



Newsletter – September 2026

‘By their fruits shall you know them.’ Matthew 12:33



Message from Ms Benson

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to see how settled the children have been at the start of the new academic year. Over the past few weeks, they have returned to school with enthusiasm, positivity and a real eagerness to learn. We have also been particularly impressed by how smart the children look in their school uniforms. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child arrive at school ready to learn and make the most of each day.



Changes to Our Celebration and Classroom Assemblies

You may have noticed that there have been some changes to our weekly Celebration Assembly this year. To make the best use of our learning time and ensure that we can celebrate children's achievements consistently across the school, we have adjusted the timing of our Celebration Assembly.

We understand how much families enjoy sharing in their children's successes and we are keen to continue providing meaningful opportunities for parents and carers to be part of school life. For this reason, we are excited to be introducing Classroom Assemblies throughout the year.

Each class will have the opportunity to plan and lead their own assembly, sharing their learning, achievements and experiences with family members. These assemblies will provide a wonderful opportunity for children to showcase their work and celebrate their progress with those closest to them.

All parents and carers of the class involved will be invited to attend, and the assemblies will take place on Friday mornings. Dates for each class will be shared in due course.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming families into school and celebrating the fantastic learning taking place in our classrooms.



Breakfast Club – Childcare Voucher Payments

Don't forget that Breakfast Club can be paid for using eligible childcare vouchers and the Government's Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

Parents wishing to use Tax-Free Childcare can find more information and register online:

 [tax free childcare](#)

If you currently use childcare vouchers and need our provider details, please contact the school office.



Harvest Collection

For our Harvest celebrations this year, we will be collecting food donations to support our local food bank. Any contributions, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated and will help support families within our local community.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping us to teach our children the importance of kindness, compassion and supporting others.



Breakfast Club Update

Thank you to everyone for your support in helping us make these changes to our Breakfast Club provision. We are pleased to see so many children enjoying the service each morning.

A gentle reminder that all sessions should be booked in advance via Arbor. Please ensure your child is booked into Breakfast Club before attending, rather than simply arriving on the morning, as this helps us to manage staffing, places and catering arrangements effectively.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.



Get Involved with FOBS

A huge thank you to our fantastic FOBS (Friends of Blackfordby School) group for providing the new starter gifts that were distributed to the parents of our EYFS children.

Starting school is a significant milestone for both children and families, and we hope these thoughtful gifts were useful and provided a small comfort on what can be a very emotional day. We are incredibly grateful for the continued support that FOBS provides to our school community and for everything they do to enhance opportunities for our children.



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After School Clubs

Our after-school clubs are now underway, and we are delighted to offer a range of activities for children to enjoy.

Monday Sports Club Changes

Following discussions with the children who currently attend Monday Sports Club, we are pleased to announce that the club will now become Indoor Football. The children were consulted about the change, and this is the activity they told us they would most like to do.

As a result, sign-up has been reopened. If your child would like to join in the football fun, there are still places available. This is a mixed team for both girls and boys, and we would love to welcome some new players.

Craft and Drama/Musical Theatre Clubs

Unfortunately, uptake for our two new after-school clubs, Craft Club and Drama/Musical Theatre Club, has been very low so far.

The company running these clubs has advised us that, unless a few more children sign up, they may be unable to run the sessions. We have therefore attached the sign-up information again at the end of this newsletter. Please take a look and, if you think either club is something your child would enjoy, we encourage you to sign up.

If you have already registered and the company is unable to proceed with the clubs, they will contact you directly to arrange a refund of any payments that have been made.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing lots of children taking part and enjoying these fantastic opportunities outside of the classroom.



Parents Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Parents' Evenings, which will take place on Tuesday 13th October and Wednesday 14th October.

Further information regarding booking appointments will be sent out shortly. We look forward to seeing you there.



Rocksteady Music Lessons

The recent Rocksteady assembly was a huge success, and the children thoroughly enjoyed learning about the exciting opportunities available through the programme.

There is still plenty of time to sign up if your child would like to take part. Children should have brought home information about the lessons, but if you require any further details or another copy of the letter, please pop into the school office and we will be happy to help.

We are looking forward to seeing our young musicians develop their skills and confidence throughout the year!



Get Involved with FOBS

FOBS (Friends of Blackfordby School) is our school PTA and they are always looking for new members and support.

Any help you can give makes a difference.

Ways you could help include:



Poster design



Baking



Social media support



Helping at events



Fundraising ideas

All support is greatly appreciated! Upcoming events and news can be found on their Facebook page



Facebook Page: [FOBs](#)



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Nut Free School Reminder

At Blackfordby School, we are a nut free school.

We have children in school with severe nut allergies, and even small amounts of nuts or traces of nuts can cause a serious allergic reaction.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to support us by not sending any products containing nuts into school, including items in packed lunches, snacks or treats.

The safety and wellbeing of all our children is extremely important to us, and we thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone. ❤️

✅ Please help us keep Blackfordby School nut free.



Healthy Snacks Reminder

A polite reminder that we are a nut-free school. It is extremely important that all food brought into school, including snacks and packed lunches, is checked carefully to ensure that it does not contain nuts or traces of nuts.

We are also committed to promoting healthy eating habits and ask that any snacks brought into school are healthy options. Suitable examples include:

Fruit and vegetables

Crackers

Cheese

Yoghurt

Protein-based snacks suitable for children

Thank you for helping us to keep all of our children safe, healthy and ready to learn



School Uniform

Information about school uniform requirements can be found on our website.



Our local branded uniform supplier can be found here:

[Pupils Schoolwear](#)



School Website

Don't forget there is lots of useful information available on our school website:

[Blackfordby School Website](#)

Under the Community section you will also find flyers and information about local activities and events taking place over the summer holidays. ☀️



Privacy Notice Update

Rise Multi Academy Trust has made some updates to its Privacy Notice for Pupil Data. Please find the updated notice below, which contains important information about how pupil data is collected, used and shared, including new information regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and health-related data sharing requirements.

Please take a moment to read the updated notice. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.



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Reading for Pleasure at Blackfordby – Library Visits



At Blackfordby, we are passionate about fostering a lifelong love of reading. As part of this commitment, all children visit our school library each week and are encouraged to choose a book purely for enjoyment.

Please take a moment to read the information below, which explains our approach to reading for pleasure, the importance of children having ownership over their book choices, and how families can support this exciting part of their child's reading journey at home.

Thank you for helping us nurture confident, enthusiastic readers who read not only to learn, but also for the joy that books can bring. 📖✨

At Blackfordby, children visit our school library each week. During these visits, they are encouraged to choose a book to read for pleasure.

The book they choose from the library is in addition to their usual reading book/s allocated to them by their teacher, for children who are still working through our reading scheme, or for children who have moved on from the reading scheme, this will be the book they have chosen to read independently.

The library book is therefore an opportunity for children to explore books beyond their usual reading choices and to develop their own interests and preferences as readers.

We will advise, guide and support children in making their choices, but ultimately, the decision will be theirs. Our aim is to help every child develop a genuine love of books, reading and literature.

This means that the books children bring home may not always be at exactly the right level for their reading fluency — and that is absolutely fine! A child may choose a book because they love the story, are fascinated by the illustrations, recognise a favourite character, or simply want to explore something new.

We would love families to support and encourage this freedom of choice. If a book is beyond your child's independent reading ability, please feel free to read it together, share the reading, or read the book aloud to them. Equally, if your child is happy simply looking through the illustrations and talking about what they can see, let them! These are all valuable ways of engaging with books and developing a love of reading.

Similarly, our older children may sometimes choose a picture book, a familiar favourite, or a book they could have read independently several years ago. This is okay too! Reading should not always be about challenge and progression. Sometimes, it is simply about enjoying a wonderful book.

At Blackfordby, we want children to love books. If that means choosing *The Gruffalo* for the tenth time, then so be it! If a child chooses a book because they would like to read it aloud to a younger sibling, we will celebrate that too. Reading aloud to others is a wonderful skill and helps children develop confidence, fluency and expression.

Our hope is that the weekly library visit becomes a special opportunity for children to discover books they enjoy, revisit old favourites, explore new interests and, most importantly, see reading as something they want to do.

Thank you for supporting us in our aim of creating a school community where children can develop a lifelong love of books and reading.



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SEPTEMBER

15th - Rocksteady lessons start

29th - Harvest festival

30th - 1st Oct - Year 5/6
residential

OCTOBER

1st - Year 5/6 residential Return

9th - Flu vaccination day

16th - Inset day

19th - 23rd - Half Term

29th - School photo day

30th - Year 5/6 class
assembly

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

2nd - EYFS/KS1 Nativity

3rd - Santa fun run

14th - KS2 carol service

16th - Pantomime in school

8th - Close for Christmas

ROCK
STEADY

DOES YOUR CHILD WANT TO PLAY MUSIC IN THEIR OWN BAND?



With Rocksteady, children learn to play an instrument through fun and inclusive weekly in-school rock and pop band lessons.

It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have a great time - all at school! There's no musical experience necessary and instruments for lessons are provided.

Rocksteady lessons are also shown to boost confidence, improve wellbeing and encourage teamwork!



*Scan QR code to
find out more!*

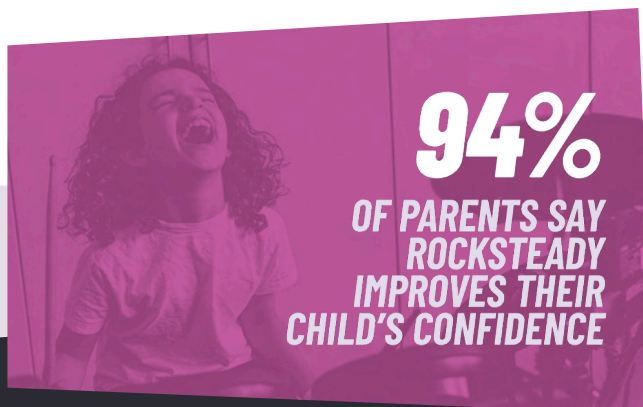
98%

**OF PARENTS SAY
THEIR CHILD LOVES OR
ENJOYS ROCKSTEADY
BAND LESSONS**



94%

**OF PARENTS SAY
ROCKSTEADY
IMPROVES THEIR
CHILD'S CONFIDENCE**



0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com