



13th December 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Just like that, we are at the last week of the Autumn term. Thank you so much for all of your support over the last term. We will share a very short update next week just with some pictures and notes from the Christmas activities next week.

### [What have we been up to this week?](#)

As you know, Ofsted have been to see us this week. Our children were fantastic. I can't share details of the report yet but I can say that inspectors commented positively about how respectful your children were around the school and in lessons. They were a credit to you this week.

The Scouts held their Christmas Fair in school this week. It is always lovely to spend time with the children and look at all the crafts they have made. My baubles are already on the tree at home. Thank you to our fantastic volunteers who do such a great job with the young people who participate in Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

All our primary children visited the pantomime this week, they were a credit to the school and they had a truly fantastic time. It is activities like this that are always so special in a school at this time of year. We have since received an email from Lowther Pavillion staff who have commented positively about the children behaviour and said *"they are a real credit to your school"*.

Year 11 Geographers have been to Liverpool on a field trip this week, they even got good weather for it. The children were a credit to the academy and once again made us proud.

Talking of doing us proud, our musicians were absolutely brilliant at the Blackpool Music Service Christmas Festival at the Winter Gardens on Tuesday, we had instrument players and choirsts galore from Unity. This is a truly magical event and one which we are very proud to take part in. Your children were amazing, as were the staff who supported them.

A number of our primary children have completed their Diana Award training this week becoming Anti Bullying Ambassadors in the process. Well done to all the children who have taken part and are wearing their badges with pride.



I know Y10 food students got a mention last week but I forgot to credit our Y9 food students who made the most amazing quiches last week. Our Y10 students have been making chocolate bread this week - which whilst not helping the waistline whilst on duty, did taste really good!



## [New Messages](#)

### **Holiday Meal Vouchers (All Parents/ Carers)**

We will begin issuing these next week, please keep a close eye on emails and text messages, if you don't hear anything by Friday, please let us know.

### **Being a Parent Course (All Parents/ Carers)**

I have been asked to share the flyer at the end of this document with all parents and let you know that free childcare can be arranged for any parents who wish to attend. The sessions are run by Blackpool Better Start.

## [Repeated Messages](#)

### **Christmas Dates (All Parents/ Carers)**

Our Christmas calendar will be shared with all parents/carers next week via My Child at School. Key dates are: -

- Christmas Jumper Day (17th December)
- Christmas Dinners (Primary - 17th December, Secondary - 17th/18th December)
- Primary (including Nursery) Christmas parties (18th December)
- Non Uniform day for all children (20th December)
- **School closes for Christmas at 12:30PM (20th December)**

### **Primary Library**



In January, Miss Bailey will be opening our primary library every Wednesday after school for you to come along with your child and borrow a book. The children love visiting the library during school time and I am sure would love the opportunity to take a book home to curl up and share with you. Reading is such an important life skill and filters through every curriculum area so any chance to read can only help and support them. We look forward to seeing you there!



### **Non Uniform Day - 20th December (All Parents/ Carers)**

As usual for the end of the Christmas term, there will be a non uniform day on the last day of term (20th December) for all students. There is no charge for this.

### **Families in Need at Christmas (All Parents/ Carers)**

We also do not believe that any child should wake up on Christmas day with no present but don't want to impose on families. Each year, we become aware of a number of families who are finding this time of year hard. If there is the possibility that a child will wake up without a Christmas present or you know of someone in our community who may, please let us know in confidence (via email or by calling school to speak to the student support team) and we will do anything we can to help.

### **Key Messages**

#### **Ready, Respectful, Safe (All Parents/ Carers)**

In our Behaviour Curriculum this week, individual classes recapped on everything we have talked about this half term. Discussions have taken place around a number of topics including how to treat others respectfully, who our 'Trusted Adults' are should we ever need any support and also how we should behave in different spaces in and around school. Next week, we will use the story 'My Monster and Me' by Nadiya Hussain. It is a lovely story that illustrates to young children how to talk about and deal with anxieties and worries.

This week, as part of our behaviour curriculum, we have focused on the importance of supporting one another within our school community. Students have explored how kindness, empathy, and teamwork can create a positive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued. Through discussions, activities, and role-playing, they have reflected on the impact of their actions and learned practical ways to help their peers, both in and outside the classroom. We encourage parents and carers to reinforce these messages at home, fostering a culture of mutual respect and care.

### **Standing Messages**

#### **My Child at School App (All Parents/ Carers)**

[Please click here](#) for a link to the site. If you access this on a mobile device you can access the links for the apps. If you have not signed up, please download the app from the relevant app store and click 'sign up' and use the school postcode (FY2 0TS) or school ID (14676) to register. You must register with the email address we hold on our system for you.

Parents are now able to access attendance and achievement/ behaviour information on the My Child at School app.



**Primary Newsletter (Primary Parents/ Carers)**

Please click [here](#) to view the primary newsletter.

**Reporting Bullying/ Pastoral Concerns (All Parents/ Carers)**

The link to reporting concerns is now live again. Please remember that this is the mechanism to raise concerns. We have shared this with secondary students again in assembly this week so all students know how to access this link.

**Online Safety Support for Parents/ Carers (All Parents/ Carers)**

Click [here](#) to access the link to this week's online safety guide for parents. You can also sign up for The National College for free and view a wide range of resources and videos to support your family with online safety. To do this follow the link below:

Sign up tutorial video - <https://help.nationalcollege.com/parent-walkthrough>

Sign up for The National College - <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/unity-academy-blackpool>

Yours sincerely,



Mr. S. Cooke  
Headteacher

Here are the dates for the EPEC Being a Parent groups starting in January 2025. This peer led group is suitable for any parent of a child aged 18 months – 11 years who would benefit from some extra support. If any parent requires childcare to attend the group, costs will be covered.

- **Tuesdays 12.30pm-2.30pm Gatehouse Community Centre, FY4 3AD 21/1/25 – 25/3/25**
- **Wednesdays 10.00am-12.00pm The Place, FY1 1JD 22/1/25 – 26/3/25**
- **Thursdays 6.00pm-8.00pm Online using Google Meet 23/1/25 – 27/3/25**

Parents can book their place by phoning/texting 07796 994783 or emailing [learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk)

# Being A Parent



These fantastic free sessions are run by friendly local parents. They provide practical tips and advice on how to bring up confident happy and co-operative children. The group lasts for 9 weeks and free childcare is available.

Time	Venue	Starting	Ending
12.30pm – 2.30pm	Gatehouse Community Centre 29 Waterloo Road, FY4 3AD	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
10.00am – 12.00pm	The Place (previously The HealthWorks) 1 Clifton Street, FY1 1JD	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
6.00pm – 8.00pm	Online using Google Meet	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March

**Topics covered include:**


- Communicating with your child
- Understanding their behaviour
- Discipline strategies
- Listening skills
- Coping with stress

“The course wasn't what I expected at all. It's shown me that I'm not alone and given me the confidence boost I needed. I've learned there's no such thing as a perfect parent and my relationship with my son has grown so much stronger.”

For more information or to book, contact Blackpool Learning Rooms on 07796 994783 or email [learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk](mailto:learning.rooms@blackpool.gov.uk)





 <b>BLACKPOOL FOOD BANK</b>		
<b>BLACKPOOL FOOD BANK</b> <b>CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR EMERGENCY FOOD 2024</b> <i>supporting our front-line partners with emergency food</i>		
<b>THE SALVATION ARMY BRIDGE PROJECT</b> FOR 26 years & over 9am to 11:00 - Homeless Hub Breakfast/hot shower 12:00 to 2pm - hot meal	<b>OPEN 23rd &amp; 24th Dec.</b> <b>CLOSED 25th &amp; 26th Dec.</b> <b>OPEN</b> 27th, 30th & 31st Dec. <b>CLOSED Jan 1st</b>	Salvation Army, Raikes Parade, FY1 4EL
<b>STREET LIFE</b> FOR 16 to 25 YEARS FREE lunch, food. Toiletries available	<b>Mon-Fri, 12.30-15.30</b> <b>except for closures on</b> <b>25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. &amp; Jan. 1st</b>	The Base, 48 Buchanan St, FY1 3LQ
<b>BLACKPOOL STREET ANGELS</b> Free — hot meal & takeaway food	<b>MONDAY</b> Dec. 23rd, 30th & Jan 3rd 7pm to 8pm	Bank Street Car Park, FY1 2DT
<b>COMFORT C.A.F.E.</b> Free — hot meal & takeaway food	<b>TUESDAY</b> 17th Dec. 11:00—12:00 24th Dec 11:00—12:30 31st Dec 11:00—12:30	St Thomas' Church, 135 Caunce St, FY1 3NJ
<b>ST PETER'S CHURCH</b> Hot meal, fruit, cakes and hot drink Free, and for people of any age.	<b>TUESDAY</b> Open 17th Dec. and 7th Jan 6pm	St Peter's Church 190 Lytham Road, FY1 6DJ
<b>CLAREMONT FIRST STEPS</b> Free take away food for anyone in need.	<b>THURSDAY 11:00—12:00</b> Open on 19th Dec and 9th Jan	Methodist Church Dickson Rd, FY1 2AP
<b>HELPING HEARTS</b> Free—Hot meal and take away food	<b>THURSDAY</b> 26th Dec. & 2nd Jan 6:30pm	New Life Community Church 6 Queen Victoria Rd, FY1 5LF
<b>SACRED HEART CHURCH</b> Free — emergency food	<b>THURSDAY &amp; FRIDAY</b> 19th, 20th, 27th Dec & 2nd, 3rd Jan 10:00 - 11:00	<i>Green doors at church            house, 17 Talbot Road,</i> FY1 1LB
<b>HOLY CROSS CHURCH</b> Free—Hot meal and take away food	<b>SATURDAY</b> 21st and 28th Dec. 4:30 - 6pm	Central Drive Blackpool, FY1 6LA
<b>If there is a real risk to health or safety or for services out of hours you can call the Social Services Emergency Duty Team on 01253 477600 or 01253 477678.</b>		



NHS Talking Therapies Service provides a range of FREE therapy options recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for common mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.



**Blackpool Talking Therapies**

## FREE Courses Available



### MASTERING STRESS – Steps to Wellness

30min introduction 2pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December  
Followed 6 x 90min weekly online sessions. Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> January & 7<sup>th</sup> February.  
*Learn new skills and coping strategies*



### 8-week Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy Course

60min introduction 10am Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Followed by 8 x 2-hour session weekly online sessions.  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> January 7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> February 7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> March  
*Learn to live in the present!*

A personalised link will be emailed and recordings accessible for 72hours

45min webinars, with recording available for 3 days

<p>Resilience and Me 10am Thur 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p>Anxiety and Worry 1pm Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p>Sleep and Relaxation 1pm Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</p>	<p>Overcoming Low Mood 1pm Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Jan</p>	<p>Menopausal Wellbeing 10am Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan</p>
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AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OVER 16 WHO LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN LANCASHIRE OR SOUTH CUMBRIA

To self-refer, please call: **01253 955700** (Monday–Friday 9am–5pm)  
email: [bfwh.talkingtherapies@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.talkingtherapies@nhs.net)  
[www.blackpoolteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/services/talking-therapies](http://www.blackpoolteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/services/talking-therapies)

Scan here to visit our website



Blackpool Talking Therapies is not able to provide reports for compensation, legal or benefits claims or prescribe medication. We do not offer 24-hour or weekend access, crisis or emergency treatment, treatment for alcohol or drug problems or treatment for severe and enduring mental illness.  
**Please discuss these needs with your GP.**

 **Blackpool Talking Therapies**  
for anxiety and depression

Service provided by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust