



Blackgates Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER EDITION

Friday 26 September 2025

Principal's Message

This week has been a busy one again, with trips to Hepworth Gallery, Heading Water Treatment Centre and a walk to look at the Victorian buildings in the area of Amblers Mill. We aim to provide a wide variety of experiences for our children and are very mindful that this could be expensive. All visits and visitors are subsidised by the school in order to ensure cost is not a barrier to learning. Please be aware that any voluntary contributions you may be asked to contribute towards are not the full cost.

Thank you for your ongoing support
Mrs Julie Coulson
Principal



Important Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

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

Dates for your Diary

W/C 6 October Year 6 Bikeability week
13 October - Harvest Festival 2.15pm
14 October - Parents Eve 3.30 - 7.00pm
15 October - Individual & Sibling photos
3 November - Flu vaccines
12 November - Year 6 & Reception
Height, Weight & Vision checks

EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Thursday 16 October - Getting to know you
Tuesday 21 October - Pumpkin Decorating
Monday 10 November - Reading/Phonics
Friday 5 December - Christmas crafts

Tilips
Year 2 Walk to Amblers Mill - 30 September
Year 4 Headingley Water treatment trip - 2 October
Year 1 Woodland walk - 16 October
Robinwood Y6 trip - 26 - 28 November
Deposit of £25 to confirm place due by 26 September.

Notices

Polite request from our neighbours

Please be mindful of where you are parking when visiting school and do not block driveways

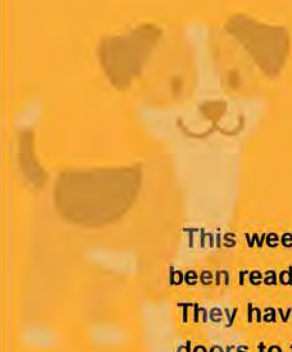


Scooters & Bicycles

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



This week the children have been reading 'Where is Spot?' They have loved opening the doors to the lift the flap book to find the animals hiding behind. We have also been exploring Rice Krispies with Spot, the children have been squashing them in the tray and creating patterns drawing in them. We have created and coloured in our own Spot the dog.



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.

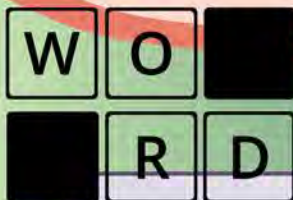
Our children can access our wonderful outdoor learning environment at all times. When the weather gets colder, children will need a warm coat, gloves, and hat. On wet days, children can wear wellies and even puddle suits.

Please ensure all clothes are clearly labelled.

Robins

This week have been investigating signs of Autumn. We went on a walk around the school grounds to look for changes in the seasons. The children noticed lots of clues such as the leaves changing colour, the change in temperature and the apples falling to the ground from our apple tree. Children also took home a paper bag to collect any Autumn treasures they find outside of school. Thankyou for the contributions so far, there is not a deadline to bring this back, just as it fills up pop it into class.

Doves



We are excited to let you know that we have started practising our Spelling Bricks in Doves! These are tricky words that cannot be sounded out using phonics, so they need to be learned by sight.

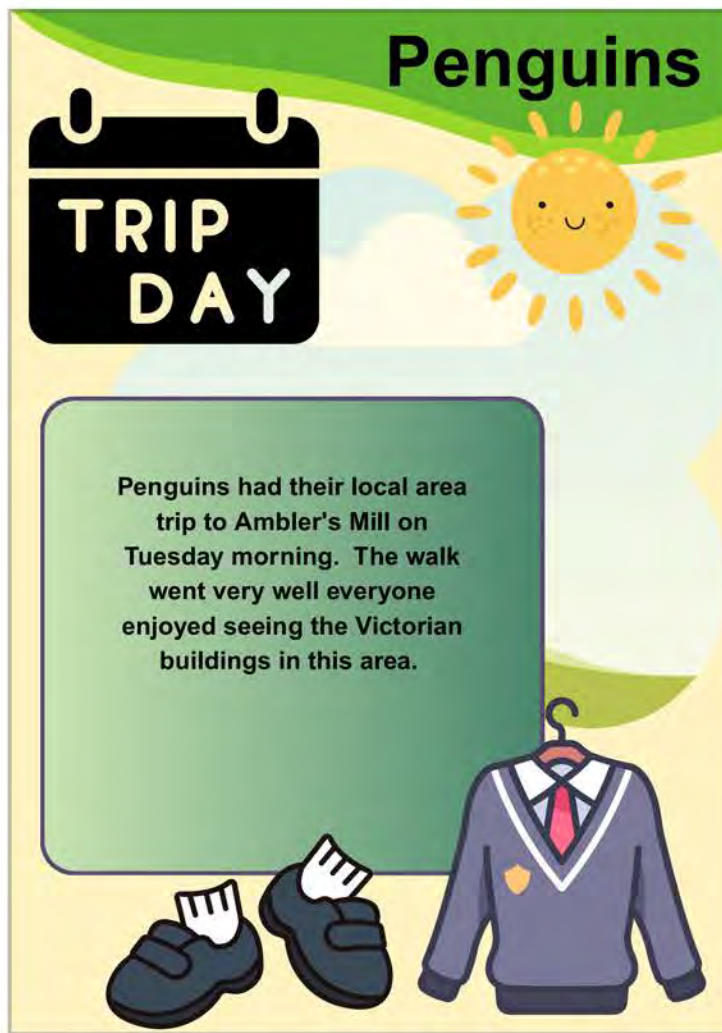
How you can help at home:

- Please spend some time practising the spelling bricks words that are not highlighted in pink in your child's list.
- Teachers at school will highlight each word in pink once your child can spell it correctly.
- Make sure your child's spelling bricks list is kept in their book bag every day, so we can update it together in class.

Thank you for your support in helping your child become a confident speller!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Miss Ruse



Nightingales

Year 3 have had another super week.

They are enjoying growing cress seeds in different conditions to see what plants need to grow. They have worked well in their groups to set up the investigation and discuss their observations. I have also been impressed with the class during maths lessons this week. We have spent time looking at finding 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a 3-digit number and everyone has tried very hard!

Ravens



In our science lessons, we have been learning about the different states of matter. The children had a range of materials and were asked to decide whether they were liquids or solids. We then learned about gases and how they are all different.

Next week, Year 4 will be visiting the Headingley Water Treatment Works for a workshop so please make sure you have returned the permission slip and a voluntary contribution towards the transport can be made on ParentPay.

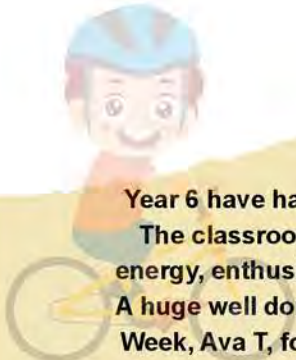


Falcons

Year 5 have continued to enjoy exploring Barbara Hepworth in art and this week we looked at her work more closely thinking about the different techniques she has used. The children were able to identify form, negative space and contours in her work and started to think about what may have inspired each piece. The children are also really enjoying their swimming lessons and I am already seeing their confidence in the water grow even after a week.

ART

Hawks

A cartoon illustration of a boy with brown hair wearing a blue helmet and an orange shirt, riding a bicycle. He is positioned in the upper left corner of the page.

Year 6 have had a fantastic week!

The classroom has been full of energy, enthusiasm, and kindness.

A huge well done to our Star of the Week, Ava T, for being a truly kind friend, she's made a big effort to ensure everyone has someone to play with, and we're all really proud of her. Just a gentle reminder that all homework should be handed in by Friday each week. Also, we're

excited to let you know that

Bikeability will be starting in the next few weeks, so keep an eye out for more information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

A cartoon illustration of a girl with brown hair wearing a red helmet and a green shirt, riding a bicycle. She is positioned in the lower right corner of the page.

Headteacher Star of the week

Week ending 26.09.25



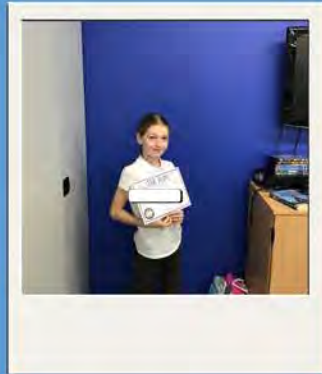
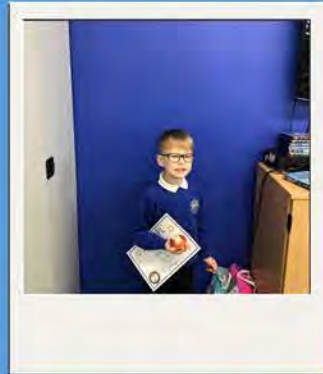
Stars of the week

Week ending 26.09.25



Stars of the week

Week ending 26.09.25



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.





Today marks the launch of our Attendance Campaign across our schools in the Leodis Academies Trust.

We all know how important it is for children to be in school each day.

We want to work together to ensure our children come to school ready to learn and thrive.

Let's help our children make their presence their super power!



Every day your child shows up, they're building something powerful -

resilience, confidence, and a future full of possibilities.

School isn't just a place to learn; it's where they grow stronger, face challenges,

and shape their future path.



Blackgates
Primary Academy
an academy of the Diocese of Southwark

**We love having
you here!**



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.





**Blackgates
Primary Academy**

an academy of the 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/parents. Your children 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 info@coolmilk.com/contact or give us a call on the number listed below – we're here to help!

Kind regards,

Cool Milk

☎: 0800 321 3348
🌐: www.coolmilk.com



SCAN TO REGISTER

*Milk for under-5s is fully funded by ONS via the Nursery Milk Scheme. Milk for over-5s is subsidised by Delta via the School Milk Scheme.

Good little school (pt) | Good little house | Wiggins Park | Wiggins Trust | Lincoln | UK | 0145 314 314 | ☎ 0800 321 3348 | 🌐 www.coolmilk.com



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
W19 5RN, London, GB

Enter your (username)

Log in

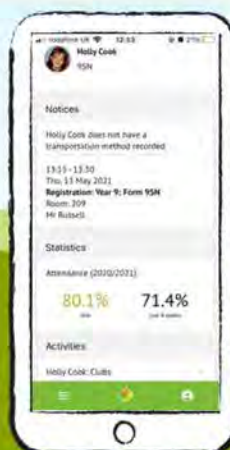
Remember password?

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 a new link.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian of 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***