to put on a catalogue of contact details that can be used to contact different support agencies. We are going to put together an A-Z of support groups for us to refer to. This week we look at some of the bereavement services in our areas.

Name	Phone number	Website/ email
Cruse Bereavement Care	Tel: 0808 808 1677 01772 433645	Email: lancashire@cruse.org.uk
Hope Again	Tel: 0808 8081677	
STRIDE - Bereavement Support for Young People and Families	Tel: 01772 798746	
Child Bereavement UK - Bereavement Support for Young People and Families	0800 0288840	<a href="http://www.childbereavement.org.uk/">www.childbereavement.org.uk/</a>
Survivors Of Bereavement of suicide	01482 210287 0300 111 5065	<a href="https://uksobs.org/">https://uksobs.org/</a>
Hyndburn Bereavement Support group	01254 390 731	<a href="https://hyndburnbereavementsupport.co.uk">https://hyndburnbereavementsupport.co.uk</a>
Compassionate Friends	0845 123 2304	<a href="http://www.tcf.org.uk/helpline">www.tcf.org.uk/helpline</a>
Samaritans	08457 90 90 90	<a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>
SANDS	020 7436 5881	<a href="http://www.uk-sands.org">www.uk-sands.org</a>
Miscarriage Association	01924 200 799	<a href="http://www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk">www.miscarriageassociation.org.uk</a>
The Lullaby Trust	020 7802 3200	<a href="http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk">www.lullabytrust.org.uk</a>
East Lancs Hospice support		<a href="https://eastlancshospice.org.uk/bereavement-support-service">https://eastlancshospice.org.uk/bereavement-support-service</a>

## 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)

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