



Balderstone St Leonard's Church of England Primary School

Commons Lane

Balderstone

Blackburn

BB2 7LL

The Early Years Foundation Stage



Phone: 01254 769150

www.balderstoneschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs V Gow

Chair of Governors: Ms E. James

Mission Statement

This 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.

A warm welcome to Balderstone's Early Years Foundation Key Stage.

This prospectus is designed to give you an insight into how the Pre-School and Reception class operate at Balderstone. Through working together we very much hope that your child's time in Early Years Foundation Stage will prove to be a happy and successful beginning to their education outside the home environment.

Aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage

- ◇ To provide a welcoming, happy and caring environment where each child is valued as an individual.
- ◇ To develop independence, self-confidence, self control and self discipline.
- ◇ To help each child relate to peers and adults.
- ◇ To encourage awareness of and sensitivity towards the needs of others.
- ◇ To foster and promote intellectual development through looking, listening and doing.
- ◇ To encourage fluency and coherence of speech.
- ◇ To foster initiative, curiosity and good humour.
- ◇ To foster good relationships between home, school and the community.
- ◇ To develop an enquiring mind, an interest in learning and enthusiasm towards the next stage of school life.

Please note: if your child attend our Pre-School, it does not guarantee a place in the Reception class. A separate application must be made through Lancashire County Council by the January prior to your child beginning school. Please see the admissions section on our website.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to all children from birth to five. In our school, children may join the Pre-School in the term after their 3rd birthday. Children may start in the Reception Class at the beginning of the school year in which they turn 5. The EYFS is important in its own right, and in preparing children for later schooling. The **Early Learning Goals** set out what is expected of most children by the end of the Foundation Stage and can be found on the EYFS page of our website.

The principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage are aimed at:

- ◇ Allowing your child to develop as a unique child.
- ◇ Allowing your child to develop positive relationships.
- ◇ Allowing your child to learn within enabling environments.
- ◇ Allowing your child to experience opportunities that will enable them to learn and develop.



Most importantly as part of the EYFS, we consider the Characteristics of Effective Learning for each child here at Balderstone Primary School.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the prime and specific areas of learning are all interconnected. They underpin everything that practitioners offer in the environment. The characteristics describe how a child learns.

When children are left to explore a stimulating learning environment on their own, they will learn through playing and exploring. At Balderstone we have skilful early years practitioners who intervene to ensure the children have the right guidance to make significant progress in learning through the environment and experiences they are offered. When planning activities or experiences our Early Years staff always remember the different ways in which children learn and reflect these in our practice and provision.

Each of the seven curriculum areas of learning hold equal importance and are delivered through a balanced approach to learning, with learning becoming more formal towards the end of the Reception year, to prepare children for Year 1.

Play is a vital part of learning. Through play the children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them to make sense of the world. They practice and build up ideas and learn how to control themselves, take responsibility for their actions and understand the need for rules. They are given the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They are able to express fears or make mistakes in a controlled and safe environment.

Themes and topics

The themes and topics which are explored within the Early Years Foundation Stage will largely be directed by the interests of the children. You can help to enhance your child's learning by allowing them to bring in artefacts and books relating to the theme or if you have a particular interest/work within an area which is linked to the theme, then you would be welcome to come and talk to the children.

Our environment

We are very lucky to be situated within a beautiful rural setting. Not only do we spend much of our time indoors, we equally get outdoors. Children have open access to the outdoor provision during the day to develop their skills from all areas of the curriculum. Whether rain or shine, the children often choose to be outdoors. We provide children with wet suits for us in bad weather/for mucky activities but we ask parents to provide their children with a pair of wellington boots that are labelled with their child's name and kept in school. We cannot guarantee that children's clothes and shoes will be kept clean.

Key Worker System

At Balderstone Primary School we operate a Key Worker System in the Early Years.

A key worker has responsibility for the well-being of a small group of children; to ensure that their emotional and physical needs are met and to help those children in the group feel safe and cared for.

Small groups foster close bonds between the child and the key worker in a way that larger groups cannot do as easily. These groups allow the key worker to better 'tune into' children's play and their conversation to really get to know the children in the group well. Children feel settled and happy and are more confident to explore and as a result become more capable learners.

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage is divided into 7 areas.

There is a central focus around 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas. These are;

PRIME AREAS

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

PSED is a crucial part of a child's development in Early Years. Activities include circle time, games to learn social skills and teaching the children to be independent.

Physical Development

Physical Development allows the children to develop their fine and gross motor skills both in the classroom and outside.

Communication and Language

Communication and language focuses on listening and attention, understanding of language and speaking. Children are encouraged to be articulate and communicate freely with both staff and their peers.

SPECIFIC AREAS

Mathematics

The mathematics strand of the curriculum includes Number and Numerical Patterns.

Literacy

Literacy is split into 3 main areas, Comprehension Word Reading and Writing.

Understanding of the World

Understanding of the World allows the children to explore the world around them. Elements of this area of learning include people and communities, the world and technology.

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive Arts and Design allows the children to access and explore the artistic, musical and dramatic elements of the curriculum. A major focus here will be on the children using their imagination.

The areas of learning are planned as a variety of adult led, adult supported and child led tasks. In all activities the emphasis is on learning through practical activities and play in the continuous provision available to them on a daily basis. Each learning area has a set of goals attached to it which the children should have achieved by the end of the Early Years Foundation Key Stage.

Preparing your child for the EYFS

Pre-School and Reception

Starting school can be an apprehensive time for some children. The experience is new and quite often the children will only know one or two others. However, there are ways in which you can help your child to prepare for his or her big day. Successful “settling in” depends, in part, on your child being able to cope with what s/he will be doing at school. One of the biggest things you can do to help you child prepare for school is to encourage them to be independent in all aspects of daily life. **Children need to be toilet trained before starting in our pre-school.**

It will help immensely if you consider the following:

How well can my child:

- Pull down their own clothing and sit themselves on the toilet independently?
- Put on his/her coat, socks and shoes?
- Fasten zips and buttons?
- Wipe his/her own bottom and nose, and wash his/her hands?
- Tidy up own activities?
- Share his/her toys and games?
- Listen to and enjoy stories?
- Listen to and enjoy talking to family and friends?
- Recite rhymes and sing songs?
- Carry out instructions?
- Ask questions?



School times

Pre-School children

Free early education entitlement funding is available for eligible children, this is currently 15 hours per week and you may be eligible to apply for the extended 30 hours free childcare. You can find further information at www.gov.uk or www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk. There is also an option to top up the hours and be invoiced by school. Children can attend pre-school on a part-time or full-time basis.

Sessions:

Full day: 8.45 a.m.—3.10 p.m.

Morning Session: 8.45 a.m. – 11.45 am (optional until 12.45 p.m.)

Afternoon Session: 11.45 a.m.— 3.10 p.m.

Reception Children

Children attend Reception on a full time basis (8.50 am to 3.10 pm) after their initial induction period. Full time education is compulsory, therefore it is important that your child comes to school every day, except in cases of illness.

Arrival and collection of Children

The Early Years class doors are opened at 8.40a.m. before our registration time of 8.50 a.m. At this time, children can sort out their coats, bags and lunchboxes, before joining in with our morning routines.

Please be on time to drop off and collect your child, being picked up late can be very worrying for young children. If you have any problems please let us know. For safety reasons it is important that the Early Years Foundation Stage staff are advised if anyone other than a parent will be collecting your child.

When bringing your children to school by car, please make sure that you park safely on the large car park opposite our school and use the identified walk ways. School closes at 3.10 p.m.. Please wait for your child with the Early Years playground area where they will be sent out of the classroom to you.

Extended care

Before and after school care is available through 'our very own Busy Bees Club which runs Monday-Friday during term time. Take a look at our website at the fun things they get up to.

Starting School

When your child starts school, please remember that it is an exhausting business, so don't be surprised if they are extremely tired when they come home!

To make life easier for the children, and for us, please ensure that they have their names on **everything** (PE kits, lunch boxes, coats, skirts, trousers, jumpers etc.) It is very easy for a child to pick up the wrong jumper which then causes upset and distress! The stick-on, sew-in or iron-in stickers are the best option, as writing with a pen washes off fairly quickly. Labels can be purchased from many online retailers such as <https://www.mynametags.com> and are inexpensive. We cannot take responsibility for any lost items of clothing.

Children are asked to bring a water bottle they can easily identify as their own as they will have access to it throughout the day.

SNACKS - As we are part of the government's Fruit In Schools Scheme, all infants are offered a piece of fruit each day in the afternoon. Children in Reception—Year 6 can buy toast and crumpets via ParentMail each term.

BUNNY BUNDLE - We do ask Pre-School parents to make a voluntary donation of £2 per week towards the Pre-school department. This is used to purchase specialist resources which are age appropriate and has been used to subsidise trips and snacks. This can be purchased through ParentMail by selecting the 'Bunny Bundle' for the term.

LUNCHTIME - Pre-school meals are £1.60 per day. All children are entitled to free school meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Should you wish your child to bring a packed lunch from home instead, please ensure it is healthy! This means no chocolate bars, sweets or fizzy drinks. Pre-school children can either bring a pack lunch or purchase school meals through ParentMail. All meals are pre-ordered so if you wish to change from school meal to a pack lunch we do need two week's notice please.

School uniform

GIRLS

- ◆ White polo shirt
- ◆ Grey skirt/pinafore
- ◆ School Sweatshirt/cardigan
- ◆ White socks/ red or grey tights
- ◆ Red & white checked dress for Summer (optional)
- ◆ Grey trousers for Winter (optional)
- ◆ Black school shoes

PE KIT

- ◆ Red T Shirt
- ◆ Black shorts
- ◆ Black pumps
- ◆ Red drawstring P.E. bag

OUTDOOR KIT

- ◆ Black Jogging Pants
- ◆ Zip Hoody
- ◆ Trainers (Velcro please)

BOYS

- ◆ White polo shirt
- ◆ Grey school trousers
- ◆ School sweatshirt
- ◆ Grey socks
- ◆ Black school shoes
- ◆ Grey school shorts for Summer (optional)

EARINGS

Children may wear a small stud earring but must be able to remove these themselves for P.E.

Hair: Please note that the school does not allow 'fashion' haircuts. Long hair should be neatly tied back.

- ◆ A red school logo book bag will also be needed in Reception class (with no key chains attached)

Pre-School children will be given a book bag on their first day

Please be careful when ordering uniform. If it is for a Pre-School child, please ensure you ask for the Pre-School logo. Pre-School may not need a PE Kit depending on which days are attended. Please check with the class teacher before ordering.

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS - Ordering online is available

Whittakers Schoolwear

Waterloo Pavilions

20-26 Church Street

Blackburn BB1 5AL

01254 676047

Whittakersschoolwear.co.uk

Ribble Valley Schools

Bank House

Harris Court, Wellgate

Clitheroe, Blackburn

01200 443733

rvsschoolwear.co.uk

Attendance

If your child is absent please telephone the office before 9.30 a.m. each morning so class teachers can be informed. Please leave a message on the school answerphone which is available at anytime. Attendance is closely monitored and regular absences will result in intervention from the Headteacher. Please refer to our Attendance Policy on the school website.

Sharing Information

Please inform us of any changes to addresses, phone numbers or emails as soon as possible. This can be done by sending a letter to the class teacher or by telephoning the school. We use email as a regular form of communication so please ensure that email addresses are up to date.

A weekly newsletter is posted on the schools website with up to date information and a 'Dates for Diary' section. Regular Facebook messages and tweets will also appear on the website.

For information on data protection for pupils please refer to our Privacy Notice on the website.

Parental Involvement

Home and school are the two most important factors in the education and well being of young children. Therefore we see parents as partners in the education of their children, and welcome and encourage their involvement.

Each Half Term in the Early Years, we hold a number of sessions where parents and families are invited into class to take part in activities with their child. During this time, you can play alongside your child and have an informal chat with the members of staff in class.

The Friends of Balderstone School (FOBS) produce a social calendar for the year for children and families to hopefully have fun and socialize. In addition these events raise much needed funds for school resources. All parents are welcome and their support is much appreciated.

There is always a member of staff on the Early Years door at drop off times so if you have any messages to pass on, you can catch us then.

Behaviour System

Our behaviour systems fall inline with the school's overall behaviour policy. We try to operate with lots of positive praise to reward good behaviour. House points, stickers and certificates are used to reward good behaviour. Any unwanted behaviour is dealt with at a level suitable to the behaviour. This could be from time out to more serious incidents being recorded in our behaviour books and dealt with by a member of our Senior Leadership Team and parents being informed. We do not tolerate any unacceptable behaviour and appreciate your support in building an environment that develops a positive learning culture.

Celebrating Success

At Balderstone Primary School we always encourage the children to do their best and they are rewarded for good and improved work, effort, behaviour and attitude.

All children belong to a school team. The children work hard to earn team points and the team with the most points at the end of each term will enjoy a treat.

In our Celebration Worship, one child from every year group will be placed in the Golden Book. At the end of each half term, one child will receive the 'Star' badge in recognition of achievement, progress, attitude or amazing qualities they display in class and around school. Every child in school is sung to in assembly for their birthday and we celebrate not only what the children have achieved within school but also any extra curricular successes that they may have.

All parents are warmly invited to join us for our Celebration Worship, You will be notified of the dates for these in advance. You will also be notified in the week before the assembly if your child is due to be presented with an award or certificate in the assembly. You would be welcome to bring your child, even if they do not normally attend pre-school on a Friday.

First Aid and Emergency Arrangements

Despite every effort, care and concern, it is possible that your child may become ill whilst at school or have an accident.

Minor accidents and illnesses are dealt within school, the incident recorded and the child checked by a qualified Paediatric First Aider. A note alerting you to any serious incident/injury will be handed to the class staff to be given to parents at the end of the session. We can administer water or ice pack only. Injuries requiring further treatment require immediate consultation with you. For more serious injuries/incidents, emergency procedures are set into operation and the emergency services would be contacted if necessary. Therefore it is important that the school has up to date information with regard to your contact point.

Where possible we request that parents/carers make every effort to administer medicines to their children themselves. However, when this is not possible, parents need to complete a form at the school office giving details of the medication and authorising administration by school personnel. All medication should be in its original container and have the dose and child's name written clearly on it.

For children who need regular medication, the school nurse will be able to agree a care plan with parents and school before your child begins in the setting, so that it is administered appropriately. All medications will be sent home at the end of every half term for parents to check the quantity remaining in the contents, expiration and replenish/return to school for the next half term.

Safeguarding

Because of the day to day contact with children, schools are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour or failure to develop. As a school we will always support families and will broker support from the Wellbeing and Early Help Service. Parents should be aware where it appears to a member of staff that a child may have been abused they will be contacted immediately and asked to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. If there is serious cause for concern, Lancashire County Council and Children's Social Care will be contacted. There is a policy for child protection in school and the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher are trained to deal confidentially with safeguarding issues.

We take online safety very seriously, please see the information on our website. You will also be offered the chance to attend a parent's information meeting.

Balderstone as a Church School

As a Church of England primary school our Christian mission and values are at the heart of all we do. Worship is central to school life and takes place every day. All classes follow the Blackburn Diocesan RE syllabus and we have very close community links with Balderstone Church. We also host regular visitors and hold special faith days in school. Although parents have a right under the 1944 Education Act regarding Religious education & Worship to have their children withdrawn from worship & RE, we would expect that if you choose our school for your child's education it is with the full understanding of the Christian Ethos of the school and that you will be happy for them to be involved in worship and Religious Education.

Special Educational Needs

It is important to understand that children do not mature at the same rate as each other and, therefore, every effort will be made to ensure that individual needs are catered for. Children with particular learning difficulties 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 difficulties are supported as effectively as possible. Parents are regularly kept informed about their child's progress. The Headteacher is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Health and Safety

CHILDREN'S SAFETY IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE IN ALL OUR CONSIDERATIONS.

There is a Health & Safety Policy available in school and the Head Teacher is appointed to be the Health & Safety Representative. There is always at least one member of staff who holds an up to date paediatric first aid training certificate on site. All visitors, including parents, are required to sign in at the school office and all helpers/volunteers must have a current DBS check. There are written guidelines for helpers/volunteers to help keep both them and the children safe within the school.

Full risk assessments are carried out on all school trips.

Medical Conditions

If a child suffers from a medical condition, eg – asthma, hearing difficulties, etc, wherever possible, the school will work with parents to accommodate the needs of the child. Where there is a greater need, we will work with health professionals & our school nurse to ensure your child has a care plan in place before they begin in our setting.

Finally!

Thank you for choosing to become a part of Balderstone St Leonard's Primary School. We hope that your child will be very happy here.

