



Friday 1 May 2026

Principal's Message

It really does feel like summer this week. We have loved playing out in the school grounds. The Early Years children have been playing on the field and on the bike track at lunchtime. They have enjoyed the freedom of space and thank you to parents dropping off at the back gate. This week has been exciting with lots of Science workshops and fun lessons. Thank you to all the parents who came in to see what we have been learning.

Y5 and Y6 went to visit the new library this week and were impressed.

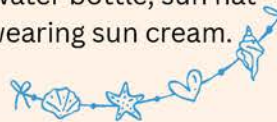
We have also held interviews for grounds staff amongst the pupils. It was lovely to see how mature their interviews were and how much they want to help the school grounds team.

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

SATS breakfast club

Breakfast club will be running from 8.10 every morning for Year 6 during SATs week. This is a great opportunity for the children to start the day calmly and positively before the tests.

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



This week in Ducklings, we have been busy developing our fine motor skills through mark making in sand and glitter, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We have been reading *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* and brought the story to life by making our own bear masks and retelling it together—everyone got really involved and had lots of fun! Our tuff spot featured baby dolls alongside a selection of lovely reading books, encouraging imaginative play and an early interest in stories. We also joined nursery outside to play with the big parachute, which the children really enjoyed. We've been making the most of the sunshine, and the children have been fantastic at keeping their hats on—well done! As the warm weather continues, please could we kindly ask that children bring a hat and sun cream to school next week so we can all stay safe in the sun.



Nursery

This week in Nursery we have been matching animal cards and talking about their appearance and habitats for science week, the children were amazingly confident at this.

We have enjoyed making our own musical instruments and exploring the sounds we can make and will bring these home next week to share with you.

In Phonics we have enjoyed finding out the words beginning with our sound of the week 'w' and joining in with the actions for the Nursery rhyme Jack and Jill.

In Maths we have focused on making A-B patterns during independent play, the children really enjoyed choosing their own equipment to make their A-B pattern using animals, pens, playdoh and much more. They really have surprised us with their imaginations.

We have enjoyed reading 'The Magic Porridge pot' this week and will use some dry porridge oats next week to make our own porridge in the magic pot.

We enjoyed planting our own seeds for science week to finish off the week.



Robins

We were very lucky to have a visit from Fun Science this week as part of science week. We watched a chemical reaction, made our own slime and then went outside to watch the 'mentos' experiment-lots of fun was had by all!



Doves

Doves have truly thrown themselves into Science Week with enthusiasm and curiosity! We began by enjoying a fantastic hands-on session with Rod from Fun Science, where the focus was on chemical reactions. The children loved carrying out their very own experiment, transforming polymers to create slime - unsurprisingly, this was a firm favourite! Back in the classroom, we continued our scientific investigations by designing and building our own bird nests. The children then tested the strength of their creations using a large fan to simulate strong winds. There was great excitement as the nests were put to the test, and it's safe to say the activity was a huge hit, with one child even exclaiming, "Science Week is so fun!"



Penguins

Year 2 have really enjoyed science week! We started off by having an assembly and workshop from Rocket Rod. They made a magnet game on a paper plate, then we sorted magnetic items from non-magnetic items. On Tuesday, the children designed and investigated how boats float. They made their own paper boat, tested it with marbles to see if it would sink, then changed their design and retested. It was fantastic to see the children be so creative. On Wednesday we took a trip around the school to find some materials and their uses. The children are so excited to show their grown ups their work!



Nightingales



Year 3 have had a fantastic Science week. They loved making the Pom Pom Cannons with Rocket, Rod, a real life scientist! It was great having the competition to see whose cannon would go the furthest. Well done to Harry, Florence, Mabel, Ralph and Dantae. We have also enjoyed learning about light. Everyone did a great job participating in an investigation, where we predicted which objects we thought we would be able to see in a darkened box.



Ravens

Year 4 have been enjoying taking part in Science Week. The children planned an investigation where they worked to explore speed with a guest scientist who came to visit us on Monday. They've also been learning how to classify animals and thought about how birds make their nests to sleep in. They worked in groups to create a bird's nest and tested to see how it would survive against wind and rain. We have had great fun this week!



Falcons

Year 5 have had a fun-filled and exciting week of science learning. We loved having Rocket Rod in our class, who helped us transform plastic bottles into rockets before launching them on the field - an experience the children thoroughly enjoyed. We have also continued exploring our space topic by creating our own planet Top Trumps and recreating the solar system, which, despite being incredibly scaled down, still stretched across most of the playground!

We also enjoyed our visit to the library, where it was wonderful to see so many children completely engrossed in books.

Many were especially excited about getting their own library cards so they can begin borrowing books to enjoy at home.



Hawks

A big well done to all of Year 6 for another week of great work. The children continue to work hard and show a fantastic attitude to their learning, and we are very proud of them.

A quick reminder that SATs are fast approaching and will begin on Monday 11th May. A letter was sent out on Monday with all of the important dates and information for that week. Please ensure you have read this carefully.

Breakfast club will be running from 8.10 every morning during SATs week. This is a great opportunity for the children to start the day calmly and positively before the tests.

Finally, we would be very grateful if you could send in a photo of your child as a baby or from when they first started school. These will be used for the Year 6 yearbook.

Thank you very much for your support.





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.



Thank you for all your contributions and donations for Science Week and the Bun Sale. We managed to raise £76 towards our fun day. As a few children did not have money, we will run another one in Summer term. Thanks, Mrs Elston

Thank you!



Congratulations



Yesterday, some of our Year 6 children took part in the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge, and we would like to say a huge well done to everyone involved. The UKMT Junior competition is a national maths challenge designed to encourage problem solving, logical thinking and mathematical reasoning through a range of challenging and thought-provoking questions. The competition was for children from year 5 - year 8. What makes this even more impressive is that the children had no specific preparation for the competition, yet they approached it with enthusiasm, resilience and a positive attitude.

We are incredibly proud of how they gave it their all and represented Year 6 so well.



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

Headteacher Star of the week

Week ending 01.05.2026



**WELL
DONE!**

Stars of the week

Week ending 01.05.2026



Well done!



Stars of the week

Week ending 01.05.2026



Well done!



Congratulations to all of our Stars

FAMILY COOKERY CLUB

Blackgates Primary Academy
Wednesday 1.45 - 3.15pm
Starting 22nd 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 1st April (Dewsbury Road Hub)
- Wednesday 6th May (Dewsbury Road Hub)
- Wednesday 3rd June (Rothwell Hub)
- Wednesday 1st July (Rothwell Hub)

To book your place



Email:

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. 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 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



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.

