



Friday 27 February 2026



## Principal's Message

It has been lovely to see the children return to school after half term. They have settled beautifully back into the school routines.

Year 5 visited a Synagogue in Leeds this week. They were respectful and made us so proud.

Next week if going to be even busier with 3 year groups going out on visits - to Tropical world, the Deep, and Year 6 will be visiting Woodkirk to see their Drama Production.

Dave, our school dog visited Robins on Friday as they are leaning about pets. It was very exciting and Dave enjoyed meeting our fabulous children.

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

3 March Reception trip.  
 4 March Year 2 trip.  
 5 March Year 6 trip.  
 18 March Year 1 trip.

Starting w/c 4 March for 5 weeks Family Cooker Club - See more information in Newsletter.

Science afternoon in school - Date to be rescheduled.

Friday 20 March Class photographs

#### EY & Y1 Stay and Play

Monday 2 March - Pancake decorating

Friday 13 March - Mothering Sunday

## Notices

### World Book day

Dress as a word/as a character/in cosy pyjamas on Friday 6 March



# Ducklings



This week, the Little Ducklings have loved being investigators as they explored our sensory bottles. The bottles were filled with glitter, food coloring, sequins, water, and oil, creating lots of exciting things to discover. The children were fascinated watching what happened when they shook the bottles and enjoyed observing and exploring how the materials moved and mixed.

The Ducklings have also been getting messy in our foam fine motor tuff spot. The children had great fun developing their fine motor skills by using their fingers to draw lines and shapes in the foam.



It has been lovely to see how well all the children have settled back in after half-term. They have really enjoyed reconnecting with their friends and getting back into nursery life.

# Nursery



Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a lovely half term break! This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed practising the skill of rolling out pastry, pressing cutters into the pastry to cut out a shape and spreading jam as they made their very own love heart envelopes.

They looked too good to eat although the children were excited to take them home to taste!

The children have also had a brilliant time developing their positional language skills. After listening to the story Where's Spot? in Maths, the children then played a game of identifying where our soft toy animals were in Nursery by using their mathematical language. We have then used this knowledge to help us to complete obstacle courses around our outdoor area. Great work Nursery!



# Robins



This half term our topic is 'How do we look after our pets?'

As part of this children are invited to share pictures and memories of their special pets at home. If you don't have a pet at home you are welcome to share photos of pets belonging to family or friends.



Please upload pictures of your pets for the children to share with the class. We will be sharing these in class next week so please share your lovely photos by then.



Thankyou for all your support. I know its a highlight of the children's day when they can share things from home on Tapestry with their friends.



Here is a photo of my cheeky puppy!

# Doves

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school this week, and it was lovely to see so many happy faces returning to the classroom. The children have really enjoyed starting our new science topic, where we are learning all about animals, their enthusiasm has been fantastic to see. Farm trip letters were handed out this week, so please return them as soon as possible. And finally, a reminder that our next Stay and Play session will take place on Monday - we hope to see many of you there!



# Penguins



It's been fantastic having Penguins back after half term. From everything they've told me, it seems they've had a relaxing holiday. This week, the children have been so resilient in maths. We've been looking at our 5 times table, both multiplying and dividing, which they found tricky at first but they kept trying. We've started our new science topic around animals. This week we have been looking at matching baby animals with their parents. The children did a fantastic job!



# Nightingales

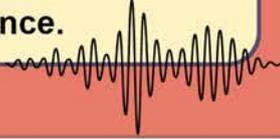
What a super week back to school! Nightingales have had a great first week back. Everyone has tried very hard in lessons. Nightingales especially enjoyed evaluating their Ancient Egyptian tomb paintings which they did before half term. They also enjoyed carrying out an investigation in Science to find out if all soil is the same and to find out what soil actually is.



# Ravens



**This week in Year 4 the children have been exploring how the pitch of sounds can be changed and what sound waves look like for high and low pitch sounds. They then learned how the strength of a vibration changes the volume of a sound. They explored using different instruments and making sounds to experiment with sound. We will be soon moving on to learning about living things and animals in science.**



# Falcons



**This week, year 5 had a wonderful visit to Sinai Synagogue, where we learned all about the Jewish religion and its traditions. We explored the Torah and discovered why it is such a special and important holy book. We were also lucky enough to taste some fresh, homemade bread. The children represented the school brilliantly and were extremely respectful throughout the visit.**



# Hawks

I hope you have all had a lovely break!  
Next week, on Thursday 5th March, we have been invited to Woodkirk Academy to watch their yearly performance. This year, they will be performing Bring It On, inspired by the well-known cheerleading movie. We are really looking forward to a fantastic show!

Please ensure that all children arrive on time at 8:40am, as we will be setting off promptly at 8:55am to walk to Woodkirk.

We are aiming to arrive by 9:30am. To help with the walk, children should wear comfortable shoes.



A reminder that all parents/carers must complete and return the permission slip for their child to take part in the visit.

Thank you for your support, and have a lovely weekend!



# Stars of the week

Week ending 27.02.2026



Great Job!



# Stars of the week

Week ending 27.02.2026

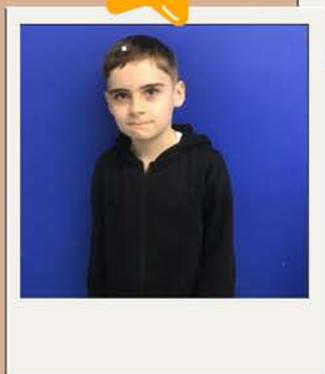
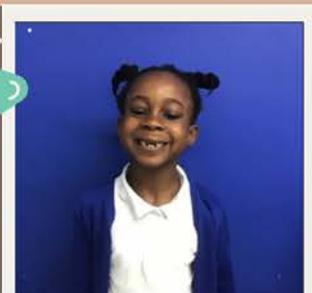


WELL DONE!



# Stars of the week

Week ending 27.02.2026



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.



# 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

# 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 

**BOOK YOUR PLACE** 

[Complete the booking form here](#) 



## SEND PARENT CARER INFORMATION D

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 11th March	10.30 till 12.30	The Welcome Centre, Belle Isle Rd, Belle Isle, LS10 3DN

### Services in attendance:

- Leeds Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Carers Leeds
- Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD)
- Leeds Parent Carer Forum
- Little Hiccups
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- SEND Coordinators, Family Hubs

**Let us know if you will be attending the drop in**

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



**If you would like more information about the drop in session  
LLO@leeds.gov.uk**





**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](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 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](http://www.coolmilk.com)



**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.





**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\***