



Blackgates Primary Academy

SCHOOL **NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER EDITION

Friday 5 December 2025

Principal's Message

This week we began with a Leodis Trust Training Day which followed the theme of inclusion. Workshops and speakers came to support the teaching of pupils with SEND. On Friday our school council decorated a Christmas Tree and entered the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. Our Early Years and Year 1 stay and play Christmas activities proved popular once more. Thank you for attending, our children do love their families to come in.

Thank you for your support in ensuring you only use the car park if you have been given a pass. Mrs Julie Coulson

Notices

Come and join us next Thursday 11 December at 3.30pm we are hosting our own Christmas Fair and would love to see everyone there. There will be Santa, face painting, hot Chocolate & Mince pies, Christmas gifts & games to play

Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Monday 1 December

Friday 22 May

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips

Thursday 11 December - Reception class & Y2 Leeds Central Library

Friday 12 December - Y1 & Y3 Leeds Central Library.

Tuesday 16 December - Y4 Ice Skating LCC

Wednesday 17 December - Y5 Ice Skating LCC

Thursday 11 December 3.30pm - 4.30pm Christmas Fair

Christmas Nativities/Concerts

EYFS Y1 & Y2 Nativity

Monday 8 December 9.30am-10.30am & Wednesday 2.15pm-3.15pm.

Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 - Christmas Carol Concert - Monday 5pm- 6pm

Christmas parties

Monday 15 December - Y4 & Y5

Tuesday 16 December Robins & Y1

Wednesday 17 December Ducklings/

Nursery & Y6

Thursday 18 December Y2 & Y3

Ducklings

Little ducklings have been very festive again this week we have been making Christmas crafts such as snowflakes and salt dough ornaments. The story we are reading at the moment is 'My mum's a superhero.' We are enjoying this story and finding out how Milo's mum has superpowers.

The Nativity rehearsals are also going well we cannot wait to perform to you all next week.

Finally we would like to thank all the parents that were able to attend the stay and play we had lots of fun.

Nursery



This week the children have been enjoying our festive celebrations, dressing up as little elves to decorate the Christmas tree in Nursery and learning how to make paper chain decorations to hang from the ceiling. These activities have helped the children develop their fine motor skills which will help them manipulate objects with their fingers.

Great work Nursery!

We were all very happy to learn that we had the best attendance in school last week!

Thank you to everyone for bringing your children to Nursery for each of their sessions. Every day really does count and helps them to learn about the world beyond their family unit, boost their confidence and helps them to become 'school ready'. The children cannot wait for Mrs Coulson to bring the wheel down for them to spin a treat!

Robins

This week our Christmas Concert rehearsals have been in full swing. Today the children tried on their costumes, and I am sure you will agree they all look amazing! Each child will have a photo sent home of them wearing their costumes as I know this is a treasure to keep for parents. These will be sent home on the last week but I will pop a sneak peak onto Tapestry as soon as they are finished. As you can appreciate changing 30, 4-5 year olds into costumes is a big task so extra practise at home with your child is essential.

Promoting independence is a big part of dressing and undressing in reception so extra practise at home will really support your child.

Thank you for your support.



Doves



This week has been assessment week for phonics, and the children have worked really hard! A gentle reminder to keep up with reading at home and practising spelling bricks. This doesn't need to be the whole book in one go - feel free to spread reading across the week in small, manageable chunks. Little and often makes a big difference!

The children have absolutely loved decorating our classroom and are feeling very excited about all the Christmas activities we have planned. It's such a joyful time, and we can't wait to share these experiences with them.



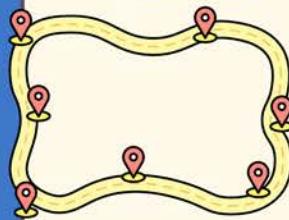
Penguins

This week Year 2 have been practising incredibly hard ready for their nativity performance. You are in for a treat. Just a few reminders, children need their Christmas jumpers for Monday and Wednesday. Please bring these in a labelled bag. There are 2 tickets available per performance per child. You must do this via parent pay.



Nightingales

Year 3 have shown real teamwork this week in the Adventurous Activities PE lesson. They have been working in teams using maps to understand and carry out obstacle courses and have then designed and made their own. They then enjoyed testing out each other's maps and obstacle courses. Super work year 3!



Ravens

This week Year 4 have been designing a balanced, vegetarian meal as part of their Design and Technology lessons.

The children have thought carefully about a choice of carbohydrates, protein, and vegetables to include. We will be using their plans to make their dishes next week.

If you have any photos of your children cooking at home, please email them to school, we would love to see them.

Thank you



Falcons



This week, we have continued to enjoy learning about the Ancient Greeks and finding out about all their significant achievements and how they have influenced the world we live in today. The children also enjoyed designing their own mythical creatures which we will write about next week.



Hawks

Robinwood Residential – What an Amazing Experience!

Last week, Year 6 had the most incredible time away at Robinwood! It was wonderful to see the children stepping outside their comfort zones and taking on activities they were initially worried about.

From soaring down the zip line, braving the giant swing, and tackling the climbing wall, to working together during the piranha pool challenge and canoeing on the lake, every child showed resilience, courage, and fantastic teamwork.

Myself, Mrs Elston, and Mr White were so impressed with every single child – their determination and support for one another made us proud. It truly was a memorable trip full of laughter, learning, and adventure!



**Christmas Holidays
at The Hepworth
Wakefield**
**Sat 20 Dec
–Sun 4 Jan**

Visit The Hepworth Wakefield this Christmas holidays for workshops, festive film screenings, activities in the galleries and family activity kits.

Free for kids and Wakefield residents

50% OFF FOR NON-WAKEFIELD RESIDENTS

Non-Wakefield residents can get 50% off a standard adult ticket when visiting with a child during the Wakefield school holidays. Use discount code FAMILY50 when booking online or in person. (One discounted adult ticket per child.)

Plan your visit at hepworlhwakefield.org

HOW TO FIND US

The Hepworth Wakefield,
Gallery Walk, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW
Our car park is located on Thornes Lane, WF1 5QJ.
The gallery is a 5-minute walk from Wakefield Kirkgate
or jump on the Free City Bus from the bus and train stations.

**THE
HEPWORTH
WAKEFIELD**

FESTIVE HOLIDAY CAMP

GIRLS-ONLY SOCCER CAMP

MON 22ND DECEMBER
9:00AM - 3:00PM

HUNSLET CLUB
HILLIDGE RD, HUNSLET
LEEDS LS10 1BP

**5-16
YEARS OLD**



Give your child the ultimate football experience with the Leeds United Foundation Soccer Camp - a camp that's rewarding, educational, and full of excitement for all ages and abilities.

Led by FA-qualified coaches, our sessions are packed with skill-building activities, small-sided games, and friendly competitions designed to boost confidence both on and off the pitch.

Every child is fully supervised by DBS-checked, first-aid-trained coaches, ensuring a safe, supportive, and positive environment throughout.

Perfect for kids who love football and want to learn the Leeds United way!

Wear a Christmas jumper for a chance to win TWO LUFC match tickets. Every child will also receive a festive gift.

HOW TO BOOK:
EMAIL: womenandgirls@leedsunited.com
or scan the QR code

SCAN HERE!



**SECURE
YOUR
CHILDS
PLACE
NOW!**

Stars of the week

Week ending 05.12.25



Stars of the week

Week ending 05.12.25



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.



Is your child due to
start primary
school in
2026?



Applications are open for Reception
places to start in **September 2026**
You can apply online until **Thursday 15 January 2026**

www.leeds.gov.uk/apply



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



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

tel: 0800 321 3248
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 DfE via the School Milk Scheme.

Cool Milk at School Ltd | Cool Milk House | Kingsley Park | Kingsley Road | Lincoln | LN6 8TA | tel: 0800 321 3248 | www.coolmilk.com



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 29 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

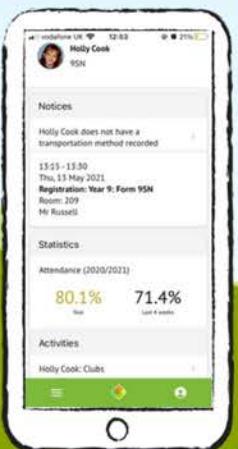
1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the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

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.



The smartphone screen shows the Arbor app interface. At the top, it displays the user's name, 'Holly Cook', and their class, '9SN'. Below this is a 'Notices' section with a message: 'Holly Cook does not have a transportation method recorded'. Under 'Statistics', it shows 'Attendance (2020/2021)' with two bars: '80.1%' and '71.4%'. The 'Activities' section shows 'Holly Cook: Club'. The bottom of the screen features a green navigation bar with icons for home, school, and other functions.

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*