



Friday 8 May 2026

Principal's Message

Once again it has been a busy week, despite there only being 4 school days.

A group of Y3/4 children went to play cricket at Hunslet Nelson Cricket Club to get a feel for the sport. Mr White had a great day as did the children.

A group of Early Years reception children went to Lineham farm for a visit to enjoy outdoor activities related to stories. They were amazing and loved it!

We are often given the opportunity to access clubs, sports and places of interest. Usually it is only open to a group of 10 children. We record which children have accessed each visit and ensure all children have opportunities throughout their time at Blackgates.

Good luck to our Y6 children next week. They have SATs and we know they are amazing children whatever their scores. Well done for all your hard work and revision.

Thank you for your ongoing support
Mrs Julie Coulson

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.

Friday 15 May Y6 Eden Camp.

Thursday 21 May - Year 6 World War 2 day
Picnic - Year 6 parents are invited to a picnic with the children at 3pm.
Census day.

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

Notices



Please remember to fill out the suncream form you have been sent via email



Ducklings



This week in Ducklings, we have been enjoying the story *The Gruffalo*. The children created their own snakes by using rolling pins covered in bubble wrap to print snake skin patterns with green paint onto paper plates. We also explored a Gruffalo crumble tuff spot filled with porridge oats and all the different ingredients you might find in a Gruffalo crumble, which the children loved investigating. Alongside this, we had a Gruffalo investigation tuff spot with leaves and story characters hidden for the children to find, talk about, and explore together. We are very excited to begin reading *Room on the Broom* next week and can't wait for more fun activities linked to the story!



Nursery

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

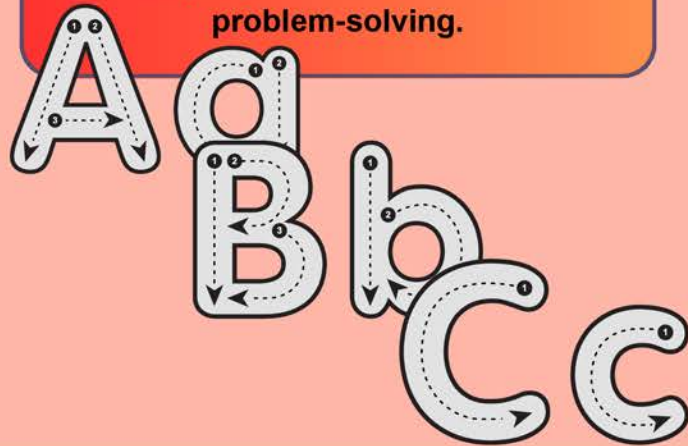
We have enjoyed reading 'The Magic Porridge pot' this week and will use some dry porridge oats next week to make our own porridge in the magic pot.

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



Robins

Children have been experimenting with AB patterns, ABB patterns and ABC patterns this week, using both sound and colour to build their understanding of how sequences work. These early patterning skills are powerful foundations for mathematical thinking, language development and problem-solving.



Doves

This week, Doves have truly impressed me with their fantastic efforts in their independent writing.

They have been working on writing a set of instructions and have tried incredibly hard to include 'bossy verbs' to make their writing clear and purposeful - well done! In Science, the children are thoroughly enjoying revisiting materials in a hands-on and practical way. They designed and created their own paper bags, thoughtfully selecting materials and explaining their properties and why they were suitable for the task. To celebrate being our attendance winners, we also finished Friday with a well-deserved sweet treat - a delicious hot chocolate!

It has been wonderful to see the creativity, enthusiasm, and growing confidence in their learning - Doves are really shining at the moment!



Penguins

Year 2 have started a new topic in maths - time! We have been looking at o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. The children have been so resilient and found quarter to quite tricky. I am proud of them for not giving up! In writing, we've just started our sentence stacking lessons for our adventure story on the Stone Age Boy. It's been fantastic to see the children's creativity when describing the setting.



Nightingales



Year 3 have enjoyed French lessons with Madame Boom, where they were learning the French words for body parts. They have also enjoyed Ace club this week, where they particularly enjoyed a running team game. This week, year 3 have been continuing learning how to use a dictionary and have found the definitions of specific animal vocabulary to do with an iguana or an owl. They are ready to write their Non-Chronological Reports next week!



Ravens

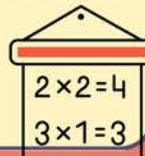


$$\frac{1}{10}$$

This week in Year 4, the children have been learning to recognise fractions and decimals, focusing on tenths and hundredths. They have shown great resilience in their maths learning and have used concrete resources sensibly to help them divide by 10 and 100 to create decimals.

We also completed a practice multiplication check in preparation for the MTC in June, and the children are well on track to succeed. However, it is important that they continue to practise their times tables regularly and use Garage and Soundcheck on TTRS each week.

Well done, Year 4!



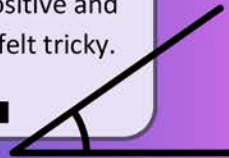
Falcons



This week, Year 5 have started writing their stories based on the animation One Small Step and I have been so impressed with the effort going into them already.

The children have been working really hard to include features such as parenthesis, relative clauses and modal verbs, and it has been lovely to see their confidence growing as their stories develop.

In maths, we have been learning how to use a protractor to measure angles. This has definitely been a skill that has challenged us at times, but the children have shown fantastic resilience and determination, keeping positive and trying again even when it felt tricky.





Hawks

Next week, our Year 6 children will be taking their Key Stage 2 SATs.

The timetable is as follows:

- Monday: Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling
- Tuesday: Reading
- Wednesday: Mathematics Paper 1 (Arithmetic) and Mathematics Paper 2 (Reasoning)
- Thursday: Mathematics Paper 3 (Reasoning)

To help support the children and calm any nerves, school will be open for Breakfast Club from 8:10am each morning. We encourage Year 6 pupils to attend if possible, as this provides a relaxed start to the day before the tests begin.



Eden Camp Visit – Friday 15th May

On Friday 15th May, Year 6 will be visiting Eden Camp. Please ensure children arrive at school on time so we can set off promptly. Children are welcome to bring a small amount of spending money. Parents may wish to look at the Eden Camp website to check prices in advance. There will also be lollipops and ice creams available to purchase during the visit.

Thank you for your continued support in helping make this an exciting and positive week for our Year 6 pupils.



Stars of the week

Week ending 08.05.2026



Well done!

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Week ending 08.05.2026



Well done!

Stars of the week

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Well done!



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.



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 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
- Sleep

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

The sessions take place at:

Inner South Family Hub
Dewsbury Road Community Hub
190 Dewsbury Road
Leeds
LS11 6PF
AND
Outer South Family Hub
Marsh Street, Rothwell LS26 0AD

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.

