



Blackgates Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL

JANUARY EDITION

Friday 09 January 2026

2026



Principal's Message

It has been lovely to welcome children back into school after the Christmas break. I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope 2026 brings you all you wish for.

It really has been a cold week and I would like to remind you to ensure all children have a warm coat and suitable footwear as we do go out in most weathers. Younger children are provided with hats and gloves if they do not have their own and we try to ensure children are wrapped up well.

Year 6 enjoyed a Maya day this week - learning about the ancient civilisation, taking part in active learning workshops. Year 3 went to learn about Egyptians at Leeds Museum. They had a fabulous time and could not wait to tell me all about it. Their behaviour was amazing.

Mrs Julie Coulson

Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips/Events

27 January - KS1 Winter Olympics -
Morley Leisure Centre

EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Wednesday 14 January - Maths

Tuesday 10 February - Love & Hearts
theme

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

Notices

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



Ducklings 2026

Welcome back little Ducklings, what an exciting year we have ahead. This week we have settled back in to routines and also welcomed some new Ducklings. We have started reading Froggy day and enjoyed colouring in frog pictures.



Nursery

2026

Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year to you all! We have had a lovely first week settling back into our routines and have enjoyed listening and sharing our Christmas experiences with each other. We have been so proud of our children for how welcoming they have been to our new friends during our taster sessions. They all did a wonderful job showing them around the classroom provision, inviting them to play and trying really hard to make sure that everyone shared and waiting their turn!

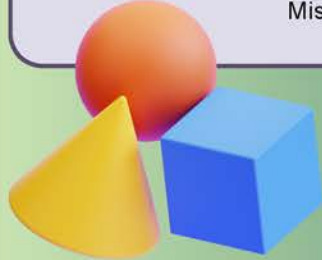
This week the children have really enjoyed listening to the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea.' They helped to create a shopping list of things that we need to buy from the shops to host our own tea party. Fingers crossed the tiger comes to taste our homemade sandwiches and buns next week!

Doves



We are excited to welcome all the children back to school after the holidays! This term, we've started our new topic in Maths, exploring both 2-D and 3-D shapes. In English, we've begun a fairy tale writing unit based on Little Red Riding Hood. The children have loved getting into character and retelling different parts of the story with great enthusiasm! Before Christmas, the children asked for some homework, and we've agreed on two optional pieces each week: one for handwriting or phonics and one for Maths. Homework will be handed out every Wednesday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. While it's completely optional, children will earn Blackgates points for any work completed. This was something the class requested, and they really enjoy continuing their learning at home!

Miss Ruse



2026

Robins

We are very lucky to have a very experienced volunteer to support children with extra phonics practice during school sessions. To be able to do this to its full potential we need children bring in their small tins containing phonics sounds which children were given when they started Reception. We understand life happens so if your child has lost their tin, its broken or it can no longer be found then please let me know and a replacement can be given.

This support along with practice of these sounds at home will give your child the very best chance to learn and practice all the sounds we teach in Reception.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Penguins

It's been lovely to have Penguins back after the Christmas break. They've been so excited to tell me what they got up to. We

have started our new writing unit - instructions.

The children are looking at how to make a bird feeder, then their

independent will be on how to make a sandwich.

We've also started our new History/Geography topic 'What makes our world wonderful?'

Throughout this we will be looking at the oceans, continents, parts of the UK and focussing on the Wonder of the World, the Great Wall of China.



Nightingales

Year 3 had a fantastic Thursday afternoon at Leeds City Museum. They loved the Ancient Egyptians section, especially viewing a real live mummy! They also explored 'The Collector's Cabinet' gallery and loved seeing the weird and wonderful things people from Leeds have collected over the last few hundred years. The Natural World gallery was a real hit with Nightingales. They really enjoyed the various activities, exploring the wide variety of animals. Some children even took part in dressing up as animals, in the costumes provided, and pretending to be part of the exhibition!



Ravens

Welcome back after the Christmas break! The children have had a fantastic first week back and have been enjoying our new topic. We have started exploring Roman mosaics this week in Art and identifying the features they like and have practised sketching some of the patterns and designs that they include. We will be working towards designing and making our own mosaics in the coming weeks.

Falcons

We have had such a fantastic start to the new year this week. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting stuck into our new book *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell, which we have been using in both our reading and writing lessons.

We have also enjoyed our new spelling scheme and are already showing greater confidence when tackling tricky words in our work. Each Friday, the children will bring home a list of spellings to learn, these will then be tested on the following Friday.



2026

Hawks

Welcome back to our Year 6 families and a very happy 2026 to you all.

We have had a great first week back at school and it is already clear that the children have returned feeling settled, motivated and ready to learn. They have approached every activity with enthusiasm and maturity, and it has been wonderful to see them reconnect with friends and classroom routines so quickly.

This term, our main topic is the Maya civilisation. The children have already shown a strong interest in this fascinating period of history and have been asking thoughtful questions in class. To launch the topic, we enjoyed a full-day Maya workshop on Thursday. The children were fantastic throughout the day and impressed everyone with their focus, curiosity and teamwork.

During the workshop, the children learnt about different ways of living in the Maya civilisation, including homes, food, beliefs and daily life. They particularly excelled in the drama activities, where they confidently acted out scenes from Maya life. They also produced some excellent drawings of real artefacts, carefully observing details and demonstrating a growing understanding of historical sources.

We are very proud of the start Year 6 have made and are excited for the learning ahead this term.

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



Trust News



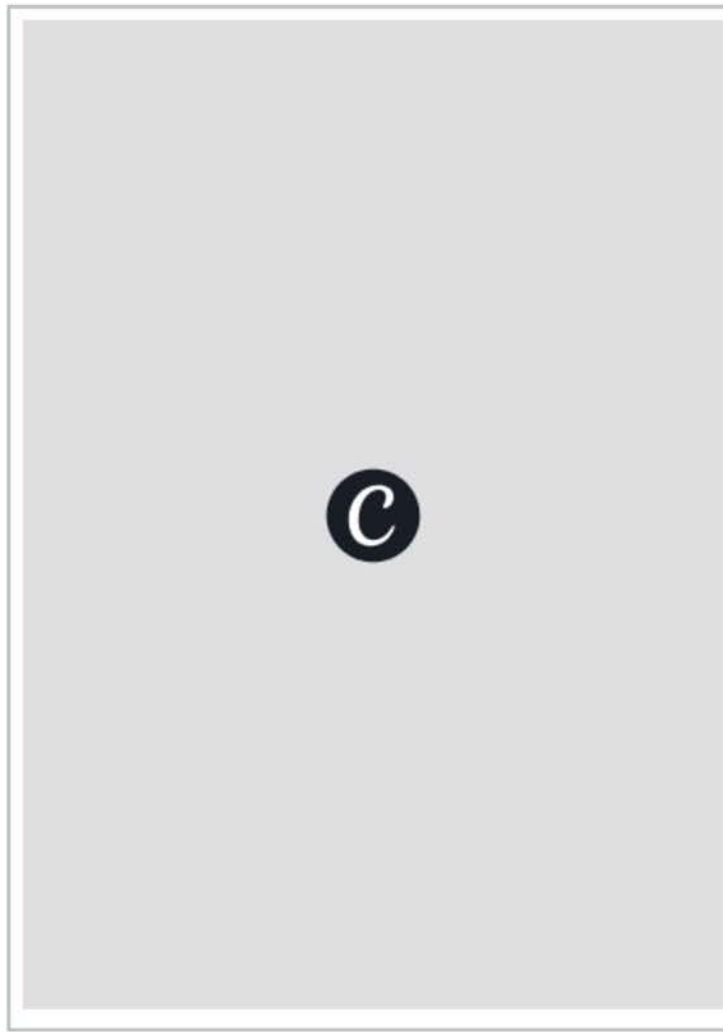
A huge thank you from all at Leodis Academies Trust for your donations to the 2025 Christmas Appeal. Your generosity saw hundreds of presents come in and over £3,000 raised. This has meant that we have been able to give gifts to nearly 200 children and their families across the Trust. Thank you also to those who co-ordinated this fantastic effort across the schools and Trust. May we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Leodis Academies Trust.



The Leodis Brass Band made up of students and staff from across the Trust brought some festive cheer to all our schools this week playing carols and traditional songs for all staff and pupils to hear. The Band went on later this week to play in Morley raising money for the Batley Food Bank and on to bring some cheer to residents at Lydgate Lodge. Thank you to those who organised and took part in these very special events.





Stars of the week

Week ending 09.01.2026



Stars of the week

Week ending 09.01.2026



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.



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



**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?

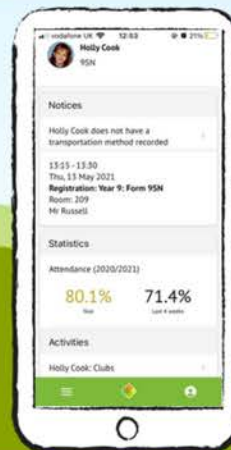
Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or

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*