



Friday 24 April 2026

## Principal's Message

It has been a sunny week and we have been out on the fields enjoying the wonderful weather. Our children love to be outside on the grass and it has been lovely to watch them enjoying football and playing with the school dogs.

We are looking forward to next week which is going to be doing a lot of investigative science. Monday we have science workshops which should be a lot of fun. The week will involve lots of science and children will be looking forward to parents coming in Friday afternoon at 2.45 to see what your child has experienced.

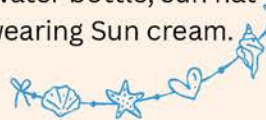
We have had a bun sale to raise a little money towards the science workshops.

Thank you for your ongoing support  
Mrs Julie Coulson



## Notices

With the warmer weather approaching please remember to send children with a water bottle, sun hat and wearing Sun cream.



## Important

### Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May  
Monday 20 July  
Tuesday 21 July

### Dates for your Diary

#### Trips/Events

Friday 1 May at 2.45pm - Science afternoon in school - Parents invited into school to see the work the children have done in class.

#### Family Cookery Club

W/C 22 April for 5 weeks speak to Mrs Turpin for more details

#### EY & Y1 Stay and Play

##### Summer

Monday 8 June - Fathers Day  
Wednesday 17 June - Inventions  
Thursday 25 June - Writing  
Monday 13 July - Teddy Bears Picnic



# Ducklings



In Ducklings this week, we have been enjoying the story "Barry the Fish with Fingers" and used it as inspiration to create our own colourful craft fish. The children have loved making their designs and sharing their ideas with each other. As part of our activities, we explored a fun fine motor task by drawing on foil, and we also created blue "sea" water like in the story, using sponges to squeeze and develop our hand strength. We've been making the most of the sunny weather too, spending lots of time outdoors riding bikes and practising our balancing skills on the equipment. It has also been a lovely week as we have welcomed lots of new Ducklings into our room, who are settling in beautifully.

# Nursery

Nursery have settled back into routine well this week and enjoyed sharing what they have done in the holidays with their friends.

We have been exploring matching shapes in Maths and have had fun using lots of different puzzles.

The children have enjoyed the lovely sunshine when using the outdoor provision this week and using Natural Materials to make collections.

They have enjoyed reading 'The Storm' by Sam Usher during reading this week and linked this to their own experiences.

We have looked at the 'v' sound this week and really enjoyed singing 'Incy Wincey Spider' during phonics sessions.

Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring making musical instruments so any kitchen roll tubes or cardboard boxes you have spare would be greatly appreciated.





# Robins

This week, our Reception children enjoyed an exciting trip to the brand-new Tingley are Ardsley Local Library. For many of them, it was their very first visit to a library — and what a fantastic introduction it was.

As soon as we arrived, the children were welcomed by the friendly library staff, who were eager to show them around the bright, colourful children's area. The space was filled with a huge selection of books waiting to be explored.

The highlight of the visit was a special storytime session. The librarian read a lively book that had the children joining in with actions, repeating phrases, and giggling throughout. It was wonderful to see how confidently they engaged with the story.

After storytime, the children had the chance to browse the bookshelves themselves. Many discovered new favourite characters, while others proudly showed their friends books about animals, vehicles, and fairy tales. The staff also explained how borrowing books works, helping the children understand how they can return with their families to choose books of their own.

Our trip helped the children build early reading excitement, develop confidence in a new community space, and experience the joy of exploring books independently. We're incredibly proud of how well they represented our school, and we're already planning our next visit.



# Doves

I have been really pleased with how well the children have settled back into class after the Easter holiday. They have enjoyed beginning our new topic lessons, especially our History lesson where we started exploring what toys looked like in the past and how they have changed over time. The children enjoyed deciding whether different toys required technology or not and shared some thoughtful ideas. We also had our first trip to the local Ardsley and Tingley Library, where the children listened to stories and were given some free time to read and explore books independently. Library memberships are free and the library is open to the public, so we would highly encourage families to visit!



# Penguins

It's been fantastic having Year 2 back after their Easter break. From what they've told me, it sounds like they had an excellent break.

Our topic this half term in the Stone Age. In History, we will be looking at how people in the Stone Age lived, what they ate, how they dressed and what their houses looked like. We will be comparing this to the Iron Age. In DT, the children will be making their own Stone Age tabards - they have already expressed how excited they are for this!



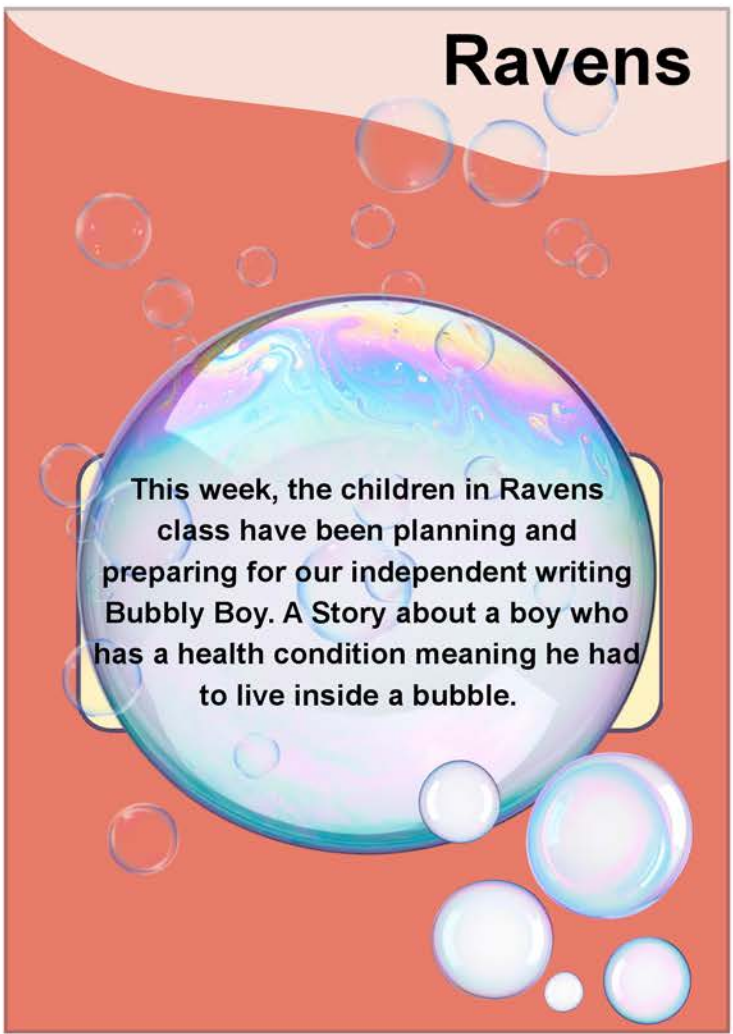
# Nightingales



Year 3 have had a great first week back, having been on two class trips! We really enjoyed visiting Dawatal Islam Mosque in Batley on Wednesday. Everyone found it very interesting to have a real-life experience inside a mosque, to learn about the different features of a mosque and to learn more about the Islamic religion. Many children had very thoughtful questions to ask the Imam. On Thursday, we visited Tingley and Ardsley library. It was great to carry out a book hunt and to spend time with friends reading some books.



# Ravens



**This week, the children in Ravens class have been planning and preparing for our independent writing Bubbly Boy. A Story about a boy who has a health condition meaning he had to live inside a bubble.**

# Falcons



We've had a fantastic first week back, and the children have settled back into routines brilliantly. They are thoroughly enjoying our new space topic and have shown great enthusiasm and curiosity in their learning. We're all very excited for the upcoming workshop and activities next week, which will further bring the topic to life. We are also looking forward to our visit to the library, where the children will have the opportunity to explore a range of books to support their learning.

# Hawks

Hello everyone,  
Welcome back after the Easter holidays. I hope you have all had a well-rested and enjoyable break and are ready for the final term of Year 6. This term, we will be learning about World War One and World War Two. This is a topic that children often really enjoy, and there is so much to learn. We will be continuing to explore this topic even after the May holiday to give us time to really understand and engage with it.

We are also right in the middle of revising for the upcoming SATs. The children have been working hard, and we will continue to support them through revision in a calm, focused and positive way.

Looking ahead, for the Year 6 yearbook I would love to show the children's journey from their first day at school to now. If you are able to, please could you email a photo of your child to [info@blackgates.leodis.org.uk](mailto:info@blackgates.leodis.org.uk) so I can start putting together something really special.

If you have any problems or questions at all, please just ask.





Our new website is now live please take a look at

[www.blackgates.org.uk](http://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

# FAMILY COOKERY CLUB

Blackgates Primary Academy  
Wednesday 1.45 - 3.15pm  
Starting 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026  
For 5 weeks



**For only £1 a session:**

- Learn lots of new recipes together
- Get excited about cooking healthy meals, snacks, and desserts
- Get your kids to try new foods
- Spend quality time together



 **flourishing families**

Please contact Helen Turpin  
0113 8873609 to book a place



# SEND parent drop in Sessions

Dedicated support to families navigating the challenges of raising children and young people with diagnosed or emerging neurodiverse needs.

This support may include tailored advice, signposting to relevant services, and access to helpful resources. It may include help around (but not limited to) the following:

- ADHD
- Autism
- Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia
- Dysregulation
- Food/Eating
- Home Support Ideas
- Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)
- Reasonable Adjustments
- School Advice - Primary
- School Advice - Secondary
- Sensory Needs

With a combined 20 years of teaching experience across a broad spectrum of needs, as well as extensive safeguarding and family support knowledge we bring both expertise and empathy to every interaction.

**Sarah Oxley SEND Coordinator (inner south hub) Kim Corson SEND Coordinator (outer south hub)**

### Upcoming dates:

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April (Dewsbury Road Hub)
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May (Dewsbury Road Hub)
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (Rothwell Hub)
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July (Rothwell Hub)

### To book your place



#### Email:

[Family.hubs@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Family.hubs@leeds.gov.uk)

Please reference

**'Inner and Outer South SEND family drop in'**

in your email with your name and preferred date/s



#### Call:

0113 5350185

Family Hub central line

When you make a booking, you will be allocated a time slot between **10:00am-12pm**





**Blackgates  
Primary Academy**  
a member of Leeds 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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.coolmilk.com/parents).

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](mailto: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](http://www.coolmilk.com)



SCAN TO REGISTER

\*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by DHSC 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 | Leeds | LS6 3TA | ☎ 0800 321 3248 | 🌐 [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)



**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\***



**Blackgates  
Primary Academy**

a member of Leeds 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'
  - Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
4. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
5. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



**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.

