



Friday 15 May 2026

Principal's Message

I need to say a huge well done to our Year 6 children this week. They have approached the tests they needed to do with real maturity. We know they have worked hard and all gave their very best - which is all we would ask of them. Whether they achieve a pass or not we could not be prouder of each and every one of them. Today they are at Eden Camp enjoying a well deserved and enjoyable learning experience.

Thank you for your ongoing support
Mrs Julie Coulson



Notices

Please remember to fill out the sunscreen form you have been sent via email



Please be mindful and respectful when parking on the school site. Ensure that vehicles are parked considerately and do not block other cars, access routes, or create congestion. Your cooperation helps to ensure the safety and convenience of all staff, visitors, and families. Thank you for your support.



Important

Dates:

Training days: 2025/2026

Friday 22 May

Monday 20 July

Tuesday 21 July

Dates for your Diary

Trips/Events

Tuesday 19 May 3.30pm- Reception
2026 New Starter meeting.

Thursday 21 May - Year 6 World War 2 day Picnic - Year 6 parents are invited to a picnic with the children at 3pm.

Thursday 21 May - Census day.

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



Ducklings



This week in Nursery, Miss Dean has been absent and the children have coped very well with a change of staff. When absence happens we always endeavour to ensure the children have familiar adults who are suitably qualified. Often you are not notified as we are not informed of how long an absence is going to be. Please be assured we will make sure our lovely team of Early Years qualified practioners are ensuring the children are happy, safe and loving their time in

Little Ducklings. This week they have loved making their wands for Room on a Broom (their favorite book at the moment!



Nursery



What a magical and creative week we've had in nursery! The children have been exploring the classic fairy tale Hansel and Gretel, and it inspired a host of fun, imaginative activities.

🏠 Gingerbread House Makers in the Making

This was the highlight of the week. Using ingredients, measuring, mixing and icing the children designed and built their very own gingerbread houses. The children practised:

Fine motor skills — squeezing icing, drawing various line patterns

- Teamwork — sharing materials and helping each other
- Creativity — choosing colours, patterns, and imaginative designs

The results were spectacular. Some houses were neat and tidy, others wonderfully wild — all of them full of personality.

We've captured lots of photos of the children building, decorating, and proudly showing off their creations. These will be shared with you soon on Tapestry.

This week in Nursery, our little mathematicians have been diving into the wonderful world of subitising — instantly recognising small quantities without counting. It's a key early maths skill, and the children have been absolutely brilliant. The children showed fantastic focus and independence. Many were able to subitise amounts up to 5, and some even challenged themselves with larger dot patterns. We also saw lovely teamwork as children helped each other check their amounts.

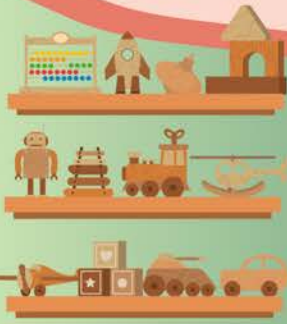
To make maths even more meaningful (and fun), we introduced a hands-on activity: looking at a number of dots and collecting the matching number of food items. Children worked with play food pretending to be the hungry caterpillar. They loved being "food collectors", carefully checking the dots and selecting the correct amount.

Robins



Reception have spent the week becoming architects, designers, and imaginative inventors as they created their very own dream houses. The children explored what makes a home special, then let their creativity run wild as they designed spaces that reflect their personalities, interests, and big ideas.

Doves



Doves have made a fantastic start to their new writing unit this week based on *Grandad's Island* by Benji Davies. We launched the topic with an exciting and mysterious lesson, where an old suitcase was unexpectedly found in the classroom alongside the calming sounds of waves, capturing the children's imaginations straight away. They eagerly explored ideas about who the suitcase might belong to and what could be inside, leading to thoughtful discussions and creative predictions. This week, the children have also been exploring toys from the past and present, carefully looking at different examples and deciding which time period they belonged to. They noticed that many modern toys are made from plastic and often include technology, while older toys tend to be simpler and made from materials such as wood or fabric. We are very proud of the children's enthusiasm and insightful observations, and we are excited to see how their ideas continue to develop as we move further into the unit.

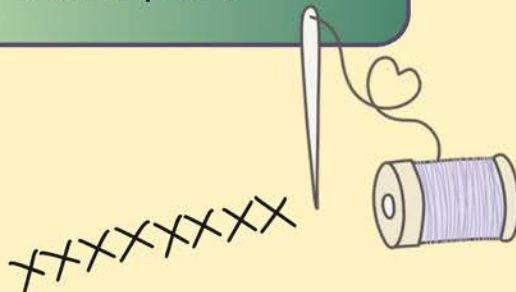


Penguins

This week in writing, the children have been planning their stone age story. It's been fantastic to see the children's creativity come out and watch them think carefully about their vocabulary choices. I'm very excited to see their finished pieces next week.

In maths, we have been focusing on time - looking at 5 minutes past and to the hour. This is something the children have found quite tricky and I have been so impressed with their determination and resilience to keep trying.

In art, we have started designing our stone age tabard and practised some stitching techniques ready for making it. The children are so excited to start this process.



Nightingales



Year 3 have had another great week. They have started to make sun dials and are looking forward to next week so they can finish them off when it is sunny! They have spent the past few days writing non-chronological reports. Everyone has tried very hard to ensure their writing is neat and that they have included the correct features. Well done year 3!



Ravens



This week in Year 4, the children have been busy exploring newspaper reports and learning about the key features that make them effective. They became real reporters by investigating an exciting “animal sighting” on the school field! The children gathered clues and evidence ready to create their own newspaper reports next week. We can’t wait to share their fantastic findings with you!

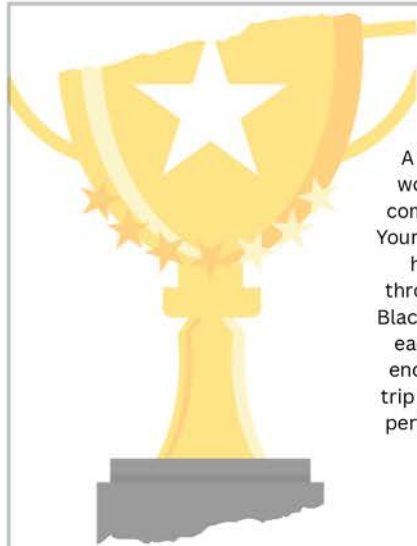


Falcons



This week in English, we began exploring persuasive adverts and the range of features used to encourage people to buy a product. The children looked at techniques such as catchy hooks, persuasive language and exciting descriptions. To put their skills into practice, they were challenged to “make boring brilliant” by transforming everyday items - such as a peg or a tissue - into must-have products. The classroom was filled with imaginative ideas and enthusiastic sales pitches!





Hawks

A huge well done to all of our wonderful Year 6 students for completing their SATs this week. Your resilience, determination and hard work have truly shone through. Myself and everyone at Blackgates are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. We ended the week with a fantastic trip to Eden Camp, which was the perfect way to celebrate all your efforts.



A quick reminder for next week:

Thursday is our Evacuee Day.

Children are invited to come dressed as evacuees, and parents and carers are warmly welcomed to join us from 3pm for tea, cake and some classic 1940s songs. Have a lovely, well-deserved rest this weekend - you've earned it.



Stars of the week

Week ending 15.05.2026



Well done!

Stars of the week

Week ending 15.05.2026



Well done!



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.



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



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
- Sleep

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**





**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***



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.

