



Blackgates Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL

DECEMBER EDITION

Friday 19 December 2025

Principal's Message

This week has been a lovely one. Key Stage 2 children performed a Carol concert with readings at St Mary's Church on Monday evening.

Years 4 & 5 went ice skating in Leeds and had a fabulous time - even Mr White (who has a long way to fall) said it was amazing. So many children were resilient and kept on getting up again!

All children had their Christmas parties this week. Santa visited on Thursday and gave out bags of sweets to everyone.

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to welcoming you all back in January (Monday the 5 January).

Mrs Julie Coulson

Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips/Events

8 January - Maya Workshop in school - Year 6

8 January - Leeds City Museum - Year 3

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



It's been a joyful week in Little Ducklings. The children have created Christmas crafts to bring home and enjoyed a lively Christmas party with music, treats and games. We are so grateful for our parents' support this year. Wishing you all a warm and happy Christmas and New Year. Looking forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026.

Nursery

We've had such a fun week in Nursery this week! The children have been working hard at creating their very own calendars for their loved ones by creating handprint trees which they then filled with fingerprints to represent the changes of each season throughout the year. They're all so proud of how they look now that they are finished!

Everyone enjoyed dancing and playing party games on Wednesday, wearing their party hats with big smiles! Thank you to all of our lovely families for providing so many delicious things for the children to enjoy eating. We hope that you all have a lovely festive Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again soon. Happy New Year Nursery!



Robins

A massive thank you to all parents and carers for your kind donations of food for our class party.

The children had a fantastic day filled with games, dancing and lots of party food!

There are lots more photos on Tapestry- don't forget if you have any issues logging onto Tapestry please see Mrs Gray or Mrs Reid.



Doves



As we come to the end of this half term, I couldn't be prouder of the children and all they have achieved. We have successfully completed our addition and subtraction unit in maths, and the children are excited to begin exploring shapes next term. This week, they showed incredible creativity in DT by making their own faces out of clay - what fantastic work! We also had an amazing time celebrating at our Christmas party day, joining in the fun and playing lots of party games. I'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, ready for more exciting learning adventures!

Miss Ruse



Penguins

This week Year 2 have learnt about Mary Seacole and compared her to Florence Nightingale. I have been so impressed with the amount of knowledge the children have retained. They couldn't believe how brave and determined both women were.

As a school, our next topic is 'Why is our world wonderful?' and in Year 2 we will be looking at the Great Wall of China and learning about the 7 continents of the world as well as the 5 oceans which surround them. Feel free to have the children complete some research on these.

Have a lovely and peaceful Christmas!



Nightingales

★ MERRY ★
CHRISTMAS

What a fantastic half term year 3 have had. Everyone has worked so hard and been very resilient. The class have really enjoyed the topic learning about Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks and have had shown great understanding about the difference these individuals made. The class have really enjoyed the Christmas week at school. It has been lovely to share Christmas celebrations with you. Have a wonderful Christmas and see you in the New Year! Miss Lunn




Ravens

This week the children have been in ice-skating. The children absolutely loved it and they all represented our school brilliantly. They were feeling nervous and excited to try something new but their resilience and determination to keep trying was amazing. We had a few slips and falls but everyone had a huge smile on their face! Well done Year 4. We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas break with your families and loved ones. The children are ready for a well-deserved break before starting the spring term. Merry Christmas!



Falcons



Year 5 have had such a fun-filled, Christmassy week to finish off the term. On Monday, we enjoyed our Christmas party and church service, and on Wednesday, we had a great time ice-skating. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were so resilient getting back up and giving it another go even when they fell down. We have also enjoyed some Christmas music from the Woodkirk brass band as well as a visit from Santa. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.





Hawks

A Massive Well Done!

To all our amazing Year 6 children – what a fantastic term it has been! You’ve worked so hard, and we’ve shared so many great laughs along the way. I’m incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We have some exciting things planned for the new year!

- Maya Workshop: This will take place in the first week back – a brilliant way to kick off our new topic.
- Cooking Fajitas: Next term, we’ll be getting creative in the kitchen as part of our exploration of the Maya civilisation.

Enjoy Your Holiday!

I haven’t set any homework because I want everyone to relax, recharge, and enjoy the break. Come back refreshed and ready for a great term in 2026!

Have a wonderful holiday – see you in the new year!



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.



presents your 2025...



CFL blog...

Scan the qr code to view the details and the link to book on.



we are
**child
friendly
Leeds**

Winter Guide

to free/low cost* activities
happening across Leeds



Nov - Temple Newsam Farm Festive Trail

4 Jan Explore the festive trail around Home Farm. Book additional experiences including Father Christmas, story sessions & craft workshops.*



2 Dec - 12 Days of Elfmas Trail - Leeds City Museum

- 4 Jan Wander through the museum to find Christmas surprises with unique elf characters.



6 Dec - Christmas at Kirkgate Market

23 Dec Enjoy festive markets, musical performances, panto shows, and free Santa meet and greets.



6 Dec - Fidget Theatre - The Elves & the Storyteller

31 Dec Leeds Central Library invite you to A Pay-What-You-Decide playful storytelling, original songs, friendly audience participation.



6 Dec - Starry Winter Trail at Kirkstall Abbey

24 Dec Discover the Abbey Ruins with our magical trail and see if you can spot all the stars.



20 Dec - A Very Pom Pom Christmas

- 4 Jan Join us for festive crafts and family films by fairylight at Leeds Industrial Museum.*



Nov - Santa's Grotto & White Rose Ice Rink

24 Dec Festive meet and greet with Santa, SEN sessions, an outdoor play area & Ice Rink.



Nov - Leeds Christmas Market

21 Dec Visit Leeds city centre - free to enter but charges apply for food, activities and rides.



All Year Round - Leeds Local Offer - SEND Things to do

Provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents or carers with information, services and activities that are available including school holiday provision.



Winter Experiences with a cost...



Nov - 31 Dec - Leeds Ice Cube, Skating & Christmas Markets

This year Millennium Square & Leeds City Centre features the stunning outdoor ice rink, Christmas market stalls and the popular festive funfair.*



Nov - 31 Dec - Northern Lights Leeds at Temple Newsam

Take a 1 mile long walk through 14 illuminated zones with interactive elements and immersive soundtracks completed by a Christmas Village.*



Nov - 4 Jan - The Christmas Experience at Lotherton

Breeze Leeds opens Lotherton's enchanting halls, grounds and gardens with twinkling light displays and interactive installations and a visit to Santa.



Nov - 11 Jan - Pantomimes and Festive Shows in Leeds 2025

Visit a panto, Christmas carol concert, theatre productions or a magic show? From Sleeping Beauty to Aladdin, there is something for everyone.*

Mumbler's Guide
to Festive Events,
Winter Walks &
More...



Sign up for free to Healthy Holidays Leeds!

School-aged children and young people eligible for income-related free school meals can take part in amazing, FREE activities and holiday clubs - with a healthy meal over holiday periods.

Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

The Child Friendly Leeds team have put together a calendar of free or low cost activities which will take place over the next few weeks. Alongside this infographic, their [blog](#) has more information and will also be regularly updated. Some of the highlights include:

Christmas at Kirkgate Market 20, 22, 23 December 2025: 12.00pm – 3.00pm Cost: Free Drop-in events, including Santa and the chance to see a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk (11.00am and 2.30pm, 22 and 23 December).

12 Days of Elfmas Trail at Leeds City Museum

2 December to Sunday 4 January Cost: Pay what you can Wander through the museum to find Christmas surprises with unique elf characters in their own mischievous scenes

Starry Winter Trail at Kirkstall Abbey

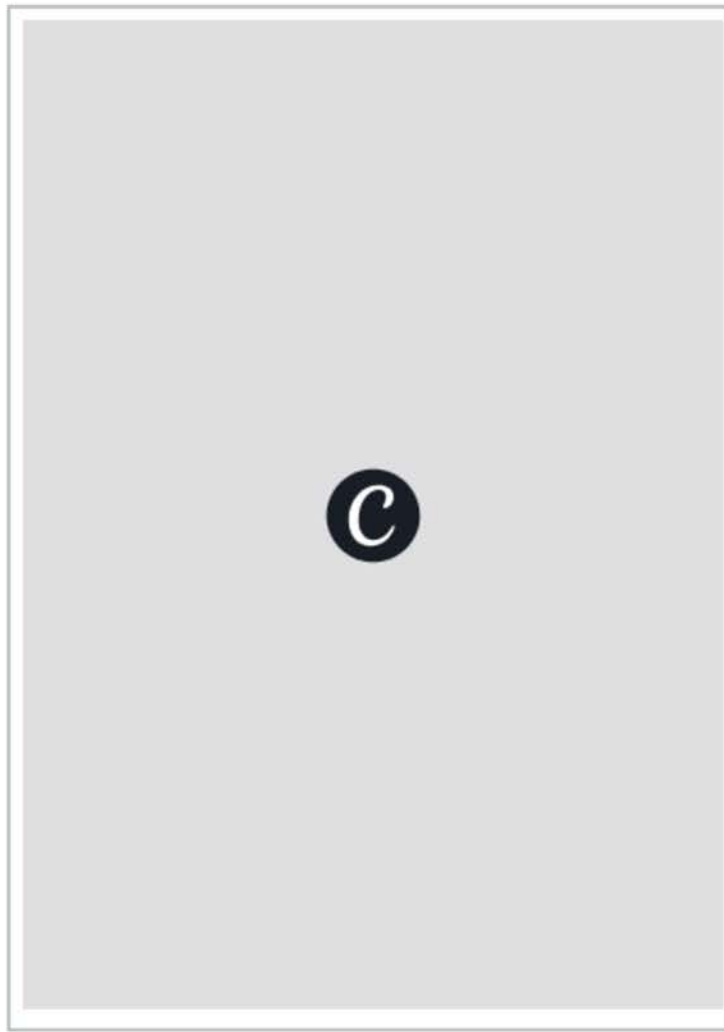
6 December - 24 December Cost: Free Discover the abbey ruins with this magical trail and see if you can spot all the stars.

A Very Pom Pom Christmas at Leeds Industrial Museum

20 December - 4 January Cost: Free Festive crafts and family films by fairy light at Leeds Industrial Museum.

Please share this guide with your families and school community.

This guide supports Child Friendly Leeds wish 7, which is based on all about children and young people knowing about things to do, places to go and having access to art, music, sport, dance and film.



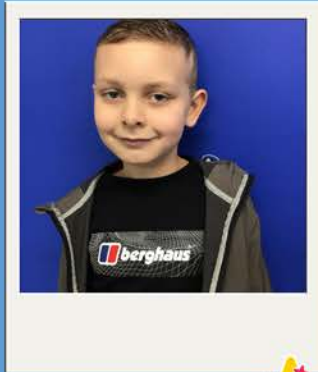
Stars of the week

Week ending 19.12.25



Stars of the week

Week ending 19.12.25



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



**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 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 | 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*