



Friday 30 March 2026



Principal's Message

It has been a lovely week in school despite a lot of sickness.

Year 1 have been to Temple Newsam Farm and chose the most sunny day of the year so far. They loved their day.

Our Blackgates Tag Rugby team won this week playing against 12 other teams from across Leeds they shone!

This week children have been working hard and was particularly impressed with Year 3 Nightingales reading abilities. It was a real joy to hear them read.

Please come to our Easter Fayre on Wednesday after school - 3.30 in the hall. We are raising money which will go towards fun activities and resources for our children.

Thank you for your ongoing support

Mrs Julie Coulson

Easter Fair

We would love for you to join us on 1 April from 3.30pm, straight after school, at our Easter Fair.

There will be games, crafts, refreshments and lots of fun!



Important

Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips/Events

25 March Year 4-Yorkshire Wildlife.

Starting w/c 4 March for 5 weeks Family

Cooker Club - See more information in Newsletter.

Science afternoon in school - Friday 1 May 2.45pm Parents invited into school to see the work the children have done in class



Easter Egg Decorating competition. Entries can be brought to school W/C 30 March. 50p entry fee. Prizes for the 3 best entries.

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



The children have thoroughly enjoyed beginning to explore the signs of spring. We have spent lots of time outdoors, noticing the blossom on the nursery trees and spotting more bugs and insects as they appear. We will be looking more into the signs of spring next week with lots of new spring themed activities.

The children have also been developing their physical skills by practising balancing on the outdoor equipment. Indoors, we have been getting creative by making marks in paint and exploring different textures in sensory play.



Story time has been a highlight, especially sharing *Where is Spot?* The children have loved lifting the flaps and engaging with the story. We have also continued to build our fine motor skills through Dough Disco, and it's lovely to see the children's control and confidence improving. To celebrate St Patrick's Day, we created shamrock pictures, learned about the day, and enjoyed fun green themed provision activities.



Nursery



Nursery have enjoyed exploring Dot patterns in Maths this week, they chose a plate with a dot pattern and then had to find the matching plate with the same number of dots in provision; they were very good at this!

We have had fun making a collage for Easter, exploring different materials and joining them together with PVA or as the children say "sticky sticky glue".

The children have enjoyed extra time in the outside provision this week and enjoyed water play in the lovely weather.

We will be looking at pets next week so if anyone has any pictures of their pets you are welcome to add on these on tapestry and they can share them with their friends in class.





Robins

This week in Reception, the children have been busy exploring minibeast tally charts as part of their early maths learning. Using everyday classroom objects, they practised counting carefully and recording each item with a simple tally mark—an engaging way to build number sense and early data-handling skills. The children loved working in small groups, comparing their tallies and chatting about which items appeared “the most” or “the least.” It’s been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they begin to understand how tally marks help us collect and organise information in a fun, hands-on way!



Doves

I am incredibly proud of all the children for their fantastic behaviour and enthusiasm during our farm trip to Temple Newsam on Wednesday. They absolutely shone! We were very lucky with the weather, which made exploring the farm even more enjoyable. The children loved taking part in the guided tour, where they learned lots of interesting facts about the animals. They listened beautifully, asked thoughtful questions, and impressed the staff with their knowledge and curiosity. It was wonderful to see them so engaged and eager to learn. Back in school, we also had a very exciting visit from Goldilocks and the Three Bears! The children were captivated by the story and had lots to talk about afterwards. This links perfectly with our next writing unit, where we will be focusing on using question marks and the pronoun "I" in our sentences. We can't wait to get started and see the amazing writing the children will produce



Penguins

Just a few reminders, please can you ensure your child is bringing the correct PE kit. They need a plain white shirt with no collar, black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and trainers. They must be brought in a bag for your child to change into on a Tuesday and Friday.

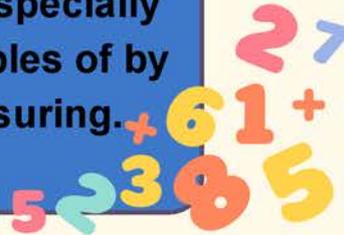
Also for science week, which is at the end of April, the children will need some toilet roll tubes or kitchen roll tubes. If these could be brought in from next week so we can start collecting them that would be a great help.



Nightingales



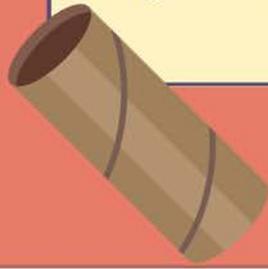
Year 3 have had a super week. Everyone has worked really hard and shown a great work attitude. They have enjoyed writing up their instructions text in neat so it looks engaging and attractive. Nightingales have done some excellent work in Maths, especially learning the doubles of by heart and measuring.



Ravens

This week Year 4 have been learning about animal food chains and how all food chains start with a producer. We went on a hunt for minibeasts in the school grounds to see what some creatures might be eating. The children searched under logs and rocks to find creepy crawlies in their natural habitats.

Please could we ask that families save toilet roll and kitchen roll tubes to bring in for a school project please.



Falcons



Since we had the highest attendance last week, on Wednesday, Year 5 were rewarded with a movie experience. We had great fun watching Toy Story whilst enjoying some popcorn, sweets and fizzy pop. We also enjoyed having some extra playtime to celebrate finishing our assessment and trying our best. I am so proud of how well the children did; they all worked super hard and with great determination to do their absolute best.



Ahead of our science week workshop on April 27th, we are collecting 2 litre empty pop bottles. Please could you save any you have at home and bring them into school with your child. Thank you.

Well Done

Hawks

A huge well done to all of our Year 6 pupils for another fantastic week. The children continue to work incredibly hard, and we are very proud of everything they are achieving. This week, the children had their final class photos taken. These will soon be available to view and purchase via a link sent to you through Arbor and email, so please keep an eye on the app if you would like to order a copy.

Our 40-hour revision challenge has now started. Completed revision logs are due in on Friday 15th May. If you have any issues or questions, please contact the school office or myself. A lovely trip will be rewarded for those who complete the full 40 hours, so keep going Year 6!

A quick reminder that an Eden Camp letter has been sent out for the trip taking place on Friday 15th May. Please ensure all forms and payments are completed in good time.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you all have a lovely weekend.



TRIP

Year 5/6 Tag Rugby

Year 5&6 took part in a qualifying tournament on Thursday. 12 teams took part and they came 2nd in the group. Then they took part in a playoff game which they won.



They now have the opportunity to play at Headingley stadium for the final in June.







get YOUR TICKETS

From next Tuesday 17 March Mrs Turpin will be outside school selling raffle tickets for our upcoming Easter Fair (Easter fair to be held Wednesday 1 April 3.30-4.30pm in the main hall) Tickets for the raffle will be sold at a strip for £1 and the raffle will be drawn on the last day of term Thursday 2 April. Winners will be notified and can collect prizes at the end of the day on Thursday. We have had some fantastic prize donations from local businesses please see below:

1st prize - £40 voucher for Gray's Coffee Shop Rothwell

- Large Mini eggs easter egg**
- Large Dairy milk easter egg**
- Boxed Easter hunt soft sweets kit x 2**
- £20 Hair by Leanne voucher**
- 2 x free entry to Grass Hoppers**
- Free mini facial at Garden House beauty**

We really appreciate your support, all proceeds from the Easter fair will go towards resources for the pupils.

Kind regards





Easter Appeal 2026!

Following your amazing support in previous years, we are asking for your continued generosity in supporting the WF3 Kindness Easter Trail.

WF3 Kindness are only able to continue running events like these due to the support of people like you!

If you feel you can donate an Easter Egg this year or can turn your hand to knit a chick or two to house a small chocolate egg treat, these would be gratefully received.

We will be collecting donations across the Leodis Academies Trust schools until Friday 27th Friday March.

Head to the WF3 Kindness social accounts to look out for updates on the annual Easter Trail!

Leodis Academies Trust



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

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**



SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION D

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 11th March	10.30 till 12.30	The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, LS10 3DN

Services in attendance:

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Little Hiccups
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs

Let us know if you will be attending the drop in

<https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/InfoDropIn/>



**If you would like more information about the drop in session
LLO@leeds.gov.uk**



LEEDS

LIFE SKILLS

CODING

TECHNICAL

MEDIA / STEAM

AGES 8-18

GAMEDUCATION

STARTING 7TH APRIL 2026
MON - FRI
10AM - 1PM / 1PM TO 4PM

WWW.GEEKSROOM.ORG.UK/EVENTS



**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



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***