

HEADTEACHER'S GREETING

WELCOME TO THE BALDERSTONE FAMILY





INFORMATION PACK FOR NEW RECEPTION PARENTS


Hooray - your child is joining us in the Balderstone family. We completely understand that your child starting Reception is a momentous step in your lives and we are here to support you every step of the way. This information pack should give you lots of answers to the queries and questions you may have about starting school at Balderstone - but if you still have other things you want to know then simply, get in touch and we'll be on hand to help. Thank you for entrusting your precious little one to us and we pledge to nurture them in body, mind and spirit whilst in our care.

HOW DO I KEEP IN TOUCH?

 Mrs Lisa Oddie is our school office manager and works from 8.30 - 3.30pm every day. She can help with admin, payments and organisational day-to-day things. Ring her on 01254 769150. There is lots of information on our school website too. Find it at <https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk>

 You will have a Parentmail account which lets you receive messages/letters from school and also make payments

 Mrs Turner and the team are contactable on k.foxes@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk.

 Every week you will get a school newsletter, a Rabbit Report and you can log in to Tapestry to share your child's learning journey.

LIVING, LOVING, LEARNING

CONTACT US



01254 769 150



What is the key mission of the school?



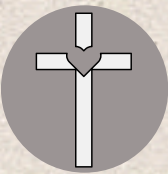
The small school with a big heart....



At the heart of our school...



Our school is a part of a strong and vibrant Christian community with a clear mission to inspire in our children a love of God, a love of each other and a love of learning. This is a happy, caring school family where everyone is noticed and known.



A love of God

Faith in God is central to our school. We are a Church of England primary school and serve a wide and diverse catchment. Our faith is lived in our school on a daily basis.



A love of learning...

Loving learning and developing a thirst for knowledge is central to our mission. Your child will experience a bespoke curriculum here and a wide range of enrichment activities. We are committed to outdoor learning and to fostering a love of nature and creation. Your child will be encouraged to live life in all its fullness here



A love of each other

Our school is a living community. Here you will find every member of our school community treating each other with love, respect and dignity. We celebrate our differences at Balderstone and recognise that we are all precious in God's sight!



Rooted and grounded in love.... Ephesians 3:17



Mrs Burton

Year 1/2 learning support/HLTA

Mrs Riddell

Year 3/4 teacher & Forest school lead

Mrs Turner

EYFS leader

Mrs Chand

EYFS learning support

Mrs Cast

Year 3/4 teacher & SENCO

Coach Joe

Sports coach & wraparound

Mrs Draycott

Deputy Headteacher & Year 5/6 teacher

Mrs Lorgat

Year 5/6 Learning support and nurture lead

Mrs Hussain

EYFS learning support

Miss Kennedy

Year 1/2 teacher

Mrs Gow

Headteacher

Mrs Oddie

Office Manager

Miss Lee

School Cook

Mrs Barton

Nursery learning support & wraparound

Who's who in the Balderstone staff family?

Balderstone Governors

We are blessed at Balderstone with a group of incredibly supportive, forward-thinking and committed school governors who help Mrs Gow lead the school. They are a mix of people of different backgrounds, professions, ethnicities and religions but with one thing in common - they all have the best interests of Balderstone St Leonard's CE Primary at the heart of all they do for school. Feel free to approach any of the governors for a chat.

* Mrs Janet Leaver - Chair of Governors

* Mrs Sara Seedall - Vice Chair

* Mrs Rosemary Cummins

* Mr John Evans

* Mr Ryan Dixon

* Mr Jonathan Greenwood

* Mr Akil Pathan (parent governor)

* Mrs Rebecca Gray (parent governor)

* Mrs Louise Dixon (SEND)

* Mrs Janet Smith

* Mr Mohmed Patel (co-opted)

* Mrs Dawn Burton (staff governor)

Who will be supporting my child?

As a small school, your child will be known and noticed by the whole of our school family.

In Reception, your child will be taught by our wonderfully creative Mrs Kate Turner, supported by our fantastic, established teaching assistants: Mrs Chand, Mrs Hussain and Mrs Barton. Your child will be given a key person, who will spend time **REALLY** getting to know your child and they will sit, snack and chat with them daily. Your child will also have a buddy from year 6 who will help them navigate their day and be there for support. Your child will be assigned a buddy who is matched to your child's needs, likes and personalities. The buddy will sit with them at lunchtimes and look after them on their lunch table. They will also be in the same house team to help at whole school events.

Mrs Kate Turner



Mrs Anisa Chand



Mrs Kiran Hussain



Mrs Aimee Barton



Miss Lee



How can I help my child get Balderstone ready?

Are You Ready?



At Balderstone we understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There are life skills that we expect children to be learning before their first day. Practising these will make your child's journey to Reception as positive as possible.

If your child is already at nursery, in our Balderstone pre-school, or with a childminder, these professionals will work with you and your child to help get them ready for September.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start with us at school.

What are the key timings of the day?

THE BALDERSTONE SCHOOL DAY

8.00am

FREE breakfast club in the school hall. Your child can be dropped off any time from 8am. Wraparound care is available from 7.30am every day.

8.40 am

Doors open for children not at the free breakfast club. Come through the red side gate on the left of front entrance and down to the Reception door.

10.25am

Worship (Monday, Wed & Thursday)
Friday celebration worship at 2.30pm in the hall
(parents welcome)

12pm

Lunchtime

3.10pm

Home time or into wraparound care. Wraparound care is available to either 4.30pm (short session) or 6pm (extended session)

What happens on the first day?

ON YOUR CHILD'S

FIRST DAY

WEDNESDAY 2ND
SEPTEMBER 2026

Arrive at school and park on the car park from 8.25am onwards. Please follow the safe walkway from the car park to the crossing (opposite the front entrance), then turn left towards the red gate. Walk past the first building (Year 1 & 2) and continue to the next door. Gates will open at 8.30 am and doors will be open from 8.40am. A member of staff will be there to greet your child.

We know goodbyes can be emotional—especially if there are a few tears. The best approach is a quick hug, kiss and goodbye, and we'll take it from there. If you're feeling unsure, you're very welcome to pop into the office and see Mrs Oddie. She'll make you a brew while we check in on your child and make sure they've settled. We promise that if your child continues to be upset and cannot be consoled we will contact you. We will give cuddles and reassurance (to both children and parents!)

What does the EYFS curriculum look like at Balderstone?

Learning through (and in) play!

Our Reception class timetable is very different from the rest of the school. The children take part in continuous provision which allows staff to focus initially on language development, child-led learning, confidence and independence. During the day the children will have guided adult led sessions for phonics, reading, writing and maths. The children do not have a set playtime as they are learning and playing from the moment they arrive at 8.40am and are provided with a snack time with their key person which allows them to hone their social skills and also allows them to prepare their own food!! Reception children have lunch with the rest of the school, looked after by their Year 6 buddy and their school day finishes at 3.10 pm. They have a forest school activity every week and have open access to the outdoors throughout the day (whatever the weather!)



The EYFS Framework

Children in the Reception Class (Rabbits) follow a curriculum based on seven areas of learning. All the areas are important and they are interconnected. Staff follow the statutory guidance in the EYFS Framework. This explains in detail what children are entitled to, in order to fulfil the EYFS curriculum.



What will my child learn in EYFS at Balderstone?

The prime areas of communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development are crucial for building a child's capacity to learn, ensuring enthusiasm for learning and developing good relationships.

Through the specific areas of mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design, the children learn the essential skills and knowledge for them to be successful.

Throughout the EYFS curriculum there is a focus on early language and extending vocabulary.

On-going assessment is an integral part of the learning and development.

The staff observe the children and assess their progress and needs.

Parents are kept up to date about their child's progress and development. In the final term of the child's reception year, each child is assessed against the Early Learning Goals, which make up the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.

This information is updated and regularly shared with parents.



Communication is key

Effective and regular communication is key to the success of your child whilst at Balderstone. Outstanding communication is one gift of a smaller school. Our doors are always open to you. We use a range of communication tools to keep you informed about your child's learning and what's going on in school.

- Weekly Rabbit Report outlines what's been happening in class and the children's learning
- Weekly whole school newsletter
- Parentmail emails from staff
- Tapestry app gives you regular updates personalised to your child and you can send in messages and photos of your child's progress at home too!



What if I need childcare beyond school hours?

OUR OUTSTANDING EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE OFFER

7.30AM - 6PM

We offer **UNIVERSAL, FREE** breakfast club for **EVERY** child at Balderstone. This means that you can drop your child off at school from 8am every morning, knowing they are going to get a healthy breakfast and a sports club before they go to class.

We work with our partners at Progressive Kids to provide an extended school day that runs from 7.30am- 8am and then 3.10pm till either 4.30pm or 6pm. We also have our own holiday club!

OUR PROGRAM:

- ✓ A different sports club every evening
- ✓ Homework support/reading club
- ✓ Healthy snacks/light meals
- ✓ Crafts, themed days, special events and holiday clubs



For more information see:

https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/2-Progressive_Kids_Breakfast_Afterschool_club_at_Balderstone

What will my child eat at Balderstone?



Balderstone follows ALL school food standards. You **MUST** keep us informed if your child has any **ALLERGIES**, intolerances or medical conditions, so we can help plan yummy, safe meals and snacks to meet your child's needs.

School dinners

All Reception children are entitled to a **free** school meal each day. Menus are included in your pack. Please complete and return your child's meal choices if you are wanting them to have a school meal. A packed lunch can be sent if preferred. Miss Lee makes all our fresh, homemade food on site every day and her meals are yummy! At least two vegetarian/halal friendly choices are available every day. Miss Lee and Mrs Burton also organise a number of themed lunches every year for your child to enjoy eg, Harry Potter lunch, Out of this World lunch, Teddy Bears' Picnic!

Breakfast

Your Reception child, at Balderstone, can also access a **FREE** breakfast from **8am** every morning. They can come in through the main school entrance and access the Fed, Read and Get Ahead club. Healthy breakfast choices - hot choices Monday and Friday and cereal, yoghurt and fruit available every day.

Toast

Morning toast: Available during morning break. This is **optional** and can be paid for termly if you wish for your child to have this morning snack as part of their key person time.

Fruit, milk and snacks

The children have open access to fresh fruit snacks throughout the day and will need a water bottle which they can fill up themselves throughout the day to stay hydrated. We also offer the free milk for kids scheme - meaning your child can have a glass of whole/semi-skimmed milk daily. 12

What should my child wear and bring to school?



UNIFORM

As a school we have decided to adopt a semi-formal uniform for our youngest children. This is because our children are SO very active during the school day, that we need them in clothing that is comfortable, easy to wear (and wash) and is cost effective to parents. The school colours are red, grey and white. Red sweatshirts, cardigans, white polo shirts and red polo shirts for PE, all embroidered with the school name, can be ordered through Whittakers Schoolwear, 01254 676047 or online at www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk or RVS, 01200 443733, or online at www.rvsschoolwear.co.uk. You are, however, welcome to purchase at any retailer.

Pre-school & Reception uniform

We want to make our youngest learners the most independent. Therefore we have modified our uniform to make it unisex and more child and messy play friendly.,

- Red sweatshirt/cardigan available with logo.
- Black elasticated tracksuit trousers
- Red polo shirt (badged or unbadged)
- White or black socks
- Black trainers with velcro
- Wellies are also needed in school
- Balderstone book bag
- Water bottle

Our PE kit

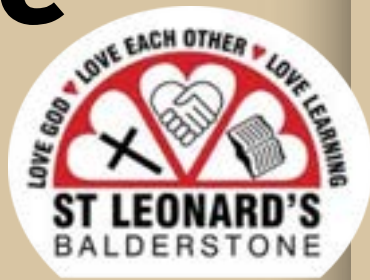
As we attend so many external sports events and competitions, we have a bespoke grey and red PE kit. Consisting of a polo shirt, shorts and an optional tracksuit. In Reception the children need the PE polo shirt and the shorts. They need a pair of black pumps.

- Red, grey and white PE polo shirt
- Red, grey and white PE shorts
- Pair of black velcro or slip on pumps
- PE drawstring bag with spare underwear, socks and a spare pair of tracksuit trousers (in case of little accidents)

LABELLING: PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS—CLOTHING, SHOES, BOTTLES AND BAGS—ARE CLEARLY NAMED. WE RECOMMEND STIKINS LABELS (£9 FOR 30). IF YOU QUOTE SCHOOL NUMBER 1122, THE SCHOOL RECEIVES 30% COMMISSION TOWARDS RESOURCES. THE WEBSITE TO ORDER IS WWW.STIKINS.CO.UK.



Smart Safe Practical



Jewellery

For safety reasons, **no** jewellery other than a small/plain gold/silver pair of earring studs and a watch is to be worn in school. These must NOT be worn on PE days.

A sensible analogue/non-smart watch may be worn from Year 2 onwards.

If your child is going to have their ears pierced, we would suggest that this is at the beginning of the 6 weeks Summer holiday so earrings can be removed for PE days.

Hair cuts & make-up

Hair should not be cut lower than a number 2 and there should be no visible lines or patterns. We do understand and make allowances for children who are returning from religious pilgrimage and may have had their head shaved as part of this. Hair should also be of a naturally occurring colour. We ask that long hair is tied up using bobbles/clips/handbands of school colours. Nail varnish or any kind of make-up should **not** be worn for school. Henna/mendhi is allowed for family celebrations/Eid.



How can I get involved in the school community?

Join the family...

Once your child joins us, you ALL become part of our extended Balderstone family...

Get involved...

Friends of Balderstone School (FOBS) our PTFA group organise brilliant events and fundraisers throughout the year. They're always delighted to welcome new members and fresh ideas! There's more information from them in their welcome pack. Look out for their event banner near the car park crossing for regular updates.



Every year FOBS arrange a number of family-friendly events to bring our school community together. They include: annual bonfire, Discos, Summer fun evening, Beetle Drive, film nights, foodie events.

We also provide a number of parent stay and play events, where you can come in and learn/play alongside your child. Once a half-term we arrange a Coffee Creative event where we craft together. **15**



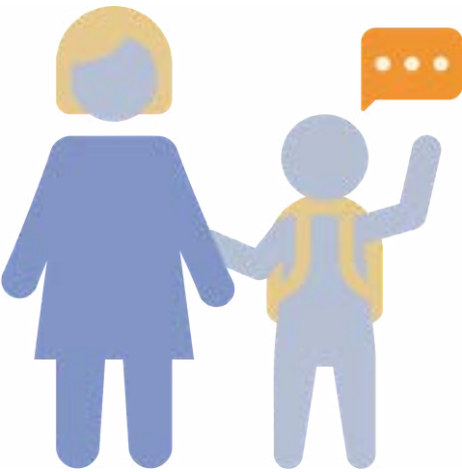
Friends of Balderstone School | Blackburn

Friends of Balderstone School, Blackburn. 52 likes · 7 talking about this. FOBS - The PTFA of our lovely little...

facebookapp

What are the routines for picking up from school?

Collecting your child – keeping your precious one safe



On your data collection form we will ask for the names of your 3 key contacts. These are the people, in order, whom you would like us to contact in case of illness or emergency and they are also the people who we know are authorised by you to collect your child from school. If, for any reason, someone different needs to collect your child from school or after-school club, we would ask that you let the class teachers know in the morning. You will need to set up a password for collection that is shared between you, your class teacher and your key adults – so we know they are who they say they are! You **MUST** keep your contact list up to date with Mrs Oddie in the office and inform us of any changes or changes in phone numbers/addresses please.

We are not being rude or horrid if we will not let your child leave school with someone we do not recognise or have listed. We have very clear safeguarding protocols in place to keep everyone safe. If we are in any doubt we may ask the person picking up to just wait for a few minutes at front office whilst we ring you!

Mobile phone use

We would politely request that wherever possible you do not use your mobile phone on school grounds. When picking up from school your little one needs you to meet, greet and ask them about their day and sometimes we see mobile phones getting in the way of this. We also have lots of children without photo permission and therefore mobiles are a safeguarding risk on our playground.





SCHOOL TERM DATES

SEPTEMBER 2026 - JULY 2027

AUTUMN 1

INSET DAY: TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER (NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL)

TERM STARTS: WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2026

INSET DAYS: THURSDAY & FRIDAY 22ND, 23RD OCTOBER (NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL)

HALF TERM HOLIDAY. MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

AUTUMN 2

START OF TERM: MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

END OF TERM: FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER (SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.30PM)

SPRING 1

TERM STARTS: MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2027

HALF TERM HOLIDAY: MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

SPRING 2

TERM STARTS: MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2027

TERM ENDS FOR EASTER HOLIDAY: FRIDAY 25TH MARCH AT 1.30PM

SUMMER 1

TERM STARTS: MONDAY 12TH APRIL 2027

MAY DAY HOLIDAY: MONDAY 3RD MAY 2027

INSET DAY: FRIDAY 28TH MAY (NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL)

HALF TERM HOLIDAY. MONDAY 31ST MAY - FRIDAY 4TH JUNE

INSET DAY MONDAY 7TH JUNE

SUMMER 2

TERM STARTS: TUESDAY 8TH JUNE 2027

TERM ENDS: WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 2027 AT 1.30PM

What do I do if my child is off school?



ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTERS!



Excellent attendance and punctuality REALLY do matter from the moment your child has started with us at Balderstone. We have an expectation that your child will be in school every day and be in time.

We do however realise that youngsters pick up germs and viruses and we would ask that you take a really sensible, common sense approach and follow our school policy on absence.

If your child has a sniffle, a runny nose, a bit of a cough or is feeling a bit under the weather – send them into school and if they start to struggle, run a temperature or get upset we will ring you straight away, we promise!

If your child has had ANY **vomiting** or **diarrhoea** they must **NOT** come into school for 48 hours after the last occurrence eg, if your child is sick at 1am on Sunday early hours, then they cannot return to school until the Tuesday.

If your child is poorly then:

- please let school know first thing in the morning – before 8.50am (registration).
- You can ring the school number 01254 769150 and press 1
- When prompted leave an absence message.
- Tell us your child's name, their class. eg Reception class and why they are off. eg, they have a temperature. We will then mark your child off ill on the school register.
- Alternatively you can use the absence button within ParentMail

HOLIDAY ABSENCES

We know that term time holidays are cheaper, but the impact on your child's learning is worth much more! We cannot authorise ANY holiday requests, other than in exceptional circumstances and you could be fined or prosecuted if you repeatedly take your child out of school for unauthorised periods (and we don't want that!)

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

How can I find out how my child is doing?

OUR OPEN DOOR POLICY

KEEPING YOU INFORMED...

As parents of a child at Balderstone School, it is hoped that you will keep closely in touch with the school to learn of your child's progress and discuss how you and the teacher may best help him/her.

Each year, you will be invited to a: Meet the teacher meeting, a parent's evening in the Autumn and Spring terms. A short written report will be sent home at the end of the Autumn Term and a longer report in the Summer term. Parents and carers are **always** welcome to call in school, and a longer appointment will be made if something cannot be dealt with briefly. You will also have email access to your teacher (please remember their wellbeing when messaging out of hours). Infant teachers send out weekly diaries to keep you up-to-date with the learning that week!



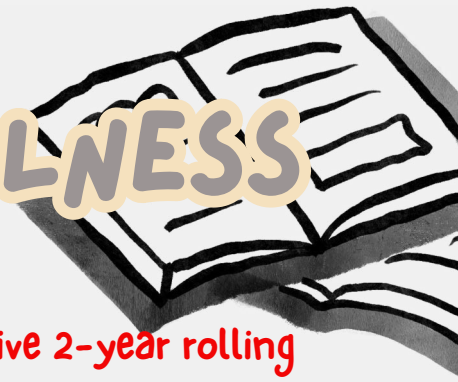
We are also delighted to invite parents and friends to our weekly Celebration Worship, when the children and their teachers share some of the work they have been doing. Flourishing awards are given out and special work or service to the school is recorded in our Golden Book. Each half term a Star is awarded to a pupil, from each year group, who has done something extra special throughout the term and has lived our school's mission all half-term!.

Parents and friends are also invited to **many** other events during the school year such as Harvest Festival, the Christmas and Summer Concerts and Sports Day, Stay and Play sessions and Coffee Creative arts events.



LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

(JOHN 10:10)



At Balderstone we offer a broad, balanced and progressive 2-year rolling curriculum, which has been recognised winning a number of awards:



FOREST SCHOOL ACCREDITED

We have our own accredited Forest school trained Practitioner. Every week, Mrs Riddell takes one year group out for a block of Forest school sessions.



GOLD HISTORY QUALITY MARK

Our History teaching, curriculum and extra-curricular offer has been awarded the highest level of accreditation. We have our own History Council in school too!



PLATINUM SPORTS AWARD

We might be a small school, but our sports provision is MIGHTY! We are a Platinum sports graded school and have won the Ribble Valley participation award for 2023!



BISHOP'S CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS AWARDS

Christian distinctiveness is central to our school. It permeates all we do! As a diverse school - invitational and inclusive worship and interfaith relationships are core to our school family!



GOLD ARTSMARK AWARD

We emphasize Arts education alongside STEM and reading, promoting critical thinking, creativity, and innovation. Our students are not just learners but creators and problem-solvers. We have an Arts council and Balderstone Brushes team too.



OUTSTANDING SIAM'S INSPECTION

Our Siam's (Church school inspection) highlights the excellence in our school ethos. Find our more information about this report here: <https://www.balderstoneschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=13&type=pdf>



STEP OUTSIDE LANCASHIRE QUALITY MARK 2024

Our curriculum incorporates environmental education, teaching students about sustainability, conservation, and the importance of caring for our planet. Our EYFS team have won the outside learning award.



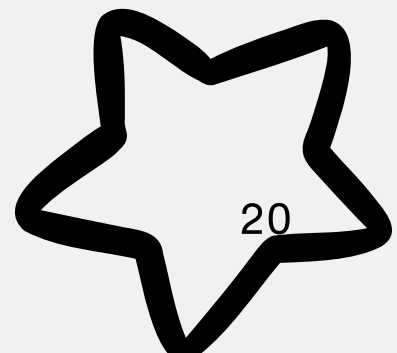
CONTINUED GOOD OFSTED GRADING SEPTEMBER 2023

Ofsted recognised the outstanding ethos, behaviour and curriculum offer of our small school. Find out more here: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50232288>



WOODLAND TRUST BRONZE

In recognition of all our eco and stewardship work in school, we have been awarded the Bronze tree award.



How do I know my child is safe at Balderstone?



SAFEGUARDING - ENSURING EVERYONE IS SAFE & HAPPY SO ALL CAN FLOURISH



Safeguarding is central to EVERYONE at Balderstone. We are a happy school AND we are a school that puts the wellbeing of our school family at the heart of what we do!

OUR SAFEGUARDING OFFER

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS



Our school has two trained DSL (designated safeguard leads) Mrs Gow and Mrs Draycott. Every member of staff in school (staff and volunteers) have all been trained in safeguarding and reporting concerns.



OUR CULTURE

It is a core purpose of our school to safeguard our children. We do this in many ways: Through the ethos and values of our daily worship. Through our planned program of relationships education. Through our commitment to online safety. Through our wider curriculum. Through our behaviour for learning and anti-bullying policies.

EARLY HELP OFFER



As a school we understand that we all need help sometimes and it is okay to not be okay. Therefore, as a school we invite our families to be open with us and together we shall signpost our families to support networks to help when times are tricky.



POSTIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Our school flourishes because we ALL treat each other with love, respect and positivity. We have a positive behaviour plan that focuses on reinforcing kind and respectful behaviours based on our school values.

WAYS IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE WELLBEING

- Family groupings for every child so they have a team of children who are looking out for their wellbeing.
- Buddy system to give our youngest children the best role models.
- House point and house team scheme.
- A staff team who know, recognise, greet your child daily and nurture every child as an individual
- Qualified nurture support worker who supports our children with specialised individual and group sessions.

PHOTO PERMISSIONS

In the forms that we ask you to complete annually, one is about photo permissions. We have to take some photographs for assessment purposes and to fill in your child's journal. You can choose NOT to give permission for us to use your child's photo on the school website, newsletter or social media. Most of our children do have photo permissions so you can see them learning and having fun on trips etc.

How do I know my child is safe at Balderstone?

Do not worry, we shall treat your child as if they are our very own.

We have first aiders and paediatric first-aiders in EYFS and the infant classrooms. On the forms you will in, please let us know of any medical conditions, allergies or disabilities that your child may have. Keep us updated if there are any changes, so we can keep our records up-to-date. Please make sure we have the most updated contact details for you, so we get in touch if needed.

What happens when my child has a **minor** accident?

- We will reassure, cuddle and calm you child
- We will administer first aid - clean wounds, apply ice, apply plasters but we are not allowed to use any creams/lotions on wounds (as they may cause a reaction)
- We will let you know verbally on the playground at pick-up time and send a Parentmail notification headed First-aid administered
- We may send you a bump to the head notification with more detailed information on how to monitor your child and act if necessary
- **If we are in any doubt about your child's injury/condition we will ring you as soon as possible and ask you to come to school immediately.**
- **If your child has an ongoing medical condition we may write a medical action plan with information to share with staff.**

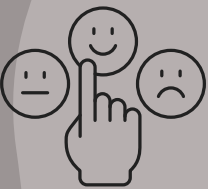
My child needs to take regular medicine. Is this okay?

We understand that there are some conditions that require regular/ongoing medicine.

If your child has a medical condition that needs drugs administering during the school day, then please let us know this as soon as possible. We may need to organise some staff training or resources to help.

- If the medicine is long-term and needs to be kept in school (eg and asthma inhaler), then please bring the medicines in, labelled and names with a pharmacy label. This medicine will be kept by Mrs Turner securely in the classroom.
- Parents are responsible for checking used by/expiry dates etc on medicines and replacing them when necessary. We shall send home any medicines every half-term for checking/topping up/replacing.
- If your child is poorly and needs short term medication (eg antibiotics), then please obtain a form from front office and fill it in. We can then arrange for the medication to be administered/kept in the fridge.
- Unfortunately, we are not allowed to administer medications that are not prescribed without written consent from parents.

Please see our medicine policy or come in and talk to us if you need more information/help.



Outstanding behaviour at Balderstone

Our children demonstrate exemplary conduct and "behaviour for learning" is encouraged, expected and recognised within each class.

service at the core

Rooted in God's love

We pride ourselves on teaching all our children to be independent, motivated and proud of their school.

OUR BEHAVIOUR POLICY IS STRONGLY ROOTED IN OUR CHRISTIAN ETHOS, THE CHILDREN ARE ASKED TO CONSIDER "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?"

Manners are routinely taught, modelled & expected

The strong positive relationships which staff model and expect from the children are a foundation which builds upon the respect and love which we show each other every day in our small school.



SELF-REGULATION TAUGHT

FOCUSED ON RESTORATIVE PRACTICE. WHEN WE MAKE MISTAKES WE PUT THEM RIGHT AND WE ALSO FORGIVE OTHERS

The way we act, speak and behave is rooted in our shared values of love, respect, stewardship and radical hospitality.

We are courageous advocates, uphold British values and support our community in Balderstone, Blackburn and beyond!

Incidences of poor behaviour or bullying are extremely rare and are dealt with promptly in-line with our behaviour policy.

children are taught to speak out and stand up for justice

Inclusion



ALL PRECIOUS IN GOD'S SIGHT AT BALDERSTONE

BEING A SMALL SCHOOL, WE KNOW, NURTURE AND CHALLENGE OUR CHILDREN TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE AND TO SHINE WITH THE VARIED GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN THEM. EVERY CHILD IS SEEN AS PRECIOUS AND UNIQUE.

It is important to understand that children do not mature or learn at the same rate as each other and, therefore, every effort will be made to ensure that individual needs are catered for at Balderstone. Children with particular needs and neurodiversities are given specialised help wherever possible. We have a policy for Special Educational Needs which is in line with the National Code of Practice and follows a staged approach. Where necessary, outside agencies are involved to ensure that children with learning needs are supported as effectively as possible. Parents are regularly kept informed about their child's progress.

Mrs Joanna Cast is our trained SENDCO and is available to support families on their journey.



Am I entitled to further financial support?

We know that times are tough financially and there are a number of entitlements that you may be eligible for. This information is **confidential** between the school and the family, but can make a huge difference to the finances that school has available to spend.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 currently gets universal free school meals.

PUPIL PREMIUM

The pupil premium is extra money for schools to help disadvantaged pupils of all abilities achieve their full potential.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR PUPIL PREMIUM IF...

You currently receive:

- **Universal Credit** with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- **Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance**
- **Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Child Tax Credit**, not entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- **Income Support**
- **Working Tax Credit 'run on'** – the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work
- Currently eligible for free school meals (FSM) or have been eligible for FSM at any point in the last 6 years
- **Looked after by the local authority**
- **Previously looked after** by the local authority or other state care.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

If your child is **exposed** to another language at home, eg a grandparent/parent speaks to them in Urdu, Gujarati etc then school may be eligible for some additional funding to support speech, language and communication within the school. We see speaking another language as a benefit so please do not feel that you cannot tick the box on the school data form that says EAL. A large number of our children are EAL and this does make a positive difference to our school funding - so please tick the box if your child hears, speaks or understands another language other than English in your household.

IF AT ANY TIME YOUR FAMILY'S FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, COME AND SPEAK TO MRS GOW IN CONFIDENCE AND WE WILL SEE HOW WE CAN HELP