



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



Newsletter 10th October 2025

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

Friday 10th October 2025

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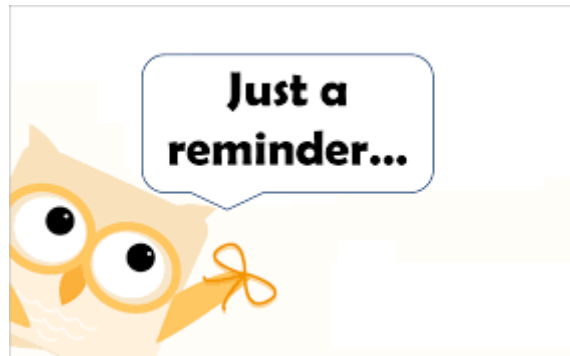


In this week's edition of the newsletter

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Dates and reminders



Sunday 12th October Harvest festival 11am in church. everyone welcome.

**INSET/Training days for staff are coming up on Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October
(Holiday club is available on the Thursday to help with childcare)**

Weekly Words



*Harvest is a lovely time of year and especially at Balderstone. Historically, in our area Harvest has been one of the greatest festivals due to the close links the school has with our rural, farming communities. It is one of the times of the year when our church is VERY busy. Harvest is an inclusive festival, where we **all** give thanks and think about the many blessings we are given, particularly in terms of our food. Whilst so many in war-torn and famine struck areas of the world are struggling with both man-made and natural disasters (such as the increasing impact of global warming) we are fortunate to be able to drink clean water and have access to God's gifts of fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and cereals from all over the world. As a school we would like to give special thanks this week to those who work so hard on their farms (like the Barton and Eckersley families), those who help prepare our food and those who work in food retail. We give thanks for God's incredible provision for us all and pray whole-heartedly for those in Balderstone, Blackburn and beyond who are struggling with a lack of food and water. May peace talks bring comfort and aid to those who are the most needy. Thank you so much for your incredibly kind donations to Blackburn Food Bank - we filled the front of church with your gifts.*

EVERYONE of every faith is welcome to join us for harvest festival at church at 11am on Sunday morning. The children and I will be singing our Harvest song and Year 1 and 2 children will be sharing some of the prayers they have written.

*We are blessed with the best car park in the whole of Lancashire schools I think, but I know that it has been really busy this last week. Don't worry, we have a plan! The staff are going to block park to keep the rest of the space a bit more open for you when picking up. Morning's aren't as busy due to brekkie club, but could I PLEASE ask that you are courteous and sensible when parking (especially along the church wall outside the house next door (as this blocks visibility and access). We had an incident where a car completely blocked a truck from driving down the lane this week and I had to play peace-maker. There is **never** a rush to get here - as we will always wait with your child until you arrive and would prefer you to drive slowly, with gaps between vehicles and park safely on the car park rather than be rushing or parking on the road. We don't want pick-up time to be stressful for anyone (including Mrs Gow) and a couple of parents have found that drivers are too close to one another as they drive down the lane. Our Junior Road Safety ambassadors will be doing some work on this next week. A special mention to our families who car share (bravo to you!)*

Have a lovely weekend and I would like to welcome you all to Open Week and our Showcase day next week - please spread the word that the Balderstone family are looking for new little ones to join the fold for September 2026!

Every blessing,

Mrs Gow

Holiday club - October half term

Progressive
Active Camps
Be happy, healthy and active!

Our holiday camps are running again this year, to help with childcare for our families but also to give the children active, fun and safe activities over the holiday. This year the club is running on :

8.30am - 3.30pm on

Thursday 23rd October

Monday 27th October

Tuesday 28th October

Each full day only costs £22.50

Please find attached the October Half term booking link:

<https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/book-now/58-Balderstone-St-Leonards-Primary-School--October-Holiday-Camp--->

Please **do make use** of this provision otherwise it will not be a viable venture and we will lose the club at our venue. Primary school aged children/cousins/siblings etc from outside Balderstone are allowed to book on too.

Thanks

Open week and Showcase celebration Day - you are invited!



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 **ST LEONARD'S**
BALDERSTONE

Every year in October we hold our Open Week and our Showcase day. This is not only a time for new/prospective parents to come and look around our school, but also an opportunity for **everyone** linked to our school family (parents of current pupils, former pupils, neighbours to school, governors, church members, mosque and madrasa teachers, your

next door neighbour) to come and **see and celebrate** our school family. It is one of my favourite weeks in the year, seeing the way in which our Year 6 pupils tour our school giving the visitors a no-holes-barred view on what it is like to be at Balderstone. We are not a school that 'puts on a show' for this week, as what we show during this week is what you would be able to see **every day** in our school. Showcase day is simply a more condensed version of a school week - showing the engaging learning, Forest school provision, sports provision and also our school's incredible resources and grounds. EVERY parent and their extended family is invited to come in on this day any time from **9am - 11.45am** and then from **1.30pm - 7pm** to see the school, our school in action. Please spread the word in the local area and to your friends/family/colleagues who might be looking for a school family for their little ones. We also have spaces in our Year 2 class too.

The school hall will be open from 2.30pm - 4pm for parents to come in and have a brew and a biscuit and a chat about school life at Balderstone. You will also have a chance to meet some of our school governors and help us to plan the next steps in our small school's progression to excellence!

Join the BALDERSTONE ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL FAMILY... THE SMALL SCHOOL WHERE EVERY CHILD IS KNOWN, NOTICED, AND NURTURED

Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary, Pre-School & Nursery

We understand that choosing the right pre-school and primary setting for your child is **crucial**. That's why we'd like you to come and spend some time getting to know us - tour our small school, meet our wonderful staff team and pupils and get a feel for our exceptionally caring ethos. If you are looking for a small sized, caring, rural school with a diverse, outstanding and faith-filled education, then we are the school for you! Balderstone is a place where your child can **thrive** in an ethos of love and excellence. Small intake of only 15 children ensures **every** child is **known, noticed and nurtured!**

A small school with a big heart - for learning, for God and for each other!

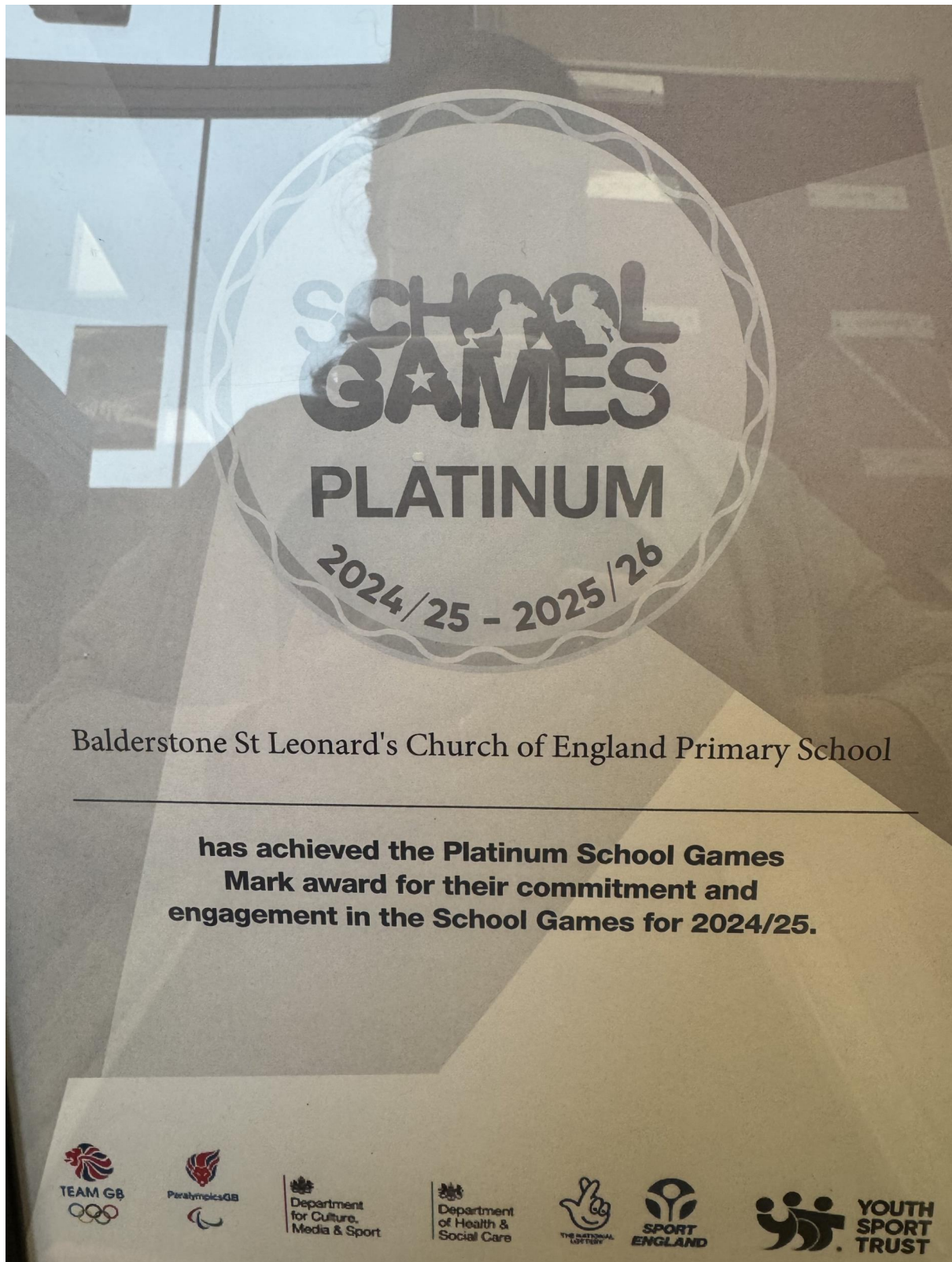
- Outstanding Pre-school education from **2 years of age**
- Incredible **outdoor learning** and **play-based exploration** (limiting screen time & prioritising learning outdoors)
- Maths mastery** school & outstanding reading and phonics attainment
- BRAND NEW EYFS** unit, outdoor area, adventure trail and bike track (with over £380,000 investment in 2025)
- Incredible Forest School provision & qualified staff
- Platinum** school games accredited school.
- Two residential holidays for every child
- Gold** Artsmark school & History Quality Mark, Step Outside EYFS award
- Wraparound care from 7.30am till 6pm. Holiday club provision too.
- Free breakfast club for ALL children from 8am every day**

Open week Monday 13th - Friday 17th October 2025
Showcase day
Thursday 16th October 9.30am - 7pm
 with Headteacher talks at 9.30am, 1.30pm and 6pm, Forest school experience, chat to current parents and governors, share refreshments & enjoy a pupil led tour

01254 769 150 @BalderstoneSch1
 www.balderstoneschool.co.uk

RING NOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

We are PLATINUM again!



Hooray - Balderstone's outstanding commitment to health, wellbeing and school sports has been recognised again in us receiving our Platinum school games award. Only a handful of schools in the Ribble Valley have been recognised with this accreditation and this is due the

teamwork of our staff, Mrs Heyworth as our sports champion, the coaching team from Progressive Sports, our energetic and enthusiastic children and our incredible parents and carers who drive us to and from events and cheer us on. Thank you to everyone who has made this happen again for our small school. As we commit further to health and wellbeing and the significance of sports and games in a world that is becoming more sedentary and screen based, we will do all we can to make sure that our children learn to love physical activity, learn how to win with humility and joy, lose with grace and resilience and cooperate as a team!

Well done team Balderstone!

Sports Round-up - Cross Country



On Thursday a group of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Hyndburn Cross Country competitive races and Fun Run at Witton Park. They all did their best and we are proud of **each** and **every one** of them. We were definitely the loudest supporters and it was great to see the way in which the children supported and encouraged each other. We were also the only school to have children take part in the fun run showing our commitment to both competitive and also participation in sports. A huge congratulations to all the children who completed the race (which was quite a long way) and to all those children who placed. Poppy and Poppy both came within the top 25 racers, which was an incredible result, and they should have qualified for the East Lancashire district event later in the year.









Inclusive books - delivery for Balderstone



As you know, one of the most precious things about our school is the diversity in our school family. We are all different and precious in God's sight, but Mrs Gow was getting worried about something..... was that diversity being represented in the reading books we were using around school? Was every child and their unique qualities, heritages, religions, neurodivergencies, talents and experiences being reflected in the book diet we offered our children? That was when a little prayer was answered....

I completed an application for one of the IBC (Inclusive Books for Children) and we won!

"I am delighted to let you know that, following your application in July, Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary has been selected as one of the recipients of an IBC Book Box. You should receive your box of 100 recommended inclusive children's books in the next couple of weeks."

And we did.....we have received the most glorious collection of 100 brand new children's books suitable from our youngest Brambles right up to Year 6 which feature children with different skin colours, backgrounds, religions and neurodiversities and interests so NO child in our school feels excluded or underrepresented by the books in our school. We have unboxed the books and two of our pupils librarians Ameerah and Yahya have helped Mrs Riddell get the books out on display in our library, ready for the children to explore and take out in their weekly library sessions. WE ARE THRILLED by our new collection and shall we making some short videos to send the the IBC to say a huge Balderstone thank you for our amazing new collection.

Book fair arrives next week



We LOVE reading at Balderstone and it is at this time of year that we hold one of our 2 annual book fairs. Father Christmas, particularly at this time of year, starts to get VERY busy getting preparing for the Christmas season and with this in mind our Scholastic book fair is in school from Thursday 16th October - Tuesday 21st October. The book fair will be open:

- After school on Thursday till 3.30pm (as part of our Showcase event)
- Friday at breakfast club from 8am - 8.30am and then after school till 3.30pm
- Monday after school till 6pm so our after-school club children can access it
- Tuesday at our Toddle B.A.T.S group and then after school till 3.30pm

You will be able to pay with vouchers, cash or your card/phone at the fair (mobile reception allowing).

These fairs are an important part of our school reading year, as we use the commission we get to buy class reading books so each classroom has it's own sets of readers.

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:





In Forest School this week, Year 1 and 2's challenge was to create their own boat from as many natural materials as they could find. There were some amazing designs with some help from our adult boat builders too! There were those with sails, conkers, string to control them and some were even named. The boat races were very tense with lots of cheering. There were many false starts and Mrs Burton did a great job of catching them at the finish line! In the end we decided, if your boat floated, then you were a winner! Look out for the photo of our toad friend who had moved in to Squirrels outside area. We all met him then we rehoused him in the nature area on the field.

On Thursday next week, everyone will be out in Forest School for a session for our Showcase Open Day. Please can all children from Preschool to Year 5 bring along their Forest School clothes and wellies. Remember, Year 1 and 2, you need your Forest School clothes on Monday too!









Our special themed "Out of this World" lunch





On Wednesday we went "Out of this World!" at lunchtime! Our lunch was spaced themed to coincide with World Space Week. All the budding astronauts at Balderstone enjoyed the planet pizzas, space rock cakes and of course the flying saucer treats! We had some great space travel thought provoking discussions as we ate. Thank you to everyone that helped make our lunch so special especially Mrs Burton and Miss Lee (best school cook in the whole of Lancashire, if not the universe!)





Safeguarding section



Mental health



This 10th October was World Mental health day. With this in mind (pardon the pun) here is this week's directory of mental health services in the area for children and young people.

Nowadays many young people experience issues such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders and self-harm. If you are ready to share how you feel, help is available. Talk to someone like Mrs Gow or your child's class teacher and we can direct you to our school nurse or go to your GP in the first instance. Professionals can refer your child to [ELCAS](#).

<https://elht.nhs.uk/services/paediatrics/east-lancashire-child-and-adolescent-services>

This is a specialist mental health service for children and young people. You can also get support from the following organisations:

- Kooth: [create an account online https://www.kooth.com/signup/available-in-many-areas](https://www.kooth.com/signup/available-in-many-areas) to get access to a free and anonymous mental wellbeing community for people under 25 years old. You can also receive support from counsellors.
- Samaritans: call 116 123 for confidential emotional support or email jo@samaritans.org
- Shout: for immediate help, text SHOUT to 85258 to text with a trained crisis volunteer
- **Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust** The Trust run a mental health helpline, where you can get help and support for any mental health issues. Ring the helpline on 0800 013 0707
- **Lancashire Mind** Lancashire Mind are a local mental health charity who offer a wide range of services and support to children, adults and whole communities <https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/>
- **Every Mind Matters** Every Mind Matters offers help and support with your mental health and wellbeing.

Church and Community Corner



Supporting Bishop Philip



Bishop Philip's Harvest Appeal

The Harvest Appeal Pedal-along – To publicise the Harvest Appeal, on October 17th Bishop Philip is going to go on a bike ride in which he will visit and pray in one school or church in every single one of our 14 Deaneries. The schedule will be publicised in advance in the hope that some of you might be able to join him for prayer. Here are our Reception and pre-school children taking part in their pedal along with Bishop Philip. More photos of the rest of school cycling along to raise funds for the Bishop's Harvest appeal next week...









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>