



Friday 13 February 2026



## Principal's Message

It has been another very wet week unfortunately. I have heard it will be another one next week too. Today we finish for half term and will return to school the following Monday 23 February.

Years 5 & 6 have been busy cooking in Design and Technology. It has been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This week some pupils took part in a Leeds school's Pentathlon. They were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the sporting event.

It was safer internet day on Tuesday and all children had lessons to reinforce online safety. 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

Monday 16 February- Friday 20 February half term.

24 February Year 5 trip.  
3 March Reception trip.  
4 March Year 2 trip.  
5 March Year 6 trip.  
18 March Year 1 trip.

Starting w/c 4 March for 5 weeks Family Cooker Club - See more information in Newsletter.

Friday 13 March Science afternoon in school.

Friday 20 March Class photographs

#### EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Monday 2 March - Pancake decorating  
Friday 13 March - Mothering Sunday



# Ducklings

Our Little Ducklings have had a wonderful week celebrating Valentine's Day! The setting has been a sea of pink, red and hearts, with the children fully immersed in our themed areas of provision. A particular highlight was the red rice sensory tray. The children worked on their fine motor skills by scooping and pouring.

We also want to extend a huge thank you to the parents who joined us for our 'Stay and Play' session. It was lovely to have you with us, and the children were so proud of the cakes they decorated! We hope you all enjoy a restful half-term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back w/c Monday, 23rd

February

# Nursery

Thank you to all of our lovely families that managed to attend our Love and Hearts Stay & Play session this week! The children always love welcoming you into our classroom environment! This week the children have been busy creating their own Valentines Day cards to bring home, independently printing love hearts and writing their names inside their cards. Everyone tried really hard with this and they look beautiful! We hope you like them too!

We've also been practising making love heart patterns, placing buttons and counters onto patterns lines which has helped us to develop our shape and spacial awareness in addition to making love potions with love heart sprinkles, confetti and coloured water.

Well done Nursery. You have all worked really hard this half term. We hope you have a lovely restful break and we look forward to welcoming you all back to do some lovely love heart envelope baking activities and pancake decorating!

# Robins

A big thank you to everyone who attended our stay and play session. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing the classroom with their special grown ups.



Just a quick reminder about our upcoming class trip as I know it was while ago you received the letters.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions via Parent Pay. If you have not yet contributed and can please do so as soon as possible.

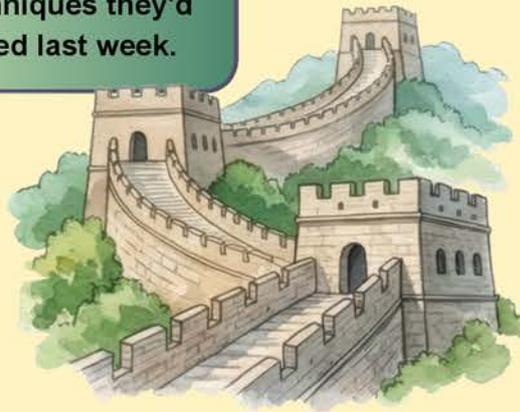
# Doves

This week in Doves has been full of fun and creativity! The children absolutely loved taking part in Computer Safety Day, especially coming dressed as their own avatars - it was wonderful to see their imaginative outfits. We also enjoyed a Valentine's Day themed stay and play, where the children got beautifully messy with finger painting and creative crafts. And as a special treat for winning highest attendance last week, we're ending the half term with an exciting movie experience to celebrate their fantastic effort! Wishing you all a lovely week off, and I'm already looking forward to a brand new term filled with fresh topics and more exciting learning.

Miss Ruse

# Penguins

In Topic, Year 2 have been learning about the Great Wall of China and they've been amazed by how long it took to build! In DT, the children created a part of the Great Wall using clay - they tried so hard to recreate the barrier tops and brick work using the techniques they'd practised last week.



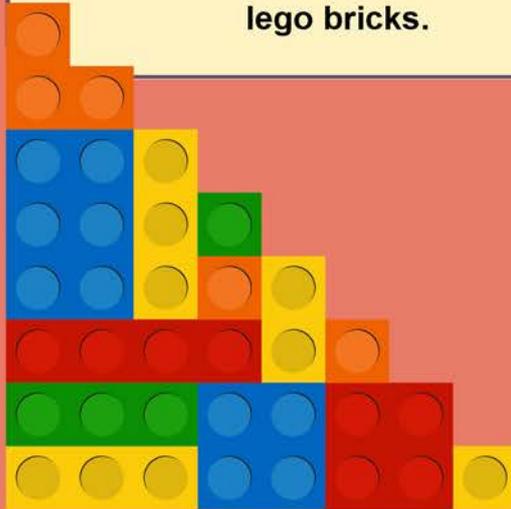
# Nightingales

Well done year 3 for a fantastic half term. You have all tried so hard and been superstars - you have made me feel very proud! Great work this week everyone in Maths lessons on the 'doubles practise' work. I am very proud of you all, especially those of you who have beat their score from a previous day. You have all worked very well today, creating an ancient Egyptian tomb painting. I think we have some artists in the making in Nightingales!  
Enjoy the break and see you in one week!

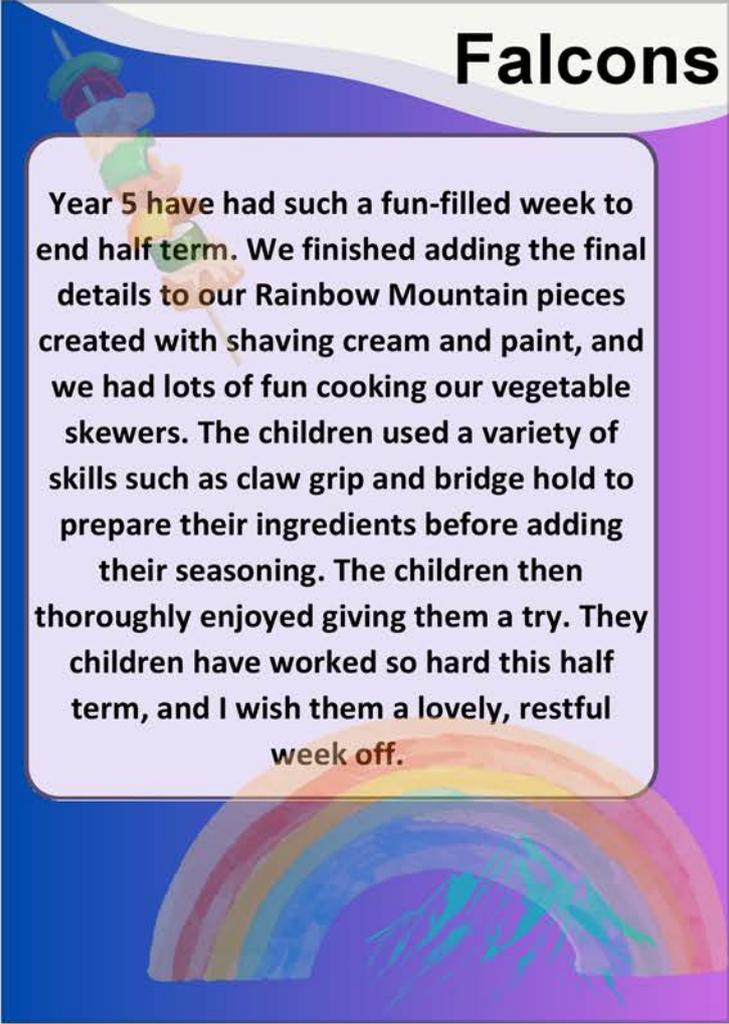


# Ravens

This week in Ravens, the children have been exploring catapult mechanisms in Design and Technology. We have had a full DT day on Friday where we have designed and made a wooden catapult using lollypop sticks. The children then tested how far they could launch little lego bricks.



# Falcons



Year 5 have had such a fun-filled week to end half term. We finished adding the final details to our Rainbow Mountain pieces created with shaving cream and paint, and we had lots of fun cooking our vegetable skewers. The children used a variety of skills such as claw grip and bridge hold to prepare their ingredients before adding their seasoning. The children then thoroughly enjoyed giving them a try. They children have worked so hard this half term, and I wish them a lovely, restful week off.

Well,  
Done!

## Hawks

What a fantastic half term it has been! A huge well done to all of our Year 6 pupils for their hard work, positive attitudes, and brilliant achievements over the past few weeks. We are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished.

It was also lovely to speak to so many parents and carers during Parents' Evening. Thank you for taking the time to come in and for your continued support. As we head into the break, I would like to wish everyone a lovely, restful half term. Enjoy your time with family and friends, relax, and recharge.

We look forward to seeing you all after the holidays, ready for another great term in Year 6!

Have a wonderful break!

PROUD

Positive  
Vibes  
Only

# Headteacher Star of the week

Week ending 13.02.2026



# Stars of the week

Week ending 13.02.2026



Great Job!



# Stars of the week

Week ending 13.02.2026



Great Job!

Congratulations to all of our Stars



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

# LEEDS LOCAL OFFER

## LIVE 2026



The Leeds Local Offer has information about services that help children and young people with SEND. It also helps parents and carers find support in one place.

Leeds Local Offer Live is an event where you can meet different SEND services and learn what they do.

This year, the workshops are about Supported Internships. Come along to find out more about this pathway.



Wednesday 25 March 2026 

10am till 3pm (Drop in) 

Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA 

**BOOK YOUR PLACE** 

[Complete the booking form here](#) 





**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 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 2TA | ☎ 0800 321 3248 | 🌐 [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)



**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.





**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\***