



Blackgates Primary Academy

# NEWSLETTER

# SCHOOL

FEBRUARY EDITION



Friday 6 February 2026

## Principal's Message

It has been a quiet week at Blackgates without any educational visits - which is unusual. The weather is very wet and as you know our children still want to play out in all weathers. We are buying more suits for our younger children as they are loving making mud pies - and looking at the weather there will be plenty of mud around. Nursery have made some lovely birdfeeders which the birds are enjoying. Tuesday next week involves dressing as an Avatar. I would suggest if your children are younger or do not know what an Avatar is they wear some favourite (warm) clothes. Please do not go to any expense. There is no competition it is just a day to choose how they dress whilst thinking of being safe whilst on the internet. Thank you for your ongoing support  
Mrs Julie Coulson

## Notices

Reminder: Please do not ride bikes on school grounds, this is hazardous to others.



## Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May  
Monday 20 July  
Tuesday 21 July

## Dates for your Diary

### Trips/Events

Tuesday 10 February - Safer Internet day - Dress as an avatar.  
Monday 16 February- Friday 20 February half term.

24 February Year 5 trip.  
3 March Reception trip.  
4 March Year 2 trip.

Starting 22 April for 5 weeks Family Cooker Club - See more information in Newsletter.

### Parents Evenings

Tuesday 10 February 3.45pm - 7pm

Thursday 12 February 3.45pm - 4.45pm.

### EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Tuesday 10 February - Love & Hearts theme  
Monday 2 March - Pancake decorating  
Friday 13 March - Mothering Sunday

## Ducklings



This week in Little Ducklings, we have been trying to help a sheep trapped in the ice. The children have been using skills like pulling the sheep and rubbing the ice to help it melt. Some of them even put their hands in the ice and told us it felt "really cold." We have also started exploring mark-making, and the children have been telling us what they are drawing, such as "mummy" and "daddy."



# 123

## Nursery

This week in Maths the children have been continuing their work on labelling 1, 2 and 3 objects by counting or subitising (looking quickly) at one, two and three objects and then matching them to correct numeral. We've had lots of fun playing the game "One/Not one", "Two/Not two" and "Three/not three," whereby objects are hidden under a blanket whilst they have their eyes closed.

The children have also enjoyed creating their very own snowflake patterns by threading white string in and out of the holes around a paper plate. They looked really effective when they were completed and the children were really proud of themselves for maintaining their concentration skills as they did this. Well done

Nursery!

!



# Robins

This week in Reception we have been developing our imagination skills by playing in lots of different areas of the classroom.

In the sensory station we found some well-known characters going ice skating and many of the children thought of lots of different scenarios for the characters before acting these out with the figures.

The children also enjoyed investigating our new home corner resources. This sparked lots of different conversations and questions as well as sparking their imaginative skills.

Just a quick reminder about our upcoming class trip as I know it was while ago you received the letters.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions via Parent Pay. If you have not yet contributed and can please do so as soon as possible.



# Doves

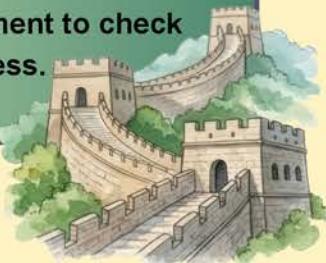
We wrapped up our Science unit on Materials this week, and the children put all their learning to the test. Their challenge was to choose the most suitable material to build the Three Little Pigs a secure home. After exploring, comparing and discussing different materials, they worked together to design and build their structures - just in time for Miss Ruse to transform into the Big Bad Wolf and put their creations to the test! The children discovered that brick and plastic were the strongest materials, standing firm even against some very determined huffing and puffing.

We also had an unexpected arrival this week - a beanstalk appeared in the classroom! The children were full of questions and theories, with many predicting it had something to do with the traditional fairytale Jack and the Beanstalk. Their excitement and curiosity have been wonderful to watch, and it has sparked a brilliant buzz for our new writing unit.

Miss Ruse

# Penguins

Year 2 have had another fantastic week. We've been researching all about lions for our independent write. The children have found out so many interesting facts. We are moving onto learning our 2, 5 and 10 times tables in maths. I will be getting some children signed up to Times Tables Rockstars, which can also be used at home. In DT, we have used play dough to practise techniques ready for our Great Wall of China project next week. In science, we have been looking at what conditions plants need in order to grow successfully. We will be setting up an experiment to check their progress.



# Nightingales

Year 3 have had a super week being rock detectives in our science lessons. They have made careful observations of a variety of rocks and then used descriptions to identify and name the rock. They have also investigated which rock would be most suitable to build a pyramid with by carrying out a durability test, a permeability test and a hardness test. Super science work, Year 3. Well done!



# Ravens

The children have had a fantastic week in Ravens. We have been learning lots about Roman towns and why the Romans visited the Colosseum. The children have created freeze frames, labelled Roman streets and have developed their vocabulary to write a setting description next week. They have also been busy analysing architecture and have created their own Roman mosaic that they designed.

Well done Year 4!



# Falcons

This week, we have continued to enjoy recreating the Rainbow Mountains in our art lessons. This time, we used shaving cream and water colours to create a marbling effect. From this, the children have created some lovely colour patterns and texture, and we look forward to adding more details next week. We have also really enjoyed our dance unit in PE, where we have explored both Bollywood and line dancing styles. The children have choreographed some fabulous routines showing off their understanding of these 2 very different genres of dance.



## Hawks

**Year 6 have worked fantastically this week and we are incredibly proud of their effort and attitude to learning. Their hard work has paid off as they achieved the highest attendance, earning themselves a well-deserved movie afternoon on Friday – a big well done to everyone!**

**Looking ahead, to finalise our learning about Mexico, the children will be cooking fajitas next Friday, which we are sure they are very excited about.**



# FAMILY COOKERY CLUB

Blackgates Primary Academy  
Wednesday 1.45 – 3.15pm  
Starting 22<sup>nd</sup> 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



Dear Parents and carers.

On Tuesday 10th February, it is Safer Internet Day. This is a national day aimed to help children to use the Internet in a safer way.

This year, the children in KS2 will be taking part in a live lesson with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

Each year group will also cover age-appropriate lessons based on how to be safe online.

To support our celebration of Safer Internet Day, we are inviting all children to come to school dressed as an avatar on this day.

An avatar is a character or image that represents a person in the online world. Avatars are commonly used in games, learning platforms and apps to allow users to create a digital version of themselves. They can be realistic or imaginative and often reflect a person's interests, personality or creativity.

This theme links closely to Safer Internet Day, as it helps children understand how people represent themselves online and encourages discussion about online identity, privacy and making safe choices when using the internet. Through this activity, we will be exploring how avatars can be used positively and responsibly in the digital world.

Dressing up as an avatar will also be a fun and engaging way for children to take part in the day. Costumes do not need to be expensive or elaborate; simple ideas such as wearing bright colours, accessories, or creating a paper avatar are more than sufficient. The focus is on creativity and enjoyment rather than purchasing new outfits.

We would also like to invite parents and carers into school at 3:00pm on this day so that children can share the learning they have completed as part of Safer Internet Day. Please note that school will finish at the normal time for all pupils, and this invitation is an opportunity to celebrate the children's work.

We look forward to celebrating Safer Internet Day together and thank you for your continued support.  
Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Barrie





Check out this app it is a 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

# **Headteacher Star of the week**

*Week ending 06.02.2026*



# Stars of the week

Week ending 29.01.2026



Great  
Job!



# Stars of the week

Week ending 29.01.2026



# Stars of the week

Week ending 29.01.2026



Congratulations to all of our Stars



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.



**The Burhouse Bursary 2026**  
**Applications now open!**

Do you know a young person aged between 5 – 16 years who could benefit from financial support to pursue their goals and aspirations?

**burhouse**  
**CONSTRUCTION** *Construction with a Conscience*

*Apply Now*

## **The Burhouse Bursary 2026**



The Burhouse Bursary gives money to children to help them pursue their goals and ambitions, whether that's for participation in sport, additional academic support, performing arts, specialist equipment, or any other genuine need for grant funding.

Open to children aged 5-16 years, Nationwide.  
Head to our website for more information.  
Application deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

[www.burhouseconstruction.co.uk](http://www.burhouseconstruction.co.uk)

## 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](http://stoploansharks.co.uk)



@SLSEngland @StopLoanSharksEngland  
#SLSEngland #StopLoanSharksEngland

**STOPLOANSHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

Workshop for parents and carers

LEEDS PCF  
Local Voice Local

**Overview of health services in Leeds**

**Date:** Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
**Time:** 11am till 12pm  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams

The session will cover:

- How Health Services work.
- Health providers in Leeds.
- Health services in Leeds and where to find out more information about services.
- Transition to adult services within health

[Book your free place](https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/Healthworkshop/)

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



# LEEDS LOCAL OFFER

## LIVE 2026

The Leeds Local Offer has information about services that help children and young people with SEND. It also helps parents and carers find support in one place.

Leeds Local Offer Live is an event where you can meet different SEND services and learn what they do.

This year, the workshops are about Supported Internships. Come along to find out more about this pathway.

Wednesday 25 March 2026 

10am till 3pm (Drop in) 

Pudsey Civic Hall, LS28 5TA 

[Complete the booking form here](#) 

**BOOK YOUR PLACE** 





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 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](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*

tel: 0800 321 3248  
web: [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 DfE via the School Milk Scheme.

Cool Milk at School Ltd | Cool Milk House | Kingsley Park | Kingsley Road | Lincoln | LN6 8TA | tel: 0800 321 3248 | web: [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)



Dear Parent

Find below the term dates for the 2026/27 academic year for the Leodis Academies Trust schools.

	<b>First day of the term</b>	<b>Last day of the term</b>
<b>Autumn Half Term 1</b>	Tuesday 1 September 2026	Friday 23 October 2026
<b>Autumn Half Term 2</b>	Monday 2 November 2026	Friday 18 December 2026
<b>Spring Half Term 1</b>	Monday 4 January 2027	Friday 12 February 2027
<b>Spring Half Term 2</b>	Monday 22 February 2027	Thursday 29 March 2027
<b>Summer Half Term 1</b>	Monday 12 April 2027	Friday 28 May 2027
<b>Summer Half Term 2</b>	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

**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:*

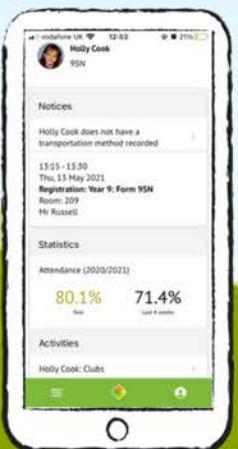
1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to check the email address linked to your account.
2. Reset your password from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired. Ask us to send 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.

The Sunnyville School of Magic  
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgot your password?



The smartphone screen shows the Arbor app interface. At the top, it displays the user's name, Holly Cook, and their grade, 9SN. Below this is a 'Notices' section with a message about transportation. Under 'Statistics', it shows attendance figures: 80.1% and 71.4%. The 'Activities' section shows a chart for Holly Cook's class. The bottom of the screen features a navigation bar with icons for home, school, and other functions.

## 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\*