



# Blackgates Primary Academy

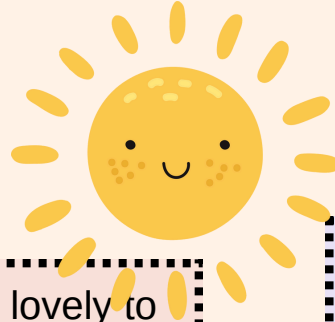
## NEWSLETTER

# SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER EDITION

Friday 5 September 2025

### Principal's Message



It has been a fantastic week. It's lovely to see all our pupils return to school or start school for the first time.

I am particularly impressed with our Robins who begun reception this week. They are so good at listening and are trying their best to learn rules and routines whilst having a fabulous time playing and learning.

Dave the school dog was also thrilled to be back on his Friday visit. He was so excited and even wore his new bandana to celebrate.

Thank you for your ongoing support  
Mrs Julie Coulson  
Principal

### Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Monday 1 September  
Monday 1 December  
Friday 22 May  
Monday 20 July  
Tuesday 21 July

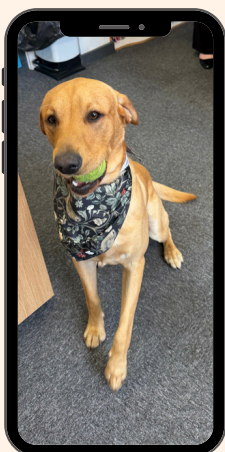
#### Dates for your Diary

W/C 6 September Year 6 Bikeability week

Flu vaccines Monday 3 November

Year 6 & Reception Height, Weight & Vision checks Wednesday 12 November

## Notices



### Scooters & Bicycles

Please ensure all scooters and bikes are NOT ridden on school grounds and are stored **securely** in the bike shed. We cannot be held responsible for any that go missing. NO electric scooters are allowed on site at any time.



# Ducklings



We have had such an amazing first 2 days back in Little Ducklings. The children have enjoyed getting back into the routine and the new children have enjoyed getting to know little duckling and exploring the classroom. We cannot wait for more adventure and fun next week



# Nursery

Our topic this half term is... 'Do we love where we live?'

In our first topic the children will be thinking about who helps them at school and how we move around early years space.

## Health & Self Care

In nursery we support your child to become more independent by teaching them how to dress and undress, put on their shoes, and coat and help with their zip. We will also teach your child to put their own straws in their milk cartons, peel their own fruit and use a knife and fork.

Please can all parents ensure that their child has a bag of spare clothes in Nursery for any mishaps that may occur when exploring! Thank you in advance for your cooperation! We will encourage children to change themselves, by instructing them how to take off and put on clothes and supporting them when they need it.

Our children can access our wonderful outdoor learning environment at all times. When the weather gets colder, children will need a warm coat, gloves, and hat. On wet days, children can wear wellies and even puddle suits.

Please ensure all clothes are clearly labelled.



# Robins

**Our topic for Autumn 1 is “Do We Love Where We Live?”. Through this theme, the children will learn more about their community and environment, while building curiosity and confidence in talking about the world around them. As part of our learning, we will also enjoy the story Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper. We will be retelling the story, exploring its characters, and then coming together to make our very own pumpkin soup – always a highlight of the term!**

**PE will take place on Thursdays, and we ask that children come prepared with their PE kit or change into before each session.**

**We ask that children bring a water bottle to school each day which they will have free access to. Please fill these with plain water each day.**

**We are excited for the year ahead and cannot wait to see how much the children grow in confidence, independence and learning throughout their time in Reception Robins.**

# Doves



**Welcome back Doves! We've had a fantastic start to the new school year and are so pleased with how well the children have settled in. This week has been all about exploring and getting used to our two brand-new classrooms, and the children have absolutely loved the new areas of provision and diving into exciting challenges. Our PE days are Tuesday (indoor) and Wednesday (ACE Club). On Tuesdays, children will need to bring their indoor PE kit and will get changed in the classroom. Thank you,**

**Miss Ruse**

# Penguins



**What a fantastic start to the new school year! I have been so impressed with Penguins. I have enjoyed getting to know them and can't believe how easily they have settled into Year 2. Just so you know, our PE days are Monday and Friday, with the children bringing their kit in a bag to change into at school.**



# Nightingales



Nightingales class have had a fantastic first week back to school. I am really loving teaching the class for a second year and am so impressed with how everyone has grown and matured. Nightingales class have been very polite and have been trying very hard this week in their learning and behaviour. I have been especially with their PSHE work this week. We have spent time learning about how to look after the world around us, working and money, potential hazards in familiar environments and what to do and about fire safety. The class have made thoughtful contributions in these lessons. I too have had a great first week back to school - thank you Nightingales class! 😊



# Ravens

**Welcome back Year 4! We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year in Ravens class. The children have settled well into their new classroom and routines and have impressed us this week. We have been completing some PSHE work based on spotting hazards in our homes and fire safety. The children have designed some lovely posters and thought carefully about who can help us in the community.**

**The children have also had the task of planting new plants outside of the classroom to brighten our school grounds. These were kindly donated by a local garden centre and the children loved getting stuck in!**







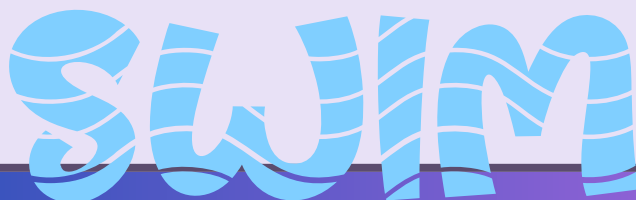
**We have had a fantastic first week in year 5 - the children have settled back into school wonderfully. I have been particularly impressed with their attitude to learning, especially in maths, as they tackle challenges with resilience.**

**Swimming starts Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure your child brings the following in a suitable bag:**

**Girls - full swimming costume and a towel.**

**Boys - a pair of trunks and a towel.**

**It does make things easier if the children come to school with their swimming costume under their school uniform but this is not essential.**

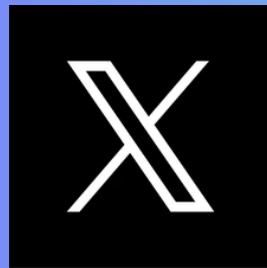




Our new website is now live please take a look at

[www.blackgates.org.uk](http://www.blackgates.org.uk)

We are also on Social media please search for us and give us a follow and like.



### Parent Workshops – 2025/2026 Academic Year

As part of our ongoing package of support for parents, we have arranged a series of coffee afternoon sessions with the MindMate Support Team. This is a specialist mental health service aimed at supporting children and young people to manage anxiety and a range of mental health needs. The service is very family focused and wants to provide useful strategies for families to support children.

The dates for the workshops are below. The workshops are designed to support parents with helpful strategies to support your children and help them with a wide range of emotions and presenting behaviours.

Workshop 1: Mental Health Awareness	Wednesday 22nd October 2.30-3.30
Workshop 2: Emotional Literacy	Wednesday 17th December 2.30-3.30
Workshop 3: Understanding and Managing Emotions	Wednesday 11th February 2.30-3.30
Workshop 4: Promoting Healthy Sleep	Wednesday 1st April 2.30-3.30
Workshop 5: To be confirmed	Wednesday 20th May 2.30-3.30
Workshop 6: To be confirmed	Wednesday 15th July 2.30-3.30

Both SENDCos (Mrs Hartigan and Mrs Elston) will be in attendance and will be available to speak with after the sessions.

We hope to see you there.



# Notices





## **Emergency alerts test 2025**

**The government will be carrying out a national test of the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September at 15:00. Compatible mobile phones and tablets will receive an alert, make a loud siren-like sound and vibrate for approximately 10 seconds. The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there is danger to life nearby, including extreme weather.**



# Blackgates Primary Academy

a member of Leodis 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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.coolmilk.com/parents).

Should you have any questions or need any help, send us a message at [www.coolmilk.com/contact](http://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](http://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 Defra via the School Milk Scheme.



*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, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

## Need help using Arbor?

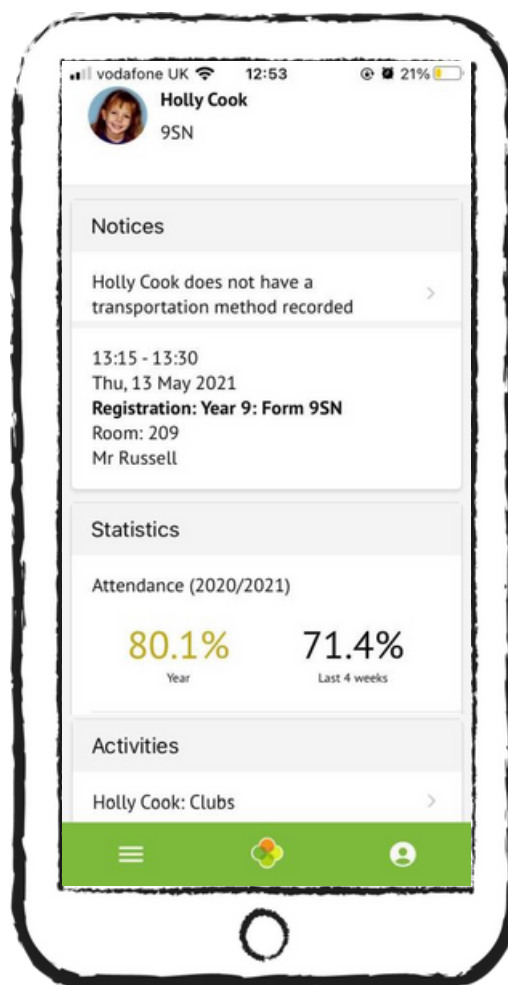
Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or

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:*

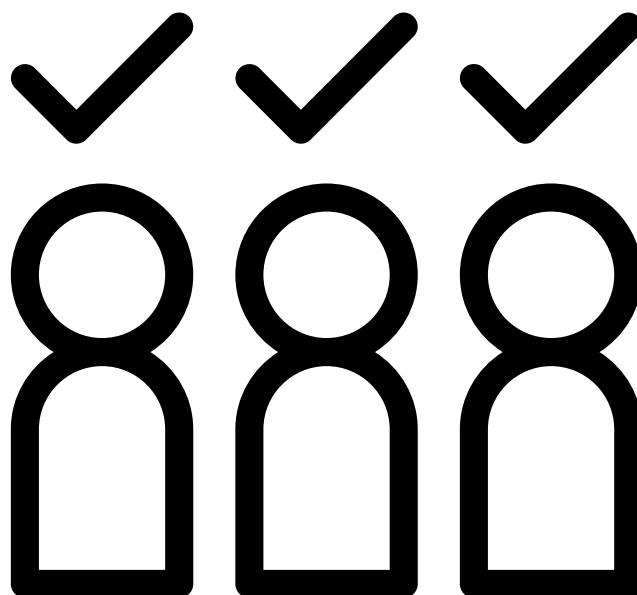
1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired. Ask us 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 TBC
- 3 Friday 22 May
- 4 Monday 20 July\*
- 5 Tuesday 21 July\*