



Blackgates Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL

OCTOBER EDITION

Friday 24 October 2025

Principal's Message

It has been a fun filled week. Children have enjoyed the Halloween decorations in the dining room. They also loved the disco - thank you to the PTFA for all your hard work! There was much excitement throughout both disco sessions. Y1 and Early Years Stay and Play session this week was decorating pumpkins. Although a messy activity it was enjoyed by all. Y3 enjoyed a visit to York to learn about Vikings. We are also looking closely at altering our writing curriculum to make it more enjoyable and ensuring firm foundations are in place as the new writing framework paper from the DFE suggests.

Have a lovely half term.
Mrs Julie Coulson
Principal

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.

Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

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

Dates for your Diary

Monday 27 - Friday 31 October Half Term.

3 November - Flu vaccines.

10 November Odd Sock day.

11 November 10.40am

Remembrance Assembly.

12 November - Year 6 & Reception

Height, Weight & Vision checks.

14 November Children in need
dress in spots or as you please for
a donation.

EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Monday 10 November -

Reading/Phonics

Friday 5 December - Christmas
crafts

Trips

Robinwood Y6 trip - 26 - 28 November

Remaining payment now due - please

let us know if you are having

difficulties with payment.





Ducklings

**This week the children
have been getting
ready for Halloween.**

**We have been
decorating pumpkins,
making ghost cards for
our loved ones and we
have also been
developing our fine
motor skills by
cleaning pumpkins
using sponges to
scrub. We would like to
wish all our little
ducklings a lovely half
term.**



Nursery

The children have thoroughly enjoyed decorating their pumpkins during our 'Stay & Play' sessions this week, choosing to either create autumnal pumpkins by sticking leaves onto them or painting them with patterns and handprints. Thank you so much to everyone who came along to join us in class for this this week!

The children have also really enjoyed our 'Movement to Music' session, trying hard to copy a sequence of dance movements. There were smiles all round! Well done, Nursery!



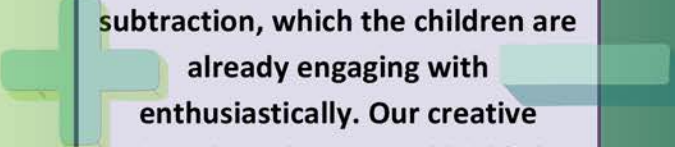
Robins

In Robins we have been working on developing our fine motor skills.

Fine motor skills are the coordination of small muscles in the body, especially in the hands, fingers, and wrists, to make precise movements.

These skills are crucial for tasks like writing, buttoning clothes, using utensils, and manipulating small objects, and they rely on the coordination of muscles, nerves, and vision.

Doves

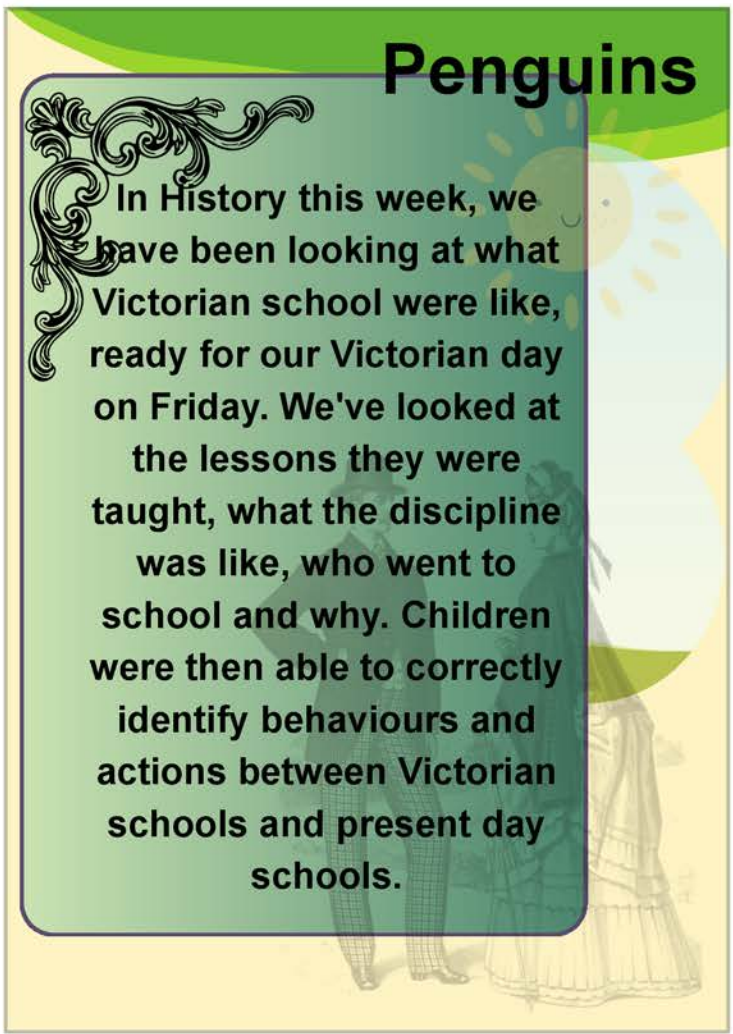


We've had a fantastic first term in Doves, and I'm so pleased with how well the children have settled in and embraced their learning. We've wrapped up our place value topic and are now diving into addition and subtraction, which the children are already engaging with enthusiastically. Our creative projects have been a real highlight - children loved making an autumn-themed collage, crafting a seasonal basket, decorating a pumpkin, and designing a vibrant parts-of-a-flower picture. Wishing you all a lovely Halloween half term, and I'm very much looking forward to the exciting learning ahead next term!

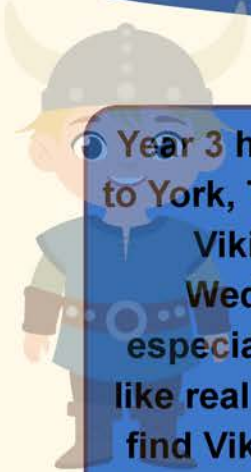
Penguins



In History this week, we have been looking at what Victorian school were like, ready for our Victorian day on Friday. We've looked at the lessons they were taught, what the discipline was like, who went to school and why. Children were then able to correctly identify behaviours and actions between Victorian schools and present day schools.



Nightingales



Year 3 had a fantastic trip to York, The Dig and Jorvik Viking Centre on Wednesday. They especially loved digging like real archaeologists to find Viking artefacts and also really enjoyed the ride through the Viking streets of York. Everyone behaved so well and joined in the workshops with enthusiasm - everyone was a real credit to Blackgates! Well done Year 3!

Ravens



**This week in Ravens Class
the children were really
supportive when their
teacher was absent
Thursday and Friday. The
teacher was very
complimentary about
Ravens and stayed the
extra day. Well done
Ravens. Thank you for
showing the teacher how
great Blackgates pupils
are.**

Falcons

Year 5 had a fantastic time this week creating their very own Barbara Hepworth-inspired sculptures! Using modroc to shape and form their designs, the children explored texture, balance, and abstract form - just like the famous sculptor herself. The classroom was full of creativity (and a little bit of mess) as everyone enjoyed bringing their artistic visions to life.



Hawks

A big well done to all our Year 6 children for such a fantastic first half term. We cannot believe how quickly the time has gone! The children have settled in brilliantly, worked incredibly hard, and shown great enthusiasm in all areas of learning.

We hope everyone has a wonderful half term break with plenty of rest and time to recharge. You all deserve it!

A reminder to all Year 6 parents, carers and grandparents: you are warmly invited to our Year 6 Remembrance Assembly, which will take place at 10:40am in the school hall on Tuesday 11th November.

After the holidays, poppies will be available for children to purchase if they would like to make a donation.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you after the break.



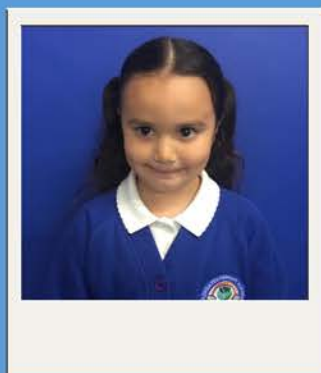
Headteacher Star of the week

Week ending 24.10.25



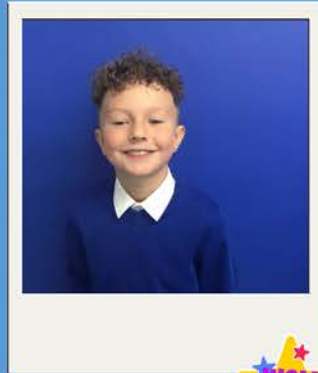
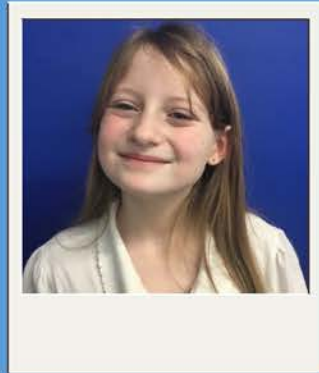
Stars of the week

Week ending 24.10.25



Stars of the week

Week ending 24.10.25



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 secondary school in 2026?



You can apply online until
Friday 31 October 2025 for a
Year 7 place in **September 2026**

🔍 www.leeds.gov.uk/apply





**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.

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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?

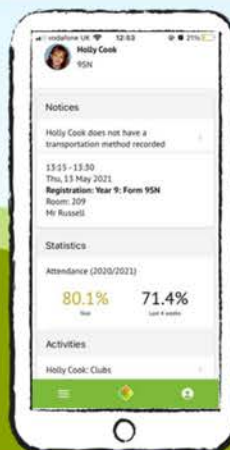
Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or

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***