



Blackgates Primary Academy

SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY EDITION

Friday 16 January 2026

Principal's Message

We have had another busy week here at Blackgates. The younger children had stay and play sessions showing their parents how wonderful they are at mathematics. Robins shared what 'subitise' means and how they are learning to recognise how many items there are without counting. This helps them know their number facts to 10 and above.

The school dogs are still visiting each Friday. Margot and Dave are very popular with the children and they love chasing after the balls the children throw.

Key Stage 2 children have begun a new spelling scheme which they are enjoying, it is very interactive with songs and rhymes to help and less worksheets!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Julie Coulson

Notices

Reminder: Please do not ride bikes on school grounds, this is hazardous to others.



Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026
Friday 22 May
Monday 20 July
Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips/Events

22 Jan Year 3 trip Leeds City Museum
27 January - KS1 Winter Olympics - Morley Leisure Centre
28 Jan Year 5 Music & concert day (more details to follow)

EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Tuesday 10 February - Love & Hearts theme
Monday 2 March - Pancake decorating
Friday 13 March - Mothering Sunday



Ducklings

We have been settling back into our routine this week, and the children have transitioned smoothly — including our new little Ducklings. We have been reading Elmer in the Snow and creating Elmer-themed artwork, which linked perfectly with the cold weather we have experienced this week. We would also like to thank all the parents who joined us for Stay and Play this week and enjoyed seeing how we promote maths within the Little Ducklings group.

Nursery

This week the children have been thinking about all of the changes they can see happening outside in our local environment and thinking about how we can keep warm by wearing hats, gloves, scarves, mittens and winter boots. The children have been practising their fine motor skills by threading hoop cereal onto pipe cleaners to make bird feeders for our wildlife and developing their gross motor skills by creating zigzag icicle patterns in Squiggle While You Wiggle with hand flappers and crayons.

Thank you to all of our families who joined us for our maths themed 'Stay & Play' session this week. The children love welcoming their special grown-ups into class to play! If you haven't spotted the dates for the next sessions please speak to a member of Nursery staff who can let you know when they will be happening.

Please look out for your child bringing home a Nursery Library book next Wednesday. All of the information will be included in a blue folder that your child will be bringing home with them on this day.



Doves



This week in Doves, we've begun our exciting journey learning about the United Kingdom! The children loved using string to create the UK's outline and carefully placing each country's flag in the right spot. In maths, we've been exploring 2-D and 3-D shapes, and the children had great fun spotting real-life objects that match these shapes. Why not join in while you're out and about? Ask your child: How many cylinders can you find? How many cuboids can you see?

I was so pleased with the amount of homework returned this week - it's clear the children really enjoy continuing their learning at home. New homework will be handed out each Wednesday, so keep an eye out in the children's book bags!

Miss Ruse



Helpful

Robins

As part of our PSHE topic we have been discussing ways we can be helpful or unhelpful to others.

I know all the children in Robins can be very helpful so I thought it would be nice to celebrate how they help at home. It would be great if you could upload a little paragraph or photo of ways they help at home. For example, this could be being kind to others, tidying up, carrying their own bags to school or making someone at home smile-I am sure there are many more ways you can think of too.

We will share this with the class and children will receive a 'Being Helpful' certificate and sticker!



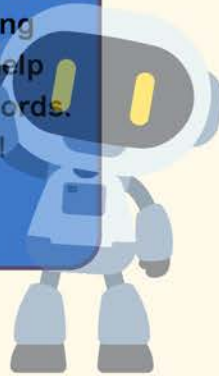
Penguins

Just a few reminders - please can you ensure the children are bringing their PE kits on Tuesday and Friday. Tuesday is outdoor and Friday is indoor. Children must have a plain white tshirt and either black shorts or trousers and trainers. The children also change their reading book on a Thursday so please can we ensure these are coming back to school. Children should also be reading at least 3 times per week and it should be recorded in their reading records.



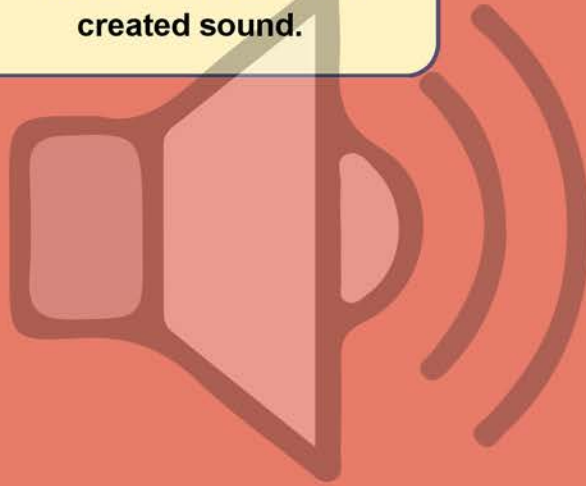
Nightingales

Year 3 have had a super week. They are really enjoying the new Ready Steady Comprehension reading lessons, which have been based upon 'The Wild Robot' book. They have learnt lots of new vocabulary and have been great at finding evidence to answer questions! Everyone has been enjoying the Ready Steady Spell lessons too, where they have loved singing along to the rule rhymes to help them remember how to spell words. Great effort from everyone!



Ravens

This week in Science, the children have started a topic learning about sound. We have investigated how sound is made by using tuning forks, drums and elastic bands to make vibrations which then created sound.



Falcons

Year 5 have enjoyed experimenting with a range of oil pastel techniques, including sgraffito, scumbling and stippling. We will be using these skills to create our own interpretations of the Rainbow Mountains in Peru. In music, we have been practising our song 'What About Us' ready for our performance at Woodkirk - more information to follow.

Hawks

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful second week back in Year 6. The children have settled in brilliantly and are already working hard across all subjects.

In writing, we have begun our work based on the novel *Holes*. The children are currently focusing on writing a conversation between two characters, and they are showing great imagination and a growing understanding of dialogue skills.

We are also beginning to think ahead towards the SATs in May. Over the next few weeks, we will be sending out letters inviting children to attend some optional booster sessions before or after school. These sessions are simply an extra opportunity for practice and support.

Thank you for your continued support.



Check out this app it is called Lumi Nova - it is for children aged 7-12 to help them to learn how to manage and reduce symptoms of anxiety. It is free in certain areas including Wakefield. Click on the link below.

Lumi Nova - Free for families in Wakefield — Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage

Get instant access to a fun digital therapy app to help your child self manage their worries.

- 7-12 year olds (mild to moderate anxiety)*
- NICE Recommended
- Evidence Based

Stars of the week

Week ending 16.01.2026



Stars of the week

Week ending 16.01.2026



Congratulations to all of our Stars





Our new website is now live please take a look at

www.blackgates.org.uk

We are also on Social media please search for us and give us a follow and like.



COULD YOU SPOT A LOAN SHARK?

A loan shark may pretend to be a friend but can become aggressive if you miss payments

They can charge high interest and don't give paperwork

They may threaten or bully you or your family

If you need help, contact
Stop Loan Sharks
in confidence

0300 555 2222
stoploansharks.co.uk



@SLSEngland @StopLoanSharksEngland
#SLSEngland #StopLoanSharksEngland

STOPLOANSHARKS
Intervention - Support - Education



**Blackgates
Primary Academy**
a member of Lincoln Academies Trust

Principal: Mrs J Coulson

Dear parent/guardian,

As you may be aware your child's school has a milk scheme, administered by Cool Milk. Mid-morning milk provides a much-needed nutritional boost and keeps children hydrated between breakfast and lunch. Children receive free milk until the age of 5. After that, they can continue to reap the benefits of fresh mid-morning milk at a subsidised* cost.

If you'd like to opt in and have not already done so, simply register your child at www.coolmilk.com/register. Your child(ren) will continue to receive free milk whilst under the age of 5 and Cool Milk will get in touch with further information by email shortly before their 5th birthday.

For children who are already over 5, it's not too late - our scheme is flexible! As well as being able to register and make payment straight away, you can join and cancel the scheme at any time. We offer yearly, termly and half termly payment periods and a recurring payment option to give you one less thing to remember.

If you already have an online Cool Milk account for a sibling, you can manage your account, make payment and add extra children by logging in at www.coolmilk.com/parents.

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at www.coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below - we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☎: 0800 321 3248
🌐: www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DfES via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Delta via the School Milk Scheme.

Cool Milk at School Ltd | Cool Milk House | Kingsley Park | Kingsley Road | Lincoln | LN6 3TA | ☎ 0800 321 3248 | 🌐 www.coolmilk.com



Blackgates
Primary Academy

a member of Leodis Academies Trust

Principal: Mrs J Coulson

Dear Parent

Find below the term dates for the 2026/27 academic year for the Leodis Academies Trust schools.

	First day of the term	Last day of the term
Autumn Half Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
Autumn Half Term 2	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
Spring Half Term 1	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
Spring Half Term 2	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027
Summer Half Term 1	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
Summer Half Term 2	Monday 7 June 2027	Friday 16 July 2027

Please note:

- The August Bank Holiday falls on Monday 31 August 2026. This means the first day of the academic year is Tuesday 1 September 2026. All of the Leodis Academies Trust schools will use Tuesday 1 September as a staff training day, with the term for pupils and students starting from Wednesday 2 September.
- The dates of the two week Easter break are different to those being used by schools following the Leeds City Council term dates. Leodis Academies Trust usually follows the Leeds City Council term dates but for the 2026/27 academic year, it is believed that adopting the amended calendar will lead to better continuity and quality of education around the Easter weekend and two week holiday.
- Usual expectations regarding pupil and student attendance will be in place. Holidays may be granted in exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Principal of the school. If parents have already arranged holidays according to Leeds City Council's Easter break, they should contact the school with evidence of the date that the booking was made, which will precede the date of this letter, so that consideration can be given as to whether it will be granted as exceptional.
- Monday 19-21 July 2027 are staff training days and schools will be closed to pupils and students. Any additional training days that will take place throughout the year will be communicated in due course.



We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our

school

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GB

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

Need help using Arbor?

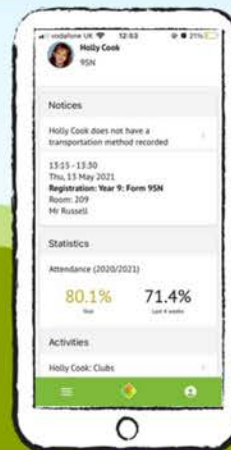
Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or

Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired - Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



Absences



If you do need to take your child out of school for any reason please can you either show proof of a medical appointment to reception or for a longer absence please fill out a leave of absence form so that we know where they are. It is our legal responsibility to follow up on absences and if we know in advance it saves us from having to contact you.





BLACKGATES PRIMARY ACADEMY

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26

Holiday	The Academy Closes	The Academy Opens
Summer		Monday 1 September 2025*
Autumn mid term	Friday 24 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025
Christmas	Friday 19 December 2025	Monday 5 January 2026
Spring mid term	Friday 13 February 2026	Monday 23 February 2026
Easter break	Thursday 2 April 2026	Monday 20 April 2026
May Bank Holiday	Friday 1 May 2026	Tuesday 5 May 2026
Summer mid term	Thursday 21 May 2026*	Monday 1 June 2026
Summer break	Wednesday 22 July 2026*	

Training Days

- 1 Monday 1 September
- 2 Monday 1 December
- 3 Friday 22 May
- 4 Monday 20 July*
- 5 Tuesday 21 July*