

15th September 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Another week has flown by! We have had a really great start to this year and this is in part down to the support from parents/ carers at the start of the academic year - thank you. A much smaller update this week compared to last but still lots of important information.

Wow Moments in School this Week (All Parents/ Carers)

The Wow moments for this week are below. Well done to everyone involved.

- Year 6 have been reading Goodnight Mister Tom in class. This is my favourite book ever. Children can find out why by looking for the poster on my office door. All three classes have been fantastic whilst we have been reading this.
- Our staff are engaging in work to look at ways to improve our practice across the school. As a result we have seen much improvement in the way children are settling to learning at the start of each lesson.
- Years 7 to 11 have completed quizzing sessions in assembly, led by Mrs. Walmsley. They have all engaged really well.
- Our Y11 prefects have made a great start to carrying out duties this week, including playing board games with Y7/8 and organising students in the canteen.
- I was asked to visit 5JB this week to talk about vision, values, hopes and challenges for the school. I had a great time with them, although they still need to sharpen up on the 21 game!

Water Supply - 15th October 2023 (All Parents/ Carers)

Some parents will be aware that the water supply at school failed for a period of time today. The school has additional supply tanks which allowed us to remain open for a period of time whilst United Utilities investigated the incident and kept in touch with regular updates. The incident was resolved before we needed to send children home. Thank you for your patience with us in regards to this matter.

Open Evening - 5th October 2023 (All Parents/ Carers)

Our annual open evening is on the 5th October 2023 from 4:00PM till 6:30PM. This is a really important evening for the Unity family as we look to try and recruit children for Nursery, Reception and Year 7 for future years. I am always very proud of the number of our children who take part and help. To allow us to set up for the evening, the academy will close to all students at 2:05PM on this day. Mr. Brennand, Deputy Headteacher, has sent a letter to parents about the closure this week.



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS
Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk
www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

PAUSE - Attendance Last Week (All Parents/ Carers)

Our attendance last week as a school was significantly below our attendance target of 96%. Please make every effort to ensure children are in school every single day and on time.

Reporting Bullying or Pastoral Concerns (All Parent/ Carers)

If any parent/ carer needs to raise a bullying or pastoral concern, there is a link on the website to do so. Simply Click on 'Menu' and under the 'Parents' heading choose 'Raise a concern'.

Reading and Cognitive Ability Assessments (Year 7 and some Y8-11 Parents/ Carers)

We will commence testing reading comprehension and cognitive ability (CAT) with Year 7 next week. I wanted to reassure parents that these are not tests that can be revised for or prepared for; they simply measure reading age and provide some information to help us support students more effectively. Students do not need to worry about these.

We are doing some 'catch up' reading assessments for children in Years 8 to 11 as well. These are needed to support children in class but also exam concession applications as they get older.

Baseline Assessments (Reception Parents/ Carers)

We have commenced the compulsory Reception baseline assessments this week. I wanted to reassure parents/carers that children will not even know when they have done these; it is a measure used by the Government to assess children on entry to Reception nationally. Our staff are incredibly experienced in delivering these assessments in a way that children have no idea that it is any kind of assessment!

Events and Activities Next Week (All Parents/ Carers)

There are a number of professional development sessions for staff next week which may impact on classes slightly and there may be a slight increase in the number of sessions covered. We have planned in advance for this to try and mitigate any issues. We also welcome Mr. Williams, a former Ofsted inspector into school on Tuesday for our annual safeguarding review. Mr. Williams is a regular visitor to Unity having visited multiple times since he was one of the Ofsted inspection team in 2017.



Unity Academy Blackpool is a trading name of Fylde Coast Academy Trust.
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 8364709 - Registered in England & Wales.
Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY4 4RR



UNITY ACADEMY BLACKPOOL

Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool,
Lancashire. FY2 0TS

Tel: 01253 355493

Email: admin@unity.fcat.org.uk

www.unity.blackpool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Cooke BSc, NPQH

And Finally...

A couple of parents have asked me about my charity skydive for Trinity Hospice. I am pleased to say that despite 3 cancellations due to the weather, I did manage to complete the jump from 15,000ft at the end of August. Just over £800 was raised for Trinity. On behalf of them, thank you to all members of the Unity family who donated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher