



# Newsletter 14th November 2025

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

*Friday 14th November 2025*

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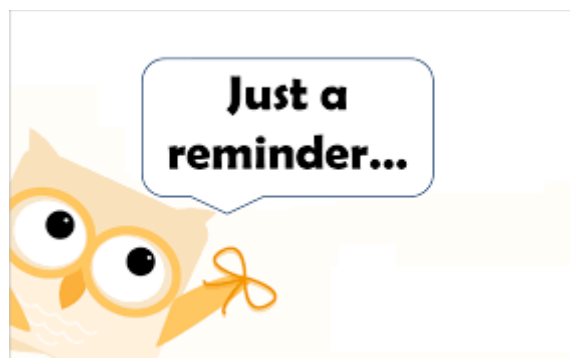
## In This Issue



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## **Dates and reminders**



**Monday 17th November.** Year 3/4 football tournament at Edisford leaving school at 2.25pm  
(see Parentmail for more information)

**Wednesday 19th November** Year 4 parent lunch 12.30pm

## Weekly Words



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*This week we remember all those who lived and died in the service of our country, protecting our values of freedom, democracy and humanity. We also remember everyone who is **still** impacted by world conflicts. On Tuesday, as we stood together on our school playground for our act of remembrance, the reality of the sacrifice that young men made became very real when we stood in silence just metres from the graves of some of the local young soldiers who died in the First World War. Those young men had played, been schooled and lived locally to our school. We continue to hold those facing the horror and aftermath of conflict in our prayers, as we remember Jesus' words as he told the crowds that, "Blessed are the peacemakers."*

*A special mention this week to our Year 4, 5 and 6 football team, who despite fielding a team of only 7 players (with no subs), did the most incredible job at Monday's tournament. They showed real grit, determination and team work and Zak did an incredible job in nets -*

keeping out a barrage of shots. For some of the players this was their first really competitive matches and they worked amazingly well as a unit securing 2 draws, 1 loss and 1 win!

The week ended with the joy of our annual Children In Need fundraiser. Mrs Burton and the school council do an amazing job of running our afternoon stalls to give the children the most fun possible whilst fundraising for this worthy cause. A huge thank you to her and to the very effective School Council team for their courageous advocacy and organisation.

It is the family ethos at Balderstone that makes it such a special place. As I prepare for my upcoming treatment, the family of parents, staff, governors and children have been the **most incredible** source of support, love and hope for me along with my faith. I am incredibly grateful for your ongoing prayers, kindness and support. Mrs Draycott has kindly offered to take up my head role in the afternoons and as such she will be out of class for the afternoon sessions, but do not worry Year 5 and 6 pupils - Mrs Cast is coming to the rescue. Mrs Cast will be teaching the Thursday and Friday afternoon sessions so you won't miss out on DT, ukuleles and RE with Mrs Cast as our resident expert in these areas. Our very own Miss Meg Evans (now Mrs Simm) will be covering my teaching commitment, so we have a **very** experienced team working in Year 3/4 too. A huge thank you to the staff team for taking up these additional roles to do the very best for our children. I am incredibly grateful to know everyone is in such good hands. Please do get in touch with Mrs Draycott if you need any support or information (I know you will be mindful of her increased workload at this time) [n.draycott@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:n.draycott@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk). Don't worry, I will keep in touch regularly to find out how everyone is doing and I'll be back with you, God willing, **as soon as I can**.

With love and appreciation,

Mrs Gow

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## Road Safety around school



Our governing body met this week and one of the things we discussed was the parking and driving situation around school. We are waiting for a follow-up visit from our PCSO team to discuss their latest speed check on the lane. If you have a disabled badge we would like your help, so we can protect these spaces for you. Would you please come and see Mrs Oddie in the office and register your car's registration plate, car model and colour, so our Road Safety Ambassadors/governors can monitor the parking in the disabled bays to protect these spaces for the families who **really** need them.

Children must **NOT** be left to cross the road without an adult and parents must **NOT** pull onto the zig-zag lines in front of the school to drop off - even at breakfast club time. This is because stopping here can cause an obstruction and decrease visibility for children/parents walking into school and also for passing traffic. We kindly ask that parents also do NOT park at the end of the church wall (near the place where children cross the road) as this is blocking visibility and we have had a couple of near misses where children have had to peer beyond cars to see oncoming traffic.

Our Junior Road Safety Ambassadors will be out and about with some of our governing body team to make our pick ups safer. Thank you for your understanding as we have the BEST carpark ever to use at pick ups and drop off times.

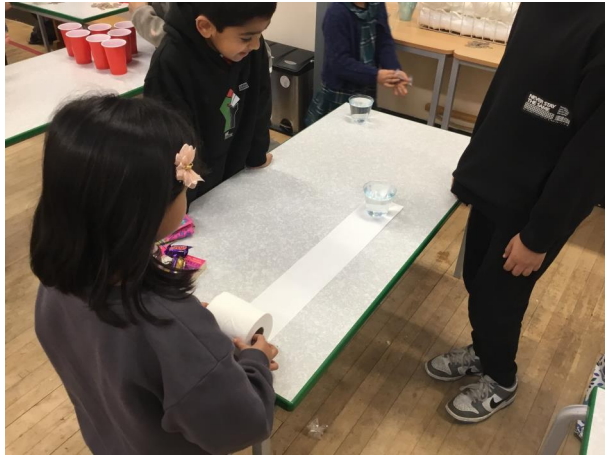
Child in Need 2025 - Friday 14th November



Thank you to Mrs Burton and School Council for a fun filled afternoon raising money for Children in Need. Over £400 was raised at the event, which for a small school is INCREDIBLE!

































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



There is LOTS to look forward to at BATS our Balderstone **B**aby **A**nd **T**oddler Squad this festive season. Our very own resident artist Mrs Turner is going to do two weeks of winter themed messy crafts over the coming fortnight to get us in the festive spirit.

On **Tuesday 2nd December from 9.30am all** our Brambles, Bunnies (pre-schoolers) and our Toddler group are going to have a special trip to Little Lancashire Village in Brownhill as part of their Everyday Superheroes learning. Even if your Brambles child does not attend on a Tuesday morning, they are invited to attend the trip on the morning of the 2nd December (more details to follow). They will need to bring their car seats into school on this morning, ready to be fitted to the minibus **or** you are welcome to drive your own child there and back.

There are now only a **few spaces for our BATS** (babies and toddler) and their grown up. Please let Mrs Gow or Mrs Oddie know asap if you want a space on the trip for you and your little one if you normally come to our BATS sessions.

The toddler group (BATS) Christmas party with special visitor (in a red suit) will be held on Tuesday 9th December from 9.30am - 11.30am.



Wellbeing Warriors - pupil report



Sophia, one of our wellbeing warriors has written her very own update of their training day.

## **BALDERSTONE PUPILS BECOME WELLBEING WARRIORS AT WHALLEY VILLAGE HALL CONFERENCE**

On Friday the 7th of November 2025, two pupils from the local primary school, Balderstone St Leonard's, visited Whalley Village Hall to attend a wellbeing conference. Staff selected these students as Wellbeing Warriors for their strong applications. The two successful candidates were Rehmat -Fatima Patel and Sophia Valli-Adam in the year 5 and 6 class.

During the 4-hour course, the two pupils participated in various activities. These included bounce clapping, name catching and emotion guessing. The course aimed to equip the Wellbeing Warriors with skills to allow them to return to school and support pupils with diverse needs, improving their overall school experience. They agreed to develop a six-week programme, each week covering a different theme on how to live their lives the best they could- by letting pupils participate through various wellbeing activities. They could emphasise healthy eating, drinking, and sleeping however they liked in school, for example during their daily assembly or in prepared class times. Staff members anticipate that this initiative will have a lasting positive impact on the school community and benefit everyone involved.

Sophia and Rehmat - Fatima enjoyed the wellbeing course and gave an explanation on good wellbeing and how to live with a positive, healthy mind. "To us, good wellbeing means feeling happy, safe and comfortable with ourselves and others. Having a healthy mind is about looking after our bodies, eating well, drinking water, getting enough sleep, and talking about our feelings with people we trust. It is equally vital to set aside time to unwind, engage in activities we love, and treat ourselves—as well as those around us—with kindness. Whilst everyone experiences ups and downs in life, taking care of our wellbeing allows us to feel our best and make the most of our time both at school and at home.

Upon their return to Balderstone St Leonard's, Sophia and Rehmat-Fatima are excited to share their newly acquired knowledge and support their peers in enhancing both happiness and confidence. Staff and students look forward to the wellbeing programme's positive effect on the school environment.

*We can't wait to see your first initiatives in action girls!*



SEND UPDATE

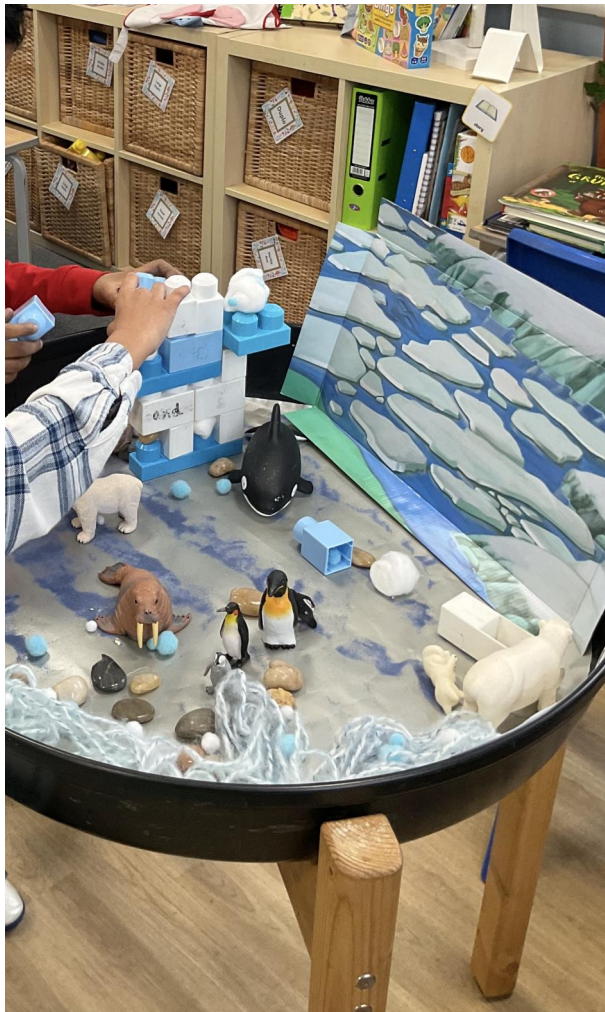


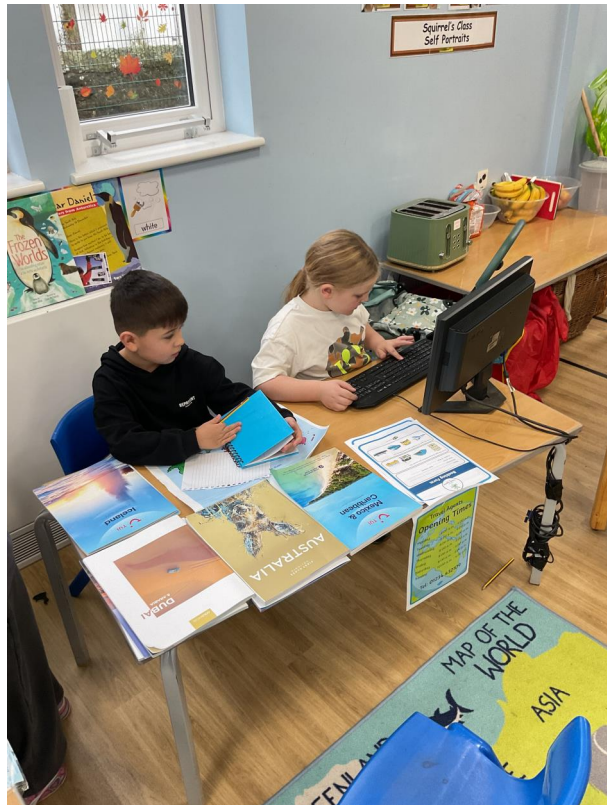
Please see the Autumn Term SEND Newsletter from Lancashire County Council.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/965589/send-newsletter-autumn-2025.pdf>

Thinking about booking next year's holiday? (during school holidays of course!)

The expert travel agents in Squirrels Class are ready to help! Here they are running their very own travel agency - learning about countries, continents and climate zones.







## 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:



**Gold AGAIN.** We are proud to announce that we continue to be a Gold Artsmark School.



Message from Artsmark - "Every Artsmark Award is a significant achievement. Thank you for your commitment to embedding arts culture and creativity across your whole school. We know the work and effort that this takes and would like to use this opportunity to thank you for completing an Artsmark journey. We hope you have seen the real impact that you have had."

A special thank you to Mrs Turner who coordinates and champions this work in school through her amazing creativity and leadership. Well done too to our Arts council and governors and parents who support the Arts at Balderstone so passionately. It is testament to our curriculum and extra-curricular offer, that Balderstone has again earned this prestigious award.

## Sports News



It's been a busy sporting week in school!

On Monday the school football team played their first lot of matches in the schools' league in Clitheroe. The team were fantastic, showing amazing teamwork, support for each other and good communication on the pitch. We won one, drew two and lost one. It was brilliant to see their calm, controlled attitude even when things got a little tough. Superb goalkeeping by our team captain Zak, who in one match must have saved at least 7 goals! Thank you to Coach Joe for all his coaching and for coming with us on Monday. Well done team! We're looking forward to the next round of matches!

On Wednesday, our Year 3 and 4 athletics team took part in the Sports Hall Athletics event at Oakhill. They took part in a range of different relays as well as field events long jump, vertical jump, bounce jump and the 5 strides as well as throwing activities. We just missed out the medals coming a brilliant 4th place!





Forest School



The weather doesn't stop Year 1 and 2! At 1 o'clock the rain started on Monday afternoon and stopped at 3, perfect timing for Forest School but that didn't stop us getting outside and even having a camp fire in the drizzle! For most it was their first fire in Forest School so first we talked through the safety aspects of having a fire and made sure everyone understood they never play with fire. The children were very patient as it took a little while to light but they all had a go at using the dragon sneeze to light a piece of cotton wool and of course we enjoyed toasted marshmallows! Well done Year 1 and 2, we hope you enjoyed it!





## Food for Life



Our Food for Life journey is moving on and this week the governors found out all about it in their meeting. It's wonderful to share all the brilliant things that go on at lunchtime. We've also been collecting some data about how many school lunches are served at Balderstone. Over the last half term, the percentage of children eating school meals was 87%! This just shows how much the children love Miss Lee's delicious lunches!

As part of the writing of our packed lunch policy, this week we're going to looking for the healthiest packed lunches that have been brought into school. Look out for the super healthy stickers!

Have a look on the following link for healthy packed lunch ideas:

[https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/media/vsdfjzo/packed-lunches-guidance.pdf?v=9wxXsl\\_kpUU&list=PLVVDe5yDpj6fTaOdmqgeqjiINP--chXSM](https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/media/vsdfjzo/packed-lunches-guidance.pdf?v=9wxXsl_kpUU&list=PLVVDe5yDpj6fTaOdmqgeqjiINP--chXSM)

## Church and Community Corner



Join us at Forest Church - EVERYONE welcome (bring your wellies)



Join us at Balderstone Church  
**Forest church**  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 4pm

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>

A promotional flyer for Balderstone St Leonard's CE. On the left, there is a photograph of two young children in outdoor gear. The main text is in bold, red and black fonts. It reads: 'BALDERSTONE ST LEONARD'S CE NURSERY, PRE-SCHOOL &amp; PRIMARY'. Below this is a red banner with white text: 'JOIN OUR SMALL SCHOOL FAMILY!'. Underneath is a black banner with white text: 'WE WELCOME 2 - 11 YEAR OLDS'. The text continues: 'A small school with outstanding opportunities! Come and see our school family in action. Open day is EVERY day!'. At the bottom left is a QR code. At the bottom center is the website 'https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk' and the phone number '01254 769 150'. At the bottom right is a small version of the school's logo.