



Friday 2 April 2026

Principal's Message

It has been a short and sunny week in which our children have loved playing on the fields in the sun.

We have had a really successful Easter Fayre and I want to thank you all for your support. We made a lot of money around £500! But even better than that we saw a lot of children having fun. We will be consulting the children around what they would like us to spend the money raised this year on.

Some of our Year 4 pupils went to a rugby tournament and as ever they made us proud and had a fantastic time. Well done!

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

- Wednesday 22 April - Y3 Mosque Visit.
- Friday 1 May at 2.45pm - Science afternoon in school - Parents invited into school to see the work the children have done in class.

Family Cookery Club

W/C 22 April for 5 weeks speak to Mrs Turpin for more details

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

Easter Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Fayre. It was a huge success, and it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves.





Ducklings



This week ducklings have been busy decorating card easter eggs using colourful craft paper, the children have thoroughly enjoyed this creative activity.

The children also had great fun making rice crispy buns topped with sprinkles, which was a real treat for everyone.

As part of our Easter activities, we explored paint printing using potatoes cut into Easter egg shapes, creating some lovely patterns and designs. We have also been working hard on making our easter cards, along with a range of other exciting crafts, which the children will have brought home today.

The Ducklings children have particularly enjoyed a transport-themed tuff spot this week, as they have shown a strong interest in cars and trains. We were delighted to support and build on this special interest. We have also had a fun Easter-themed sensory gloop tray, where the children could explore textures while developing their fine motor skills and mark-making abilities.



Nursery



The children have really enjoyed a visit from the Tortoises today to finish our topic on pets; everyone was fabulous with them!

This week the children have been learning about matching shapes in maths and pushing shapes together to build a wall for Humpty Dumpty. They were great at figuring out which shapes would work and which were not suitable.

We have enjoyed the water outside in the sunshine this week, refining out fine motor skills with the spray bottles and paintbrushes.

In Phonics we have enjoyed the wheels on the bus song, the children built their own buses using the chairs. Our focus was the 'J' sound, the children can quickly recognise their friends' names starting with the same sound.

We enjoyed an egg hunt in the playground this morning, the children got so excited when they found the eggs.

I hope the children enjoy their Easter break, and we are looking forward to hearing about the Easter Bunny when they return.



Robins

**CONFIDENT
AND
UNSTOPPABLE**

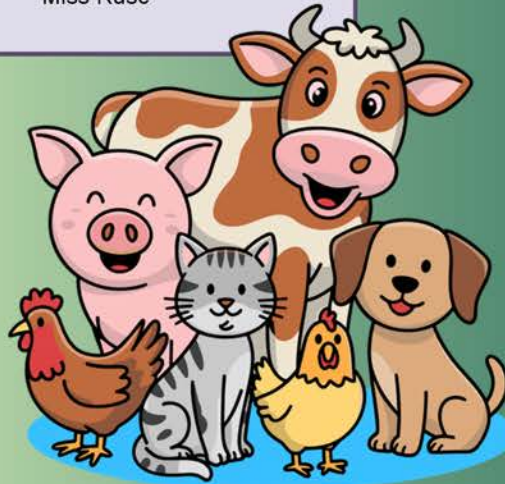
We've had an exciting few weeks in Reception as children have been exploring writing in all areas of provision. At this stage of the year, our focus is on helping children see themselves as confident, capable writers—and we've been blown away by their enthusiasm, imagination, and independence!



Doves

The children in Doves have had a lovely final week of term, enjoying the chance to wrap up our learning together. We finished the term by completing our final piece of artwork, using the farm animal photographs taken during our trip to Temple Newsam Farm. The children explored and applied a range of drawing techniques to create their own detailed farm animals, showing great focus and creativity. I hope everyone has a wonderful and well-earned Easter break, and I am already looking forward to starting our exciting new topics next term.

Miss Ruse



Penguins

We've had a fantastic week in Penguins! The children have been very excited about the Easter holidays and have already been telling me all the things they'll be doing. Our topic after the holidays focuses on the Stone Age. This week on the homework, I've put a research page at the end in case the children want to find anything out prior to our lessons.



Nightingales

Well done, Year 3, for a fantastic half term. I am really impressed with how hard everyone is working at their reading and how much enthusiasm there is when the children are reading with an adult and discussing their book. Keep up reading at home over the holidays please!

Year 3 have enjoyed art lessons this week, where they have been studying art work by Alan M. Hunt and learning techniques to paint a wild animal using a similar style to him.

I hope you all have a lovely, well deserved Easter break!



Ravens



Last week, the children in Ravens class visited the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The children had a fantastic day exploring the park and watching the animals closely. They took part in a workshop where they learned about the 'red list' and recognised endangered animals and conservation. They particularly enjoyed walking through the lemur and wallaby enclosures where they could get up-close and personal with the animals. We hope you all have a lovely Easter break and please remember to bring in any empty kitchen and toilet roll tubes for Mrs Elston.

Falcons



We've had a fantastic half term and the children have worked incredibly hard - they truly deserve a relaxing break!

A huge well done to Jake, Joel and Veronica for winning our word count reading competition. Jake read 471,451 words, Joel read 232,273 words and Veronica read 113,820 words. A truly amazing achievement - I hope you enjoy your easter egg prizes.

I wish you all a lovely and relaxing break.





Hawks

Enjoy

A huge well done to all of you for reaching the end of the Spring term. You have been extremely hardworking and should be very proud of the effort, resilience and determination you have shown in everything you have done. As we head into the Easter holidays, please don't forget to keep up with a little bit of revision, but just as importantly, make sure you take time to rest, relax and enjoy a well-earned break.

After the holidays, you will be given a letter to remind you of all the important SATs dates, so please keep an eye out for that.

Have a wonderful Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all after the holidays

Well done!

Easter Egg Competition

**Congratulations to Lealah, Wynter, Beaux,
and Nibha for their wonderful entries—
they've each won an Easter egg!**





**Congratulations to all
our winners of the
Easter Raffle. Everyone
has been contacted via
Arbor and can call into
reception to collect
their prize.**





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.



On behalf of WF3 Kindness and Leodis Academies Trust, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all your generous donations to the WF3 Kindness Easter Trail 2026.

Your generosity will help provide joy and a sprinkle of Easter magic to our community, with a grand total of 180 Easter treats donated across the Trust! Head to www.wf3kindness.org/easter to find out more details about the event which is being held on 4th April.



Child friendly Leeds presents your... **Easter Guide** SPRING 2025

Child friendly Leeds' 12 wishes are based on what children and young people from all parts of the city told us, wish 7 is all about helping you find out about fun, free and affordable things to do across the city - so here's a guide to help you navigate your way through the holiday. Low-cost activities are shown with a * while all other activities are free or pay as you feel.

Follow us on social media and share your favourite activities!

All Holidays **Story Explorers at Leeds Central Library**
Take a fantastical trip to outer space, the depths of the jungle and the bottom of the ocean with many play elements from the moon to a giant octopus and an activity table. A brilliant free interactive exhibition with the British Library.

All Holidays **Hats, Play & The Farm - Temple Newsam**
Explore the hats from historic styles to creating your own crafty masterpiece. Or why not visit the Home Farm or Play Barn and meet new-born lambs, and many more. Crafts, activities and trails included with standard admission during opening hours.

All Holidays **The Search for the Lost Eggs at Lotherton**
Dragon Quest is back - a family-friendly adventure to discover the secrets of these mythical beasts. Finish your quest to collect your certificate - become an honorary Dragonologist. Drop by face painting on bank holidays and weekends.

28 Mar - 19 Apr **Medieval Easter at Royal Armouries**
Free action-packed Easter holiday at the museum, with combat demonstrations and themed activities, plus you can explore the amazing national collection of arms and armour and watch the knights compete in a four-day jousting tournament.

31 Mar - 11 Apr **Easter activities at Kirkstall Market**
Enjoy free activities: Lego, Duplo, colouring, and crafts (11am to 3pm - weekdays only), Circus School (1st & 2nd April), Bath Bomb Making (8th & 9th April, 11:30am to 2:30pm), special screening from Leeds Young Film Festival (10th & 11th April).

28 Mar - 19 Apr **Birds and Bumblebees at Tropical World**
Discover the exotic birds that live in our waterfall house, see how many you can find using our NEW Spotter Sheet. Visit the Activity Room and make a feeder, or do some colouring. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Fr 17 Apr **Planet Omar with Zanib Mian - Author Event**
Come and meet Zanib Mian as she introduces Planet Omar, shares the fun and mayhem behind her stories in this free, family-friendly event at Leeds Art Gallery for children aged 7+.

28 Mar - 19 Apr **Easter fun at Leeds Museums & Galleries**
Felted Egg Hunt at Leeds Industrial Museum, Silly Sheep Round Up at Kirkstall Abbey, Bunny Fun at Abbey House Museum and Play the Room at Leeds City Museum. All are either give what you can or included in admission.

Every **Rowland Road Play Patch - Yorkshire Contemporary**
A fun community adventure space where children can build dens, explore loose-parts play, get creative with arts and crafts and connect every Saturday.

Sat 11 - 2pm
11 - 12 Apr **The Springs - Leeds Local Easter Market**
Discover Easter treats and gifts from local traders on Saturday 11 April (10am-3pm) and Sunday 12 April (11am-4pm), with free family fun including face painting (Sat 11-2, Sun 12-3) and sunflower seed posting (both days 11-1).

15 Apr 11-3pm **Peter Rabbit™ hops into the Merrion Centre for Storytelling**
Peter Rabbit™ will be popping up on The Green at the Merrion Centre for free interactive story-time sessions between 11am and 3pm, with appearances at 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00, each lasting around 30 minutes.

7 - 19 Apr **Easter Holiday Junior Activities - Active Leeds Leisure Centres**
Enjoy a range of aquatics and sports sessions across the city. Find intensive swimming, gymnastics lessons, dive camps, and outdoor adventures. Activities & price vary by site, booking methods may differ & starts from £7.50.*

All year round **Mumber's Guide to School Holidays from activities, events and camps**
Including family days out, free & low cost activities, trails and egg hunts including Harewood House, and all the fantastic shows and events on at theatres.

All year round **Leeds Local Offer - SEND things to do**
Provides information, services & activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Sign up for free to **Healthy Holidays Leeds**
School-aged children and young people eligible for free school meals can take part in FREE activities and holiday clubs - with a healthy meal over holiday periods.

Did you know that you can help to close your street for a set amount of time to turn your neighbourhood into a play street?

In partnership with... **Breeze** **Leeds**

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**



LEEDS

LIFE SKILLS

CODING

TECHNICAL

MEDIA / STEAM

AGES 8-18

GAMEDUCATION

EASTER [AT] GEEKS ROOM

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



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.

